

DOWN AREA WINTER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES

Season 2026 – 2027



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1) Name and Objects

1.1		The Association of Clubs shall be called the Down Area Winter Football League (DAWFL) and was established to promote the game of association football.
	1.1.1	In the event that a suitable sponsor is obtained, it will be permissible for the Association of Clubs to be called [Sponsors' name] Down Area Winter Football League (DAWFL).
1.2		All communications must be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, at their private address or League email address, who shall conduct the business of the League.
1.3		The overriding objectives of the League rules is to maintain and promote fair play. They seek to ensure that breaches are dealt with fairly, and that the image & reputation of the League and football are not adversely affected.
1.4		These rules come into force following adoption by the IFA Football Committee and applies to all matters arising from and concerning football under the jurisdiction of the DAWFL.
1.5		The DAWFL adopt these rules, which shall remain in force, unless modified via subsequent AGM. This is subject to the required yearly approval by the IFA Football Committee. Each person or entity who is deemed subject to these rules is required to cooperate with the DAWFL League Council during investigation of any charges or sanctions offered.
1.6		These rules belong to the DAWFL member clubs, and it is their responsibility to ensure they read and understand the rules.
1.7		Whilst the League Council in application of these rules shall at all times strive to act consistently, they shall not have a doctrine of binding precedent, this is to say they are not formally bound by prior decisions.

2) Dissolution of Assets

2.1		In the event of this League being unable to function, all member Clubs will have their guarantee fees returned, and any surplus money or assets will be disposed of as determined by the elected Council to an institution or to an organisation with objects similar to those of the DAWFL, provided that such an institution's or such an organisation's rules preclude the distribution of such assets to its members. If the League Council has ceased to function or cannot reach agreement, such remaining assets will be passed on to the Irish Football Association.
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1) Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting

3.1		The Annual General Meeting shall take place before the end of June each year. 9 will form a quorum for the meeting to proceed. All clubs shall be notified in writing of the date of AGM at least 21 days in advance of the proposed date of convening, and any proposals for amendments to the constitution or rules shall be lodged at least 14 days in advance of the AGM.
3.2		The Annual General Meeting may be adjourned to allow the League Council to take into account the number of clubs participating before decisions are made regarding the structure of the competitions. Any alterations to be made prior to commencement of the season.
3.3		The representatives attending the Annual General Meeting shall appoint adjudicators, who will be responsible for appointing League Council representatives as required. The representatives attending the Annual General Meeting shall also have power, by majority vote, to exclude from the League any club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been objectionable and detrimental to the best interest of the League. Such notification to be given in writing 21 days before the AGM.
3.4		These rules shall be in force until the next Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting, whatever comes first.
3.5		Alteration to these rules can only be made at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of proposed alterations to be notified to the Honorary Secretary within 14 days of the notice of the proposed Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting for inclusion on the agenda, which shall be circulated to the clubs, seven days before the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting for prior consideration.
	3.5.1	A two-thirds majority of clubs in attendance at meeting shall be required to adopt new rule(s), or alteration(s) to the rules.
3.6		On receiving a requisition signed by half of the clubs in membership of the League, the Honorary Secretary shall be required to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting which shall have the power to amend or delete existing rules or insert new rules, subject to the voting procedure stated in rule 3.5.1. Such rule changes will be effective from the date of the meeting.

3) League Council

4.1 Structure

4.1.1	The League Council shall be elected in the following manner. Office Bearers • The Chair • Vice Chair • Secretary • Treasurer A minimum of 3 additional League Council Members shall be elected annually and on completion of this period they shall be eligible for re-election.
4.1.2	No person shall hold two offices.
4.1.3	The League Council can co-opt representatives from the League Clubs' members to fill a vacancy that may occur during the year, and every member so co-opted shall hold office so long as his/her predecessor would have held office if the vacancy had not arisen or to ensure the business of the League can be carried on.
4.1.4	The League Council can co-opt representatives from the League Clubs' members to help deal with League business, and every member so co-opted shall hold office until the end of the current season.
4.1.5	In the event than an office bearer is not elected directly from member clubs at the AGM of the League, the League Council holds the right to appoint an appropriate person to fill the role. This person will not be allowed to vote on any League matters.

4.2 Authority

4.2.1		The League Council shall deal with all matters regarding member clubs, players and officials under the League's jurisdiction; four shall form a quorum, with the Chair of the meeting holding the casting vote if the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal.
4.2.2		Were a team(s), club(s), players(s), and/or club official(s) have breached any rule, the League Council shall have the power to offer a sanction as per any rule or part of any rule, if the full rule cannot be applied.
	4.2.2.1	The League Council shall have the power in all cases, by majority vote, to offer one or more of the following sanctions to any team(s), player(s) and/or club official(s) who breached any rules of the DAWFL: ➤ Issue a warning. ➤ Issue a fine. ➤ Deduct points. ➤ Remove a team from a cup competition. ➤ Debar a team from entering a DAWFL cup competition, either in the current season or forthcoming season. ➤ Suspend a team, club, player and/or club official. ➤ Refer a club, player, club official or match official to the appropriate authority for further action. This provision does not relate to conduct falling within the matters addressed in the IFA Disciplinary Code and administered by the Co Antrim FA.
	4.2.2.2	For any team(s), club(s), players(s) and/or club official(s) who have persistently (meaning on at least three occasions) and acting in bad faith been found to have breached the rules of the DAWFL, the League Council will have the power to offer increased sanctions in accordance with 4.2.2.1
4.2.3		Members of the League Council are at liberty to lodge a complaint in writing under this rule without payment of fee, provided the Club they represent does not stand to gain and the League Secretary shall give notice of same to the Club concerned in such a complaint.
4.2.4		If any member of the League Council has any doubt as to the eligibility of any player(s), they shall have the power to ask the League Council to call upon such player(s) or club for which they have played, to prove to the satisfaction of the League Council that they were properly qualified to play according to the rules.
4.2.5		The League Council have the power to deal with any matter not covered by these rules.
4.2.6		The League Council may apply special dispensation in relation to any League Rules breached in exceptional circumstances.

4.3 League Council Meetings

4.3.1		The Honorary Secretary, in conjunction with the Chairman of the League Council, may convene a meeting of the League Council when there's an urgent need to do so. Four shall form a quorum.
4.3.2		All League Council Members must be informed of each League Council Meeting at least three days in advance, unless exceptional circumstances require this rule to be disappplied in order to deal with matters of urgency.
4.3.3		If a League Council member identifies a potential conflict of interest at a League Council meeting, the Chairman should be made aware of this and the League Council member should withdraw from the meeting during discussion of the matter, and this should be noted in the minutes.
4.3.4		Any League Council Member who is absent from two consecutive League Council meetings or three meetings in total, within the same season, shall be required to provide a satisfactory explanation as to said absence. The League Council shall have complete discretion as to what constitutes satisfactory explanation, subject only to the jurisdiction of the IFA Appeals Committee under Article 14 of the IFA Articles of Association.

4.4 Voting

4.4.1		Each elected or co-opted League Council member shall have one vote on all matters being dealt with by the League Council, except were rule 4.1.5 applies.
4.4.2		The Chair in case of a tie shall have a casting vote.

4.5 Life Membership

4.5.1		Any member of League Council having 12 years or more service, on retirement from the League Council, will be made a Life Member.
4.5.2		Any member of the League Council having served as an Office Bearer will be made a Life Member on retirement from the League Council.
4.5.3		The League Council shall have the power to award life membership in exceptional circumstances to individuals who have not served on the League Council.
4.5.4		The league Council shall have the power to relinquish life membership whereby the actions of an individual are deemed to be detrimental to the League.

4.6 County Antrim FA Representation

4.6.1		By simple majority, the league Council shall elect individuals to represent the league at the County Antrim FA and inform the League Members at the next League Meeting.
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5) Finance

5.1 Bank Accounts

5.1.1		A bank and/or building society account shall be maintained in the name of the Down Area Winter Football League.
5.1.2		All clubs must have a club bank account in the club's name from which payments in respect of footballing matters can be paid from/to in settlement.

5.2 Payments

5.2.1		All DAWFL payments, either by BACS or cheque, must have a dual authorisation before payment is made. This shall be the responsibility of two of the League Council signatories as listed on bank mandate.	
5.2.2		Monies, Fees, etc. must be paid to the Honorary Treasurer unless otherwise instructed. All payments should be by BACS. Cheques and cash will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Cheques to be made payable to the Down Area Winter Football League.	
5.2.3		All fees to be paid by teams on or before the first allocated fixture. If deadline not met, an additional £25 late payment fee will be applied, and if increased amount not paid within 7 days of notice, the club will be suspended until the Monday following the date the fee is paid.	
5.2.4		All fees, charges and fines for each season shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall remain fixed until the subsequent meeting.	
5.2.5		The monies applicable to the current season shall be as follows:	
		Annual Subscription	
		Annual Subscription total per 1 st XI	£125.00
		Annual Subscription total per 2 nd XI	£110.00
		Breakdown of charges for 1st XI	
		League Fees, Premier, Division 1 and Division 2	£55.00
		Billy Allen Memorial Shield	£35.00
		Sittlington Cup	£35.00
		Frank Moore Memorial Cup	£0.00
		Breakdown of charges for 2nd XI	
		League Fees, Reserve Division 1 & 2	£40.00
		Tommy Murphy Memorial Shield	£35.00
Mervyn Bassett Cup	£35.00		
Guarantee Fee			
Guarantee Fee	£150.00		
New Teams			
Probationary Period deposit £150 (to be returned to the club at the end of the probationary period if their conduct has not been objectionable or detrimental to the best interest of any competition or to Association football in general)			

		Other Charges		
		Absent from meeting	In Person	Virtual
		Absent from meeting – 1 st occasion	£12.00	£25.00
		Absent from meeting – 2 nd occasion	£24.00	£50.00
		Absent from meeting 3 rd or more occasions	£36.00	£75.00
		Claim/protest fee	£50.00	
		Failure to notify result on date of fixture		
		1 st occasion	£5.00	
		2 nd occasion	£10.00	
		3 rd occasion onwards	£15.00	
		Failure to notify League Secretary of a change in venue within agreed timescales.	£50.00	
		Failure to pay official referee on date of fixture	£5.00	
		Good Behaviour Bond	£75.00	
		Match Card Offence	£8.00	
		Minimum fine for playing ineligible player	£50.00	
		Receive a copy of non-Comet based match card (per card)	£10.00	
5.2.6		Unless otherwise indicated, all fines must be paid within 14 days of the date notifying of the fine. Failure to meet such deadlines will result in an additional late payment fine of £25 being applied automatically. If the increased fine is not paid within 7 days, the club will be automatically suspended until the Monday following the date the fine is paid. Payment of all fines and monies must be made in line with the notice issued.		
5.2.7		The Guarantee Fee must be paid by new clubs as assurance that they complete all fixture requirements and must be paid before the first competitive DAWFL game of the season.		
5.2.8		Any club losing its Guarantee Fee must pay a further Guarantee Fee within 14 days, otherwise the League Council may suspend the offending club.		

5.3 General

5.3.1		Any club expelled will automatically lose their Guarantee Fee, Good Behaviour Bond, and probationary deposit (if appropriate).
5.3.2		No club will be admitted to the League if money is owed from a previous season.
5.3.3		The accounts of the League must be audited annually and a report of the audit must be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
5.3.4		In the event that a club leaves to join another league on or before 31 July, its fees and other monies will be refunded. If a club leaves to join another league after 31 st July, there will be no refund of fees or bonds. If a club ceases to exist or withdraws from the League without securing a place in another, there will be no refund of fees or bonds.
5.3.5		Each club shall retain its own gate receipts.
5.3.6		All proceeds of the semi-finals and final of cup fixtures will be devoted to League funds.
5.3.7		All clubs will be obliged to purchase a minimum of two tickets per team for any one fund raising event or commemorative function which the League Council may organise in any season.

6) League Membership

6.1		The member clubs of the League shall give the League Council the power to elect new clubs to the League following the completion of a recruitment process and on the basis the applicants fulfil the necessary requirements for membership.
6.2		Vacancies for clubs, should any exist, may be advertised in the local press or any other form of media as deemed appropriate by the League Council. Applications must be made in writing to the League Secretary, otherwise they cannot be considered.
6.3		The League Council shall interview all shortlisted applicant clubs prior to the first League meeting and shall be responsible for selecting suitable clubs to fill vacancies when required.
6.4		New clubs shall be admitted on the basis of one year's probation. The League Council will review the continued membership of probationary clubs prior to the first League meeting of the season.
6.5		The League Council will have the power to expel, refuse membership or extend probation of any probationary club whose conduct in their opinion has been objectionable or detrimental to the best interest of any competition or to Association Football in general.
6.6		The League will retain any probationary deposit if a club's conduct has been objectionable or detrimental to the best interest of any competition or to Association Football in general.
6.7		The League will have the power to extend the probationary period for one additional season if necessary and a further £150 deposit will be required to cover this period.
6.8		Clubs in membership of this League must be properly constituted. The League can request any member Club to produce their constitution/rules/articles and minutes for inspection (provided 14 days' notice is given).
6.9		In the event that a Club/Team notify the League Secretary that they intend to fold or withdraw from the League, their membership will be placed on temporary hold for a period of three days during which time their notification may be rescinded. For the avoidance of doubt, after three days have passed their membership will be withdrawn and they will be given a status of a new club in the event they subsequently apply for league membership.
	6.9.1	Whereby a team have been scheduled a fixture during the three-day period of hold, in the event they rescind their notification they will be deemed to have unfulfilled the fixture and will be dealt with as per League Rules. They will also be responsible for any pitch cancellation fees incurred by their opposition.
6.10		It is the responsibility of each club to ensure its teams are affiliated to the IFA and their Divisional Association via Comet by following the guidance issued by their Divisional Association prior to playing any competitive matches. Whereby a Club/Team are unable to fulfil an allocated fixture as they are not affiliated, they will be subject to rule 13.8.4. In the event a Club/Team play a competitive match while not affiliated, they shall lose their guarantee fee, and a further guarantee fee will be required to safeguard their League membership. The opponents in each match played while unaffiliated will be awarded the maximum points and a 3-0 win, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.
6.11		To facilitate games being played when an official referee is unavailable to take charge of a game, each club should have at least one affiliated club referee per DAWFL team for the duration of the season and their names forwarded to the League Secretary before the start of each season. This will

		help ensure that fixtures get played when scheduled and help avoid backlog of fixtures at end of season. If further club referees are affiliated during the season, their names must be passed to the League Secretary as soon as they have completed their training and a Comet referee account set up. All club referees can only take charge of a game once their position as a club referee has been verified by the League Secretary in writing by the IFA.
6.12		The DAWFL advises all member Clubs to ensure they have £10 million public liability insurance in place to cover public liability issues.

7) League Representatives

7.1		No club shall be allowed more than two representatives per club at League meetings, and each club shall have one vote per club. Any representative must be a person authorised to act as representative of his club and have access to all facts required to arrange fixtures.
7.2		Any clubs not represented at a League meeting shall be fined on each occasion, as per rules.
7.3		If a club is absent from three meetings in a season, they will be required to explain their actions in writing to the League Secretary and appear in front of the League Council. The League Council will fine and may suspend or expel the Club. Any additional absences in a season will result in a suspension of one week, which may result in them losing their Guarantee fee.
7.4		Attendance at League meetings is mandatory, so clubs must ensure they are represented at all League meetings.

8) Club Name

8.1		A club formed from within a Public Body or recognised Works may, subject to a request from the overall management of such Body or Works to the League Council, change its name from the start of a season provided its base remains within the same organisation.
8.2		A club wishing to change its name, must apply to the IFA Football Committee in line with the IFA Football Regulations with full details of the change for authorisation, with the League Secretary copied into the request. Only once authority is granted by the Football Committee can the name change be accepted.

9) Club Contacts

9.1		Each club must register only one Secretary on Comet irrespective of the number of competing teams they have and ensure Comet is updated as soon as any further changes are made. Where possible, this person should be the same as that registered with the County Antrim FA and IFA. Failure to update comet following a change of secretary will result in a £10 fine.
9.2		A club e-mail address must be registered by each club. Only one e-mail address may be registered with the League for the purposes of mail shots for information from the League. It should be registered as the name of the club e.g. comberymfc@aol.com. It will also be the only e-mail address to be used by a Club when corresponding with the League Secretary. This e-mail address should be accessible by more than one club official including the Club Secretary. Clubs must check this e-mail address on a regular basis as this will be the only email address that will be responded to.

10) Grounds

10.1		The League Council shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches under the jurisdiction of the League and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.
10.2		All League matches must be played on the registered ground of the Club except where there are extenuating circumstances. The League Council will decide what constitutes extenuating circumstances. The League Council can authorise the League Secretary to approve any change of ground. Where extenuating circumstances are used Rules 10.10 and 10.11 will not be applied. This ground must be registered with the League at the start of each season.
10.3		The Match Referee's decision is final as to whether a ground is playable.
10.4		Complaints about the condition of a pitch or its markings must be made in writing and handed to the Match Referee before the game has commenced. It must be signed by the recognized club official of the day as confirmed on Comet.
10.5		Matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf (3G), subject to the match referee deeming it safe for play. Matches may also be played under floodlights.
10.6		Any team in the DAWFL will be required to ensure that facilities used for matchdays provide showering and changing facilities for both the home and away teams and also the referee at their home ground. The League Council will have discretion to disapply this rule upon application by any club, if it is established to the satisfaction of the League Council that the interests of sporting integrity and the good administration of the league so requires.
10.7		The League Council shall decide grounds suitable for staging representative games, play-offs, semi-finals and finals of Competitions organised by the League.
10.8		The semi-finals and final of Competitions shall be played on dates arranged by the League Council and the grounds shall be neutral.
10.9		When a home club wishes to play a match on an alternative ground, they must notify the League Secretary and the opposing club at least two clear days before the match takes place.
10.10		In the event that a ground is called off due to availability, condition or adverse weather conditions and the home club secures another suitable venue within reasonable traveling distance from the original venue, the Honorary Secretary will determine what is 'reasonable traveling distance' and the two clear day's notification would not be required.
10.11		In the event of a knockout Cup match not taking place on the date arranged for a second time due to the ground being declared unplayable, the team which was first drawn away will have choice of venue. Following this the tie will revert alternately week by week until the match has been played.

11) Registration, Eligibility, Transfers and Loans

11.1. General

11.1.1		All players must be registered in accordance with the IFA Amateur Game Player Registrations Regulations.
11.1.2		All players participating in the League must comply with Football Regulation 29.

11.2. Registration Forms

11.2.1		All players will be registered on the IFA Comet system in line with the IFA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations which will generate an electronic form sent directly to the players chosen email for verification.
11.2.2		Priority of registration shall determine the eligibility of a player to play for the club with which he was first registered. Protests regarding the eligibility of a player must be lodged with the League Secretary, who will either deal with the protest or refer it to the IFA if it relates to a registration of a player from a club playing in another division.
11.2.3		A player willfully signing more than one Registration Form shall be dealt with by the League Council if both clubs are DAWFL clubs, otherwise the IFA will deal with.
11.2.4		The League Council reserve the right to reject any registration submitted via the Comet system.
11.2.5		All Clubs will be required to nominate a Data Processor to manage their information processed on the Comet system.
11.2.6		The nominated Club Data Processor will be responsible for ensuring details are correct and current. Any misuse of the system will be referred to the IFA to investigate and apply an appropriate sanction if proven.

11.3. Registration Timelines

11.3.1		Players may be registered from the date when the amateur game player registration period opens, as advised in writing by the IFA.
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11.4. Eligibility

11.4.1		A professional player cannot hold office of any description in the League, unless reinstated as an amateur by the Irish Football Association.
11.4.2		Any player shall be ineligible for the DAWFL if:
	11.4.2.1	they are not registered on the IFA Comet System or are not compliant with all other rules in Section 11.
	11.4.2.2	they have taken part during the current season in ✦ One or more NIFL Premiership match, or ✦ Six or more matches accumulatively in any games of intermediate status or above.
	11.4.2.3	Only four recognised players from any senior team within the club, shall be eligible to play in any DAWFL League games. This does not include players at youth team level. Such a recognised player is defined as a player who has played 10 or more games within the current season for a senior team and/or combination of senior teams.

11.4.3		Should a club resign from affiliated football, fold or fail to exist, the players of such club shall be eligible to sign for another club in the League following cancellation of their registrations by the IFA in line with Article 5.7 of the Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations. Should a club simply cease its League membership whilst remaining a live affiliated club, then signed players will remain with that club and normal transfer arrangements in line with the Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations will apply.
11.4.4		Suspensions issued by the DAWFL will carry forward into the next season and must be served to completion.
11.4.5		A player is only eligible to represent one DAWFL team during the weekend fixture match window as defined by rule 13.1.3.2.

11.5 Transfers

11.5.1		A player may be transferred to another club within the DAWFL provided he has not taken part in ten or more games for one club in the current season in the DAWFL.
11.5.2		A player having played 10 games for a DAWFL Club in any season may be registered for another DAWFL Club in that season by either transfer within the DAWFL or by transfer from a club outside the DAWFL, However that player will be deemed ineligible to play in any DAWFL games for the new club. Games at youth level will not count toward the 10 games.
11.5.3		The total number of players who may transfer from one DAWFL club to any other individual DAWFL club during any season, whether directly or indirectly via a third club, shall not exceed four.

12) League Affairs

12.1		All matches shall be subject to the laws of the game, articles and rules as defined by the Irish Football Association and County Antrim Football Association.
12.2		At the end of each season's competitions, the Club in each division attaining the highest number of points shall be declared the champion club, providing all the scheduled fixtures are concluded.
	12.2.1	If two or more teams finish on the same number of points in the top two positions, a higher goal difference will determine the position.
	12.2.2	If points and goal difference are equal then the team with the most goals for will attain the higher position.
	12.2.3	In the event two teams can still not be separated a play-off on neutral ground will be used to decide the higher position. Whereby three or more teams can still not be separated the League Council will determine the format to decide the overall position.
12.3		At the end of each season's competitions, the Club in each division attaining the second highest number of points shall be declared the runners-up to the champion club, providing all the scheduled fixtures are concluded.
	12.3.1	If two or more teams finish on the same number of points in the top two positions, a higher goal difference will determine the position.
	12.3.2	If points and goal difference are equal then the team with the most goals for will attain the higher position.
	12.3.3	In the event two teams can still not be separated a play-off on neutral ground will be used to decide the higher position. Whereby three or more teams can still not be separated the League Council will determine the format to decide the overall position.
12.4		Promotion and relegation will operate on a '2 up, 2 down', although the League Council may use its discretion as circumstances dictate. There will be no promotion between the Reserve and main Divisions.
12.5		If two or more teams finish on the same number of points in relegation positions, a higher goal difference will determine the position, providing all the scheduled fixtures are concluded.
	12.5.1	If points and goal difference are equal, then a higher goals for count will be used to determine the position.
	12.5.2	In the event two teams can still not be separated a play-off on neutral ground will be used to decide the higher position. Whereby three or more teams can still not be separated the League Council will determine the format to decide the overall position.
12.6		If play-offs are organised to determine league positions, the expenses of such games shall be shared equally by the competing teams.
12.7		The League Council shall have the power at the end of the season to revise the structure of the League.
12.8		In the unfortunate circumstance that all divisional and cup fixtures are not played to a conclusion, the DAWFL League Council will have the power to make a decision taking into account all circumstances presented before them.
12.9		Any club found playing an ineligible player in a league game shall: ➤ Be fined £50 per player. ➤ Forfeit the match on each occasion an ineligible player is used and opposition awarded a 3-0 win, unless there is a greater advantage, in which case the score will stand. ➤ The League Council shall have the power to deduct an additional three points for a second offence and issue a fine of £75 per player.

		➤ For multiple breaches (three or more), the League Council shall consider exercising powers in rule 4.2.2 ➤ Should both teams be found guilty of playing an ineligible player, the game will be deemed void and no points awarded to either team.
12.10		Any club found guilty of playing a suspended player in a league game by the Co Antrim FA or Irish FA, the player will be deemed ineligible and rule 12.9 will apply.
12.11		Any club found guilty of playing players under assumed names or while registered with another club in a league game, the League Council shall, consider the following sanctions: ➤ Fine of £100 per player. ➤ Forfeit the match on each occasion a player is played under an assumed name and 3-0 win awarded to opposition, unless there's a greater advantage in which case the score will stand. ➤ For second offence, issue a fine of £125 per player and deduct 6 league points. ➤ For multiple breaches (three or more), the League Council shall consider exercising powers in rule 4.2.2. ➤ Should both teams be found guilty of playing players under assumed names, the game will be deemed void and no points awarded to either team.
12.12		A player who has been played in a league game under an assumed name may be suspended for a maximum of 10 matches under the jurisdiction of the DAWFL.
12.13		In the event that a club are found to have played a player in a league game under an assumed name, the club official who signed the match card or confirmed the game on Comet may be suspended from all activities under the auspices of the DAWFL for a maximum of 12 months.
12.14		If for any reason a league match has been terminated and at least 80 minutes have been played, the League Council may permit the result at the termination to stand, provided they determine that there was no intent to seek advantage by either team which resulted in the termination. If less than 80 minutes was played, the match will be replayed, unless the League Council can agree a suitable outcome with both clubs.

13) Fixtures

13.1. General

13.1.1		The DAWFL season will commence on the 1st August and end on the 31st May of the following year. The competition period can be extended but only if the League Council seek approval from the Football Committee of the IFA. The first official fixture in any competition period will take place not later than the first Saturday in September or as close to it.
13.1.2		All League matches shall be on a home and away basis, unless the seasons duration is adjusted for any reason.
13.1.3		Clubs must play fixtures on dates arranged by the League/Fixture Secretary, which will be notified to the clubs concerned at least five days before the match is due to be played, except ground be covered by snow, or, declared unplayable by the Match Referee, or is taken by the Senior or Parent Association or Leagues, Alliances or combinations senior to this League.
	13.1.3.1	Kick off times may be brought forward or moved back on the date arranged by the League, but only by mutual consent of both teams and the League Secretary.
	13.1.3.2	Match day window extension. Begins on the 1st Saturday in September until the 2nd last Saturday in March ➤ Fixtures will have a match day window from the Friday until the Tuesday to provide flexibility for clubs to either bring forward from the Saturday or to put back at any other time until the Tuesday, providing both teams agree and that a match official can be assigned to the fixture ➤ The home team is responsible for notifying the league secretary of the new date, venue and kick off time no later than 1pm 8 days in advance of the scheduled game. ➤ Should an official referee not be available, the game will remain as originally scheduled. ➤ Players may play for only one team at the club during the match day window in line with rule 11.4.5. ➤ Should both teams not agree, the fixture will remain for the scheduled Saturday.
13.1.4		A club may not play more than one fixture per team on any one day.
13.1.5		The home team must have their ground ready for inspection by the Match Referee 30 minutes before stated kick-off time.
13.1.6		Three substitutes will be allowed in any game. Unless it is extra time within a cup fixture, were a fourth substitution can be made.
13.1.7		A pre-appointed member(s) of the League Council may request that players confirm their details, as held within the IFA Central Registration System, on the immediate conclusion of a fixture.
	13.1.7.1	In the event that a player is substituted prior to the conclusion of the fixture, they must confirm their details immediately after they leave the field of play with the League Council member.
	13.1.7.2	Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of £100 and Rules 12.12, 12.13 and 12.14 may be invoked.

13.2 Results

13.2.1		The home club must submit results of the fixture played either by text or email to the League Secretary, or inputted directly to Comet, within 3 hours of the end of the match. Any failure will result in a fine being imposed in line with rule 5.2.5.
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13.3 Pitch Inspections

13.3.1		Should there be any doubt about the condition of the match pitch and failing any cancellations by the relevant council or ground staff for privately run pitches, the home team may request a pitch inspection through the League Secretary a minimum of 3.5 hours before the scheduled kick-off time. The League Secretary will then liaise with the Referee Convenor to arrange for an Official Referee to conduct an inspection of the pitch, if possible. The Official Referee will be entitled to expenses as per rule 14.2.6.
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13.4 Delayed Kick-Offs

13.4.1		Should any team not turn up in reasonable time they shall forfeit their guarantee fee and the fixture involved shall be awarded to the opposing club with a 3-0 win. Reasonable time should be understood to mean that the kick-off time will not be delayed more than twenty minutes after the fixed starting time.
13.4.2		Delayed kick-offs are for emergency only and apply to the away team. The League Council will deal with such incidents; persistent offenders may have their membership terminated.

13.5 Abandonment

13.5.1		If a match has been terminated before the recognised 'full time', in all circumstances both clubs should submit a report in writing to the League Secretary within three days of the termination or they may be fined £35.
13.5.2		Any club found guilty of causing an abandonment by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA will lose the tie 3-0, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.
13.5.3		If it is deemed that an abandonment is caused by both teams, the match will be void.

13.6 Free Match Days

13.6.1		Any club requiring a free match day for any reason must notify the League Council of the date giving a minimum of four weeks' notice in writing. Clubs will only be granted two free match days a season under this rule. Free match days requested for dates after 31 March will not be granted.
13.6.2		In the event that a Club's 1 st XI is granted a free match day, their 2 nd XI will not be allocated a fixture.
13.6.3		Should a cup semifinal or final be planned and notified, and the Club requests a free match day, this will be refused regardless of the requirements of 13.6.1 have been met.

13.7 Fixture Cancellation

13.7.1		Clubs may not cancel games by mutual consent.
13.7.2		Clubs must advise the League Secretary and their opposition of agreed fixture changes or cancellations by e-mail, as well as by telephone. In the event of any dispute regarding fixtures, these records of communication will be used as evidence.
13.7.3		Clubs must play fixtures on the dates arranged by the League, except the ground be covered by snow, or declared unplayable by Match Referee or in line with Rule 13.3.1 – by an Official Referee, or is taken by Senior or Parent Associations. In the case of a ground being covered by snow, the League Officials shall have the power to postpone such fixtures provided sufficient proof is put before them that the ground is snow bound.

13.8 Failure to fulfil fixture

13.8.1		Where a team cannot complete an allocated fixture programme through either suspension, expulsion or any other reason, their record to date shall be deleted.
13.8.2		Teams failing to fulfil any fixture will be dealt with by the League Council.
13.8.3		Where a team fails to fulfil a fixture, Comet line up should be completed and confirmed by the team present. Failure to complete Comet with line up details will result in a match card offence (see rule 5.2.5).
13.8.4		The absent team will be called by the League Council to give a full account of themselves. They shall; ✦ lose their guarantee fee, and a further guarantee fee will be required to safeguard their League membership. ✦ the opponents will be awarded the maximum points and a 3-0 win.
13.8.5		In the event of a club having two teams, if the first team is unable to fulfil a fixture the second team must fulfil the fixture of their first team. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the fixture result to the second team and a fine imposed on the club of a minimum of £50.
13.8.6		If any team fails to turn up for a fixture, the Official Referee shall receive full fee and expenses from the team present. The team will be reimbursed by the League, the League will proceed to seek recovery from the offending team.
	13.8.6.1	The team failing to fulfil the fixture shall also reimburse their opponents where there were costs incurred in hiring the pitch for the un-played match.
13.8.7		A Team failing to fulfil two fixtures in a season without due cause will be fined £100, any further failures will incur a £200 fine and the Club may be dismissed from the League. Their opponents will be awarded the maximum points and a 3-0 win.
13.8.8		Should extenuating circumstances prevail in causing a game to be postponed, the League Council at its discretion shall have power to waive Rules 13.8.2, 13.8.3 or 13.8.4, or any part thereof.
13.8.9		Teams who qualify as finalists of any competition and fail to play in the Final shall be fined £300. The League Council shall deal with the offending Club.
13.8.10		In the event that a team/ Club is suspended from football, they will: ✦ forfeit any arranged fixture. ✦ Their opponents will be awarded the fixture as a 3-0 win and maximum points (if a league fixture). Rules 13.8.6.and 13.8.6.1 will also apply if appropriate.

13.9 Playing Kit

13.9.1		Each team in the League shall register its colours with the Comet system. Any alteration to a Club's registered colours must be updated in Comet and advised to their forthcoming opponents a minimum of five days in advance of a fixture.
13.9.2		In the event of two teams having the same colours, including shirts, shorts and socks the home team must change. A goalkeeper must wear a shirt or jersey of distinctive colour from that of his own club, of his opponents, and also of the Match referee.
13.9.3		It is compulsory for all teams to display numbers on their shirts.
13.9.4		In the event that two teams have the same colours, alternative colours can't be sourced and the Match Referee cannot commence the match, the League Council will make a decision on the result of the fixture.

13.10 Match Equipment

13.10.1		All teams must supply goal netting, proper nylon corner flags (6 foot with flags attached), a whistle, at least two FIFA Approved match balls for home matches, and at least one FIFA approved match ball for away matches, all equipment to be in first class condition, failure to do so may incur a fine to be decided by the League Council.
13.10.2		All teams playing on Council grounds where netting is supplied are responsible for supplying pegs for nets if same not supplied by the Council.
13.10.3		The home team shall be responsible for bringing two FIFA Approved match balls properly blown up to the Match Referee's room before the start of the game.
13.10.4		All teams must have a First Aid kit available at pitch side during fixtures. At a minimum the First Aid kit should contain (unopened) bandages and sterile water.

13.11 Match Cards

13.11.1		Match cards can be examined at any time before or after a game, by an elected Club Official or member of the League Council. It must only be examined in the presence of the Match Referee or an official of the opposing team. It may also be examined while in the possession of the League on payment of the appropriate fee under Rule 5.2.5.
13.11.2		Should a match venue not have a data signal Clubs must put full names in capitals, not initials, of all players including the substitutes on the non-Comet based match card before the game begins.
	13.11.2.1	The Match card must be input within the Comet system by a Responsible Club Official Should a match venue not have a data signal the Match card must be signed by a Responsible Club Official, with their name added in block capitals. This person shall be responsible for verifying the information contained on the card as being correct. If a non-Comet based match card is returned to the League unsigned by any team, then the League Council will deem that the registered manager of the team has acted in the role as the 'Responsible Club Official'. In doing so

		they are accepting that the information contained on the card as being correct and they are liable for any punishment under League rules if this is found not to be the case.
13.11.3		The players' shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and must correspond exactly with the instruction input into the Comet system or the teamsheet handed to the Match Referee should the match venue not have a data signal.
13.11.4		Should a match venue not have a data signal the team unable to submit their teamsheet will be responsible for supplying match cards and ensuring that the completed card is returned to the league within 72 hours of the date of the match whether played or not. (This rule only applies when an official referee is not present).
13.11.5		Points or ties won may only be recognised on receipt of the match card / completion of the match card in the Comet system.
13.11.6		Each club shall input their team and confirm their line up including the names of players and club officials and their functions taking part in each match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) via the Comet System not later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time . Clubs failing to do so will be fined in the sum of £10.
	13.11.6.1	After the team sheets have been completed and submitted to the Comet Football Management System, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following shall apply: a) If any of the first eleven players named on the team sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced only by any of the substitutes named on the confirmed team sheet. The substitute(s) in question can then be replaced by a player(s) not named on the initial team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three (3) players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team sheet and not be available for selection for this fixture. b) If any of the substitutes named on the team sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced by any player not named on the confirmed team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team sheet and not be available for selection for this fixture. c) Any amendments to the team sheet in accordance with points a) and b) above must be communicated to the opposing team manager in the presence of one of the Match Officials as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the match failure to do so will deem any changes null and void and rule 12.9 may be applied.
13.11.7		Should a match venue not have a data signal Secretaries or other responsible persons acting for competing clubs shall 15 minutes prior to kick-off provide a completed match card to the Match Referee. Clubs failing to do so will be fined in the sum of £10.
13.11.8		In the event of there being no Official Referee it is the responsibility of the Club who provided the Match Referee to submit the following details into the Comet system within 24 hours of the fixture taking place. Clubs failing to do so will be fined in the sum of £10. ✦ Score at half-time and full-time

		✦ Details of cautions and dismissals, including minute of the game the event took place. ✦ Goal scorers, including minute of the game the event took place. ✦ Substitutions, including minute of the game the event took place.
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13.12 Non-Playing Members and Supporters

13.12.1		Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their supporters and non-playing members at all matches.
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13.13 Discrimination, Misconduct, Threatening Behaviour

13.13.1		Any Players or Officials reported to the League Secretary for threatening a League Official, will be referred to the Co Antrim FA Disciplinary Officer to deal with in line with the IFA Disciplinary Code.
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14. Referees

14.1 General

14.1.1		The semi-final and final of a Cup competition must be conducted by an Official Referee as appointed by the League Council. Referee's Assistants for the semi-final and final will be appointed at the discretion of the League Council.
14.1.2		If an Official Referee fails to arrive and both clubs can provide a Club Referee, then the clubs must either agree mutually, or toss a coin for the choice of Match Referee, and the match in such circumstances will be considered a fixture.
	14.1.2.1	If only one club can provide a Club Referee, then they will be deemed the Match Referee, and the match will be considered a fixture.
	14.1.2.2	In the event that both teams cannot agree mutually or refuse to toss a coin for choice of Match Referee, or a team refuses to accept a Club Referee, then each club must inform the league in writing within 2 days. The League Council will determine the recorded outcome of the fixture, based on evidence submitted. No points may be awarded for the fixture and one or both clubs will be fined £150 for failure to play the fixture.
	14.1.2.3	Where no Official Referee is allocated or an Official Referee fails to arrive for a fixture and neither Club can provide a Club Referee, then the game cannot be played.
	14.1.2.4	In the event where a Match Referee is injured and cannot continue then Rules 14.1.2, (14.1.2.1, 14.1.2.2. and 14.1.2.3) apply.
14.1.3		Clubs player(s) or official(s) found guilty of harassing the match official(s) or League Council members in any way, either before, during, or after games, will be reported to the Irish FA or Co Antrim FA.

14.2 Payment

14.2.1		An Official Referee is entitled to a match fee plus expenses in accordance with the rate set by the Irish Football Association. The match fee and expenses shall be paid by the home team (except in cup competitions - see Rule 14.2.4), directly after the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will incur a fine as laid out in rule 5.2.5 - Other Charges.
14.2.2		Any club paying an official referee more than the normal fee will be reported to the Irish FA.
14.2.3		Any club who feels an Official Referee has exaggerated any claim for expenses must notify the League Secretary in writing giving full details within four days of the fixture.
14.2.4		The Official Referee's fee in all Cup and Shield competitions will be paid by the away drawn team, directly after the match (this includes Tommy Murphy Memorial Shield fixtures that are played on a divisional basis). Failure to comply with this Rule will incur a fine as laid out in rule 5.2.5 - Other Charges.
14.2.5		Official Referees shall be paid the standard fee by the away club in all Cup and Shield competitions, except in the semi-finals and final when the standard fee (where agreed in advance of the season commencing by the League Council and Referee's Convenor) shall be paid by the League, and in Cup/Shield finals, the Official Referees will receive a Medal marking the occasion.

14.2.6		An Official Referee who is asked to complete a pitch inspection will be paid travelling expenses only by the club requesting the inspection.
14.2.7		In the event that a club has not advised the League Secretary of a change of venue or cancellation of a game 45 minutes before kick-off, the Official Referee who is allocated the game may be awarded a fee and/or expenses for the game as determined by the League Council, unless they can be reallocated to another fixture.
14.2.8		In the event that a game has commenced and is terminated early by the Match Referee due to poor light, poor weather, unplayable ground conditions or due to a serious injury to the player, any Official Referee should be paid travelling expenses and full match fee by the home club except in Cup or shield competitions where the away team shall pay.
14.2.9		In the event the Match Referee (or Council Authority) declare a surface unplayable, the teams may not continue with the fixture on that pitch.

14.3 The Referee's Convenor

14.3.1		The Referee's Convenor will be appointed each season by the League Council.
14.3.2		The Referee's Convenor will be responsible for allocating Official Referees to all league and cup games, with the exception of any league play offs and the semi-finals and finals of all cup competitions.
14.3.3		The Referee's Convenor, on direction from the League Council, will be responsible for allocating Official referees and two assistants for all Cup Competitions semi-finals and finals and any league playoff games.
14.3.4		The League Council, when they deem appropriate, may instruct the Referee's Convenor to allocate a fourth official to Cup semi finals.

Definitions

Official Referee – A Referee who has been appointed by the league to take control of a game and who is entitled to a match fee.

Club Referee – A Referee who is a member of a club and has successfully completed a Referees course and who is affiliated to the Irish Football Association.

Match Referee – Either an Official Referee or club Referee who takes charge of a game.

15 Cups

15.1 General

15.1.1		No Club shall be allowed more than one team in any of the DAWFL Cup Competitions in the current season.
15.1.2		The DAWFL Cup Competitions shall be determined annually by the League Council.
15.1.3		The Competitions shall be annual and open to all clubs in the League.
15.1.4		The Competitions shall be conducted on a knock-out basis, unless otherwise specified.
15.1.5		Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it is drawn on the date fixed by the League Council, without sufficient reason for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the tie 3-0 and thus forfeit their guarantee fee.
	15.1.5.1	In the event a Club withdraws from a cup they will not be required to forfeit their guarantee fee, as long as they have provided a minimum of 3 days' notice. They will not be eligible for a refund in the competition entry fees, however will be responsible for any pitch cancellation fees incurred by their opposition.
15.1.6		A team shall not receive a bye in more than one round of the same knock-out competition in the current season.
15.1.7		In the event of a game being of equal score at the end of normal time.
	15.1.7.1	10 minutes each way will be played and if still drawn the match will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, to ascertain the winner.
	15.1.7.2	If the Match Referee determines that there will not be sufficient time to play 10 minutes each way due to a loss of evening light then the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, to ascertain the winner.
15.1.8		Players or officials from either the winning team or runners up who choose not to collect their medal as part of the medals presentation shall not be entitled to receive their medal subsequently. Refusal to collect a medal or acts of disrespect such as throwing the medal away after the presentation will be deemed as serious misconduct and a fine of £100 will be imposed on the Club to which the player or official belongs.
15.1.9		All other League Rules where applicable will apply to knock-out competitions.
15.1.10		Any club found guilty of playing players under assumed names or while registered with another club, in a cup game, the League Council shall: ➤ Issue a fine of £100 per player. ➤ Forfeit the match on each occasion a player is played under an assumed name and a 3-0 win issued to opposition, unless there's a greater advantage, in which case the score will stand. ➤ For second offence, issue a fine of £125 per player and deduct a minimum of 3 points if the game is a cup/shield competition played in a mini-league format. ➤ For multiple breaches (three or more), the League Council shall consider exercising powers under rule 4.2.2. ➤ Should both teams be found guilty of playing a player under an assumed name, the game will be deemed void, and the League Council will decide the outcome
15.1.11		A player who has been played under an assumed name in a cup game may be suspended for a maximum of 5 matches.
15.1.12		In the event that a club are found to have played a player under an assumed name in a cup game, the club official who signed the match card or confirmed on Comet may be suspended from all activities under the auspices of the DAWFL for a maximum of 12 months.

15.1.13		Suspensions issued by the DAWFL will carry forward into the next season and must be served to completion.
15.1.14		Any club found playing an ineligible player in a cup game shall: ➤ Be fined £50 per player. ➤ The guilty club will forfeit the game on each occasion an ineligible player is used, and opposition awarded a 3-0 win, unless there is greater advantage, in which case the score will stand. ➤ The League Council shall have the power to deduct an additional three points for a second offence and issue an increased fine of £75 per player. ➤ For multiple breaches (three or more), the League Council shall consider exercising powers in rule 4.2.2. Should both teams be found guilty of playing an ineligible player, the game will be deemed void, and the League Council will decide the outcome.
15.1.15		Any club found guilty of playing a suspended player in a cup game by the Co Antrim FA or Irish FA, the player will be deemed ineligible and rule 15.1.14 will apply.
15.1.16		If for any reason a cup match has been terminated and at least 80 minutes has been played, the League Council may permit the result at the termination to stand, provided they determine that there was no intent to seek advantage by either team which resulted in the termination. If less than 80 minutes was played, the match will be replayed, unless the League Council can agree a suitable outcome with both clubs. If for any reason a cup game has been terminated and the game has gone into extra time, and at least 10 minutes of the extra time has been played, the League Council may permit the result at the termination to stand, provided they adjudge that there was no obvious intent to seek advantage by either team which resulted in the termination. If less than 80 minutes was played, the match will be replayed, unless the League Council can agree a suitable outcome with both clubs. If a Cup Game has been terminated before the recognised 'full time', in all circumstances both clubs should submit a report in writing to the League Secretary within three days of the termination or they may be fined £35. Any Club found guilty of causing an abandonment in a Cup Game by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA will: ✦ lose the tie 3-0, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand; and If it is deemed that an abandonment is caused by both teams; ✦ the match will be void.

15.2 Eligibility

15.2.1		Each player must be a bona-fide member of a club, as by League Rules.
15.2.2		A player is only permitted to play for one Club in each of the DAWFL Cup Competitions within a current season.
15.2.3		Prior to the quarter-final, semi-final and final, each player must have played at least one DAWFL league game for the Club represented in the Competition in the current season.
15.2.4		If the League Council has any doubt at any time, and whether arising out of a protest or otherwise, as to the qualification of any player taking part in the cup/shield, they shall have power to call upon such player and/or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is qualified according to the Rules. Failing satisfactory proof, they may disqualify such player and may remove the Club from the Competition, and impose such penalty as set out elsewhere in the rule book.
	15.2.4.1	The League Council may also have the power to reinstate a Club to a Cup Competition if they have been defeated by the Club which has been removed from the Competition in the event that the following round has not yet taken place.
15.2.5.1		Only four recognised players from any other team within the club, playing outside of the DAWFL, shall be eligible to play in any of the DAWFL Premier Cup Competitions, which are the Billy Allen Memorial Shield, Sittlington Cup or Frank Moore Memorial Cup. Such a recognised player is defined as a player who has played 10 or more league and/or cup matches for a team, or combination of teams, within the club who do not play their matches in the DAWFL.
15.2.5.2		Only four recognised players from any other team within the club, playing outside of the DAWFL, or playing in the Premier Division, Division 1 or Division 2 of the DAWFL, shall be eligible to play in any of the DAWFL Reserve Team Cup Competitions, which are the Mervyn Bassett Cup or Tommy Murphy Memorial Shield. Such a recognised player is defined as a player who has played 10 or more league and/or cup matches for a team, or combination of teams, within the club who do not play their matches in the DAWFL, or play in the Premier Division, Division 1 or Division 2 of the DAWFL.

15.3 Additional Cup Competition Rules

15.3.1 Premier Cup Competitions

15.3.1.1		For the purpose of these rules, the Billy Allen Memorial Shield, Sittlington Cup and Frank Moore Memorial Cup will be referred to as the 'Premier Cup Competitions'.
15.3.1.2		These competitions shall be governed by the League Council.

15.3.2 Frank Moore Memorial Cup

15.3.2.1		The League Council will determine if the competition will be played on a knockout, sectional or divisional basis. In the event the Cup is played on a sectional or divisional basis then the following will apply.
15.3.2.2		This Competition shall be annual and shall be open to all teams knocked out in the first and second round of the Sittlington Cup, unless qualification is as a result of disqualification or elimination from the Sittlington Cup, then entry to the Frank Moore Memorial Cup does not apply.
15.3.2.3		If two or more teams finish on the same number of points in the top two positions, a higher goal difference will determine the position.
15.3.2.4		If points and goal difference are equal then the team with the most goals for will attain the higher position.
15.3.2.5		If points, goal difference and the number of goals for are equal then the team with the better head-to-head records between the teams in the current competition will attain the higher position.
15.3.2.6		In the event the teams can still not be separated, drawing lots will be used to decide the winner. Rule 15.2.3 does not apply until the competition advances to the Quarter final phase.
15.3.2.7		All other knock-out cup competition rules will apply, except in the event the cup is played on a sectional or divisional basis.

15.3.3 Mervyn Bassett Cup

15.3.3.1		The Competition shall be open to all teams competing in Reserve Team League Division(s).
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15.3.4 Tommy Murphy Memorial Shield

15.3.4.1		This Competition shall be called the Down Area Winter Football League Tommy Murphy Memorial Shield and shall be governed by the League Council.
15.3.4.2		The League Council will determine if the competition will be played on a knockout, sectional or divisional basis. In the event the Shield is played on a sectional or divisional basis then the following will apply.
	15.3.4.2.1	If two or more teams finish on the same number of points in the top two positions, a higher goal difference will determine the position.
	15.3.4.2.2	If points and goal difference are equal then the team with the most goals for will attain the higher position.
	15.3.4.2.3	If points, goal difference and the number of goals for are equal then the team with the better head-to-head records between the teams in the current competition will attain the higher position.
	15.3.4.2.4	In the event the teams can still not be separated, drawing lots will be used to decide the winner.
	15.3.4.2.5	Rule 15.2.3 does not apply until the competition advances to the knockout phase.
15.3.4.3		All other knock-out cup competition Rules will apply except in the event that the Shield is played on a sectional or divisional basis.

15.3.5 Divisional Cups

15.3.5.1		The League Council at its discretion may organise a Divisional League Cup Competition for all or some of the Divisions.
15.3.5.2		The format of the Competition will be decided annually by the League Council and shall be introduced if and when required.
15.3.5.3		All other knock-out cup or shield competition Rules will be used as applicable.

15.3.6 Dennis S Nash Charity Shield

15.3.6.1		The League Council at its discretion may organise a Charity Shield match at the start of a new season.
15.3.6.2		The Shield will be contested as follows:
	15.3.6.2.1	Premier Division Winners from the preceding season versus Sittlington Cup winners from the preceding season.
	15.3.6.2.2	In the event that Premier Division and Sittlington Cup is won by the same club, Premier Division Winners from the preceding season versus Billy Allen Memorial Shield winners from the preceding season.
	15.3.6.2.3	In the event that Premier Division, Sittlington Cup and Billy Allen Memorial Shield is won by the same club, Premier Division Winners from the preceding season versus Frank Moore Memorial Cup Winners.
	15.3.6.2.4	In the event that it is deemed by the League Council that a Club are unable to participate in the fixture, the League Council shall have the power to determine a replacement Club.
15.3.6.3		Eligible players must be a bona-fide member of a club, as per League Rules, for the incoming season.
15.3.6.4		Participation in the Charity Shield will not make a player ineligible to play for a different club in any other Cup or Shield Competition in the DAWFL.
15.3.6.5		The awarding of medals will be at the discretion of the League Council.
15.3.6.6		All profits generated by the fixture will be awarded to a charity chosen by Dennis S Nash or the League Council.
15.3.6.7		All other rules apply, with the exception of 15.2.3.

15.4 League Representative Match

15.4.1		The League Council at its discretion may organise a representative match against another affiliated league.
15.4.2		The format of the match shall be agreed between the two competing leagues.
15.4.3		The League Council shall be responsible for selecting the team manager of the representational team.
15.4.4		To be eligible to be selected for the representative match a person must be registered as per League Rules and cannot be serving a suspension on the date of the match.

16 Trophies

16.1.1		Those clubs who win trophies belonging to the Down Area Winter Football League, must sign a receipt when they receive the trophy agreeing to return the trophy in good condition or to refund the amount of its value if it is destroyed by fire or lost by any other accident. The receipt will state that 'They will be responsible for its safekeeping while in their possession, and will return it, as directed by the League Council, in the same condition as to when they received it.
16.1.2		All trophies must be returned to the League Council by the date specified by the League Secretary. Clubs failing to return trophies by that date may be fined the sum of £100 per trophy.
16.1.3		If a club fails to return a trophy, an appropriate replacement will be selected and purchased by the League Council. The Club that failed to return said trophy must reimburse the assessed value replacement of the trophy within 30 days of its purchase.
16.1.4		Individual awards will be made to the winning team and runners-up in all competitions. The number to be decided by the League Council.
16.1.5		Where possible the League Council will endeavour to present the Trophies for the overall winners of each DAWFL Division at the applicable team's next home fixture (or away fixture in the event no home fixtures remain) following securing the title, on the basis there are no protests outstanding. In the event a title is won on the last game of the season, and no protests are outstanding, the League Council will work with the club to agree a mutually agreed presentation.

17. Claims, Protests and Appeals

17.1 Claims and Protests

17.1.1		Claims and protests by clubs for points, cup ties and/or expenses or player eligibility, must be lodged in writing by the Secretary of the Club concerned and emailed to the League Secretary from the Club's registered email account, together with a fee of £50 that should be sent electronically, which will be forfeited if claim/protest is not upheld.
17.1.2		Protests and appeals are only in order if submitted by the registered Secretary of the Club.
17.1.3		A copy of the claim/protest must be emailed from the Club's registered email account to the registered email address of the Club claimed/protested against, at the same time as to the League Secretary.
17.1.4		All claims/protests and copies, including any fee, must be sent by email within four full days after the cause, providing all evidence to back up their case. Where documentation is received for the first time in the course of any hearing, the League Council will determine, following enquiry of any person or club answering a charge, whether in the interests of fairness time should be afforded to any party to consider such documentation.
17.1.5		All claims/protests must give full particulars of all events leading to the claim/protest (including player's full names and addresses if applicable) and state all rules alleged to have been broken.
17.1.6		The onus of proof in any protest will lie with the Club protesting except if it is the case that the Club protested against admits the allegations in which case this will be considered sufficient proof.
17.1.7		All clubs and players will be expected to answer any formal allegations, claims or protests made against them, if requested to do so by the League Council.

17.2 DAWFL Charges, Sanctions and Hearings

17.2.1		The DAWFL League Council will be at liberty to offer a charge and/or sanction to a player, official or club with any item which contravenes League Rules.
17.2.2		A Club may either accept the charge and/or sanction, or they may challenge the charge and/or sanction by notifying the League Secretary by using the DAWFL Challenge Form and providing all evidence to back up their case within 4 days after the date of the charge/sanction being offered, along with a deposit of £50, which must be lodged within the League Bank account within that 4 day period. This sum will be returnable only where the challenge is either upheld or not heard. Following the conclusion of the DAWFL process, clubs have the right of appeal under Article 14 of the IFA Articles of Association.
17.2.3		Any failure to reply, within the specified timescale, (without just or reasonable cause) to correspondence sent by the League Council, either by letter, email or via the Comet system in pursuance of its obligations under DAWFL Rules, will render the person to whom such correspondence is sent to be in breach of DAWFL Rules and render such person liable to such penalties as the League Council shall deem fit to impose.

17.3 Appeals

17.3.1	Appeals may be lodged with the Irish Football Association in the manner stated in Article 14 of the IFA Articles of Association.
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18. Pandemics and other unforeseen issues

18.1	All clubs must adhere to any guidelines and protocols issued by the government, the Irish Football Association and the DAWFL League Council. If a club are found not to be adhering to the guidelines and protocols, they will be dealt with by the League Council.
18.1.1	The League Council shall have the power to warn any club not adhering to guidelines and protocols and in addition shall have the power to impose further sanctions including: ➤ A fine. ➤ A suspension. ➤ A deduction of points. ➤ Expulsion from a competition. ➤ Expulsion from the league.
18.2	The League Council will have the power to decide the outcome of any scheduled games that are not played due to the effects of unforeseen issues.
18.3	The League Council will have the power to deal with all other matters that arise due to unforeseen issues.