

DOWN AREA WINTER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES Season 2023 - 2024



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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 soccer.
- 1.1.1. In the event that a suitable sponsor is obtained, it will be permissible for the Association of Clubs to be called the [Sponsor's name] Down Area Winter Football League (DAWFL)
- 1.2. All communications must be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, at his 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 & 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.

2. Dissolution of Assets

- 2.1. In the event of this League being unable to function, all Members 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.

3. Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting

- 3.1. The Annual General Meeting shall take place before the end of June each year. (If for any reason this cannot take place the meeting must be scheduled for the earliest appropriate date thereafter allowing 21 days' notice).
- 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 Annual General Meeting.
- 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 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.

4. League Council

4.1. Structure

- 4.1.1. The League Council shall be elected in the following manner. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer '(Office Bearers)' and a minimum of 4 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 that an office bearer is not elected directly from the member clubs at the AGM of the League, the 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 Chairman of the meeting holding the casting vote if the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal.
- 4.2.2. The League Council by a majority vote shall have power to fine, deduct points, suspend or expel from any competition under the League's jurisdiction, or otherwise deal with any club(s), player(s), official(s) whose conduct in their opinion has been objectionable or detrimental to the best interests of any Competition or to Association Football in general, and to deal with any matter not provided for within these Rules.
- 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. No dispensation can be applied to any rules that relate to IFA/CAFA discipline sanctions.

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 Council Meeting at least three days in advance.
- 4.3.3. If a League Council member identifies a potential conflict of interest at a 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 Council meetings or three meetings in total, within the same season, shall be dismissed from the Council unless extenuating circumstances exist.

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.
- 4.4.2. The Chairman 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 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 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.

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.

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 total per 1st XI	£75.00
Annual Subscription total per 2nd XI	£60.00

Breakdown of charges for 1st XI

League Fees Premier, Division 1 and Division Two	£45.00
Billy Allen Memorial Shield	£15.00
Sittlington Cup & Frank Moore Memorial Cup	£15.00

Breakdown of charges for 2nd XI

League Fees Reserve Division 1 and 2	£30.00
Tommy Murphy Shield	£15.00
Reserve Team Knock-Out Cup	£15.00

Guarantee Fee

Guarantee Fee	£100.00
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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

	In Person	Virtual
• Absent from Meeting		
~ Absent from Meeting – First Occasion	£12.00	£25
~ Absent from Meeting – Second Occasion	£24.00	£50
~ Absent from Meeting – Third or more Occasions	£36.00	£75
• Claim/Protest Appeal	£50.00	
• Failure to notify result on date of Fixture		
~ 1st Occasion	£5.00	
~ 2nd Occasion	£10.00	
~ 3rd Occasion onwards	£15.00	
• Failure to notify the 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 a non-Comet based match card	(£10 per card)	

5.2.6. Unless otherwise indicated, all fines must be paid within 14 days of the date of email notification.. Failure to meet such deadlines will result in an additional fine of £25. If the increased fine is not paid within 7 days the Club will be suspended until the Monday following the date the fine is paid.. Payment of all fines and monies due must be made to the Honorary Treasurer or Secretary who shall maintain a register of all monies outstanding.

5.2.7. The Guarantee Fee must be paid by new clubs as assurance that they complete all fixture requirements.

5.2.8. A 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 any other monies will be refunded. If a club leaves to join another league after 31 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 the 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 all 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 through their Divisional Association prior to playing any competitive matches.

Whereby a Club/Team are unable to fulfil an allocated fixture as they are unaffiliated, 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 of 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. Each club must have at least one Club Referee per DAWFL team for the duration of the season and their names must be forwarded to the League Secretary before the start of each season. If a club adds more Club Referees during the season these names must also be forwarded to the League Secretary.
- 6.12. The League Secretary will maintain a register of all Club Referees which will be held in Appendix 1 of these Rules
- 6.13 The DAWFL advises all member Clubs to ensure they have appropriate insurance to cover all public liability issues and any player injury claims

7. League Representatives

- 7.1. No club shall be allowed more than two representatives per team at League meetings, and each club shall have one vote per club. Any representative must be a person of standing within 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. Apologies for absence shall not be accepted.

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 with a minimum of five year's membership in the League may change its name provided this does not reflect a substantive change in the management of the Club. Should permission be granted, no further change would be permitted for at least five years.

9. Club Contacts

- 9.1. Each club must register only one Secretary, irrespective of the number of competing teams they have. Where possible, this person should be the same as that registered with the County Antrim FA and IFA.
- 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.
- 9.3. Any change in the Club Secretary's details must be given in writing to the Secretary of the League and Governing Bodies.
- 9.4. All Secretaries and Managers must be approved by the League Council. The League Council reserves the right to refuse the registration of any Club Secretary or Manager.
- 9.5. Changes or changes of details of the Club Secretary and Team Manager(s) of each club must be registered in writing with the League Secretary or notified to a full League meeting. Failure to do so will result in a £10 fine. This fine will be applied as soon as the League Secretary finds himself unable to make contact with these officials as a result of a change that has not been notified in accordance with this rule.

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 Team Captain of the day.
- 10.5. All weather pitches will not be accepted; however, matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf, provided that such turf meets the "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard". Matches may also be played under floodlights.
- 10.6. Any team competing in the DAWFL will be required to provide adequate showering and changing accommodation at their home ground. The League Council will have the authority to determine whether this rule should be suspended in the future during any other period of extenuating circumstances. The League Council shall decide what is adequate.
- 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. Registration of players is governed by Irish Football Association Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations..
- 11.1.2. A player may only be registered with one club at a time, as per the Irish FA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations on the Comet system.
- 11.1.3. A bona-fide player of a club is one who will be 16 by 31st May of current season and who has signed a current Registration Form, such Registration Form to give full Christian Names and Surname, Date of Birth, Active Email Address, Country of Birth and Name of Club for which Last Registered. U18s must also provide guardians email address and have signed consent.
- 11.1.4. A player whose last club is from outside the jurisdiction of the IFA, submitting a Registration Form for a club within the League must have applied for and obtained clearance of such player via the FIFA TMS System. It is the responsibility of each club to have at least one person trained and set up on the system to manage such requests.
- 11.1.5. All clubs must at all times play only members registered in accordance with League Rules.

11.2. Registration Forms

- 11.2.1. Electronic data entries only will be accepted for registration. All players will be registered on the IFA Comet system which will generate an electronic form sent directly to the players chosen email for verification. Paper form verification will be stored by the registration secretary.
- 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 IFA in accordance with the Irish FA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations.
- 11.2.3. A player willfully signing more than one Registration Form shall be dealt with by the League Council.
- 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 the details are correct and current. Any misuse of the system will be dealt with by the League Council, with the power to fine, suspend or expel such individual from any DAWFL matters.

11.3. Registration Timelines

- 11.3.1. Players may not be registered with the league until the IFA registration System is opened up for the season and not prior to the AGM being held, unless extraordinary circumstances prevent the AGM being held before the registration period, for which circumstances a letter from the League Secretary will be required to allow registrations to be entered.
- 11.3.2. Players shall be registered each season until no later than 30 June.
- 11.3.3. A player cannot be signed or transferred after 31 March in the current season.

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 Central Registration 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 IFA Premiership match; or
 - ✦ four or more matches accumulatively in the following competitions
 - IFA Championship Division 1 or 2;
 - Irish FA Intermediate Cup;
 - Premier or 1st Division Amateur League;
 - Steel and Sons Cup;
 - any games of Intermediate Status or above¹.
- 11.4.3. Should a club resign from affiliated football (including League membership), fold or fail to exist, the players of said Club shall be eligible to sign for another club in the League without being transferred.
- 11.4.4. Any club found playing an ineligible player will be fined £50 per player and shall have an amount of points deducted as determined by the League Council (at a minimum the points awarded for said game(s)) or lose the tie if it is a cup or shield game. In addition the club, player(s), official(s) will be dealt with by League Council. The opposition team will be afforded a 3-0 win, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.
- 11.4.5. Any club found to be persistently playing ineligible players may have their membership terminated.

¹ Note: for the purpose of this Rule, Intermediate Clubs are those drawn in competition above Junior Cup and Junior Shield status.

11.4.6. Any club found guilty of playing a suspended player by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA

- ✦ will be deducted 9 League points, regardless if the fixture was a cup game.
- ✦ may have their membership terminated
- ✦ will lose the tie 3-0, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.

11.4.7. Any club found guilty of permitting a suspended player/official to officiate at a game by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA will be deducted 9 League points, regardless if the fixture was a cup game. The opposition team will be afforded a 3-0 win, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.

11.4.8. Any club found guilty of playing players under assumed names or while registered with another club will:

- ✦ be fined £100.00;
- ✦ be deducted a minimum of 9 points; and
- ✦ lose the tie 3-0, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand.

11.4.8.1. A second offence in the same season and the Club will be fined £150.00 and deducted a further 9 points,

11.4.8.2. A third offence in the same season will incur a £200 fine and the club may be dismissed from the League.

11.4.9. A player who has been played under an assumed name will be suspended for 10 matches.

11.4.10. In the event that a club are found to have played a player under an assumed name, the club official who signed the match card or confirmed the game on Comet will be suspended from all activities under the auspices of the DAWFL for 12 months.

11.4.11. Suspensions issued by the DAWFL will carry forward into the next season and must be served to completion.

11.4.12. A player is only eligible to represent one DAWFL team on any one day.

11.5. Transfers

11.5.1. A player may transfer twice in a season on the central registration system but during this period the player will be eligible to play in official matches for two clubs only. All transfers must be managed in line with the Irish FA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations.

11.5.2. Clubs must agree to transfer a player within seven days of request unless they can show good reason why the player should be retained.

- 11.5.3. 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. .
- 11.5.4. A player having played 10 games for a DAWFL Club in any season cannot be registered for another DAWFL Club in that season by either transfer within the DAWFL or by transfer or loan from a club outside the DAWFL.
- 11.5.5. 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.

11.6. Loans

- 11.6.1. Loans between teams within the League or from other leagues are not permitted.

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 the basis of '2 up, 2 down' although the 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.

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 season can be extended but only if the League Council seek approval from the Football Committee of the IFA. The first official fixture in any season will take place not later than the first Saturday in September or as close to it, except in the event of a Northern Ireland International match being played at home on that date.
- 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. Fixtures may be brought forward or in the event a fixture is scheduled for a Saturday moved back to the subsequent Sunday, but only where both clubs are in agreement, permission is granted from the League Council and the allocated fixtures sequence is not affected.
- 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 11.4.8, 11.4.9 and 11.4.10 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 within 3 hours of the end of the match. Any failure will result in a fine being imposed in line with rule 5.2.6.

13.3. Pitch Inspections

- 13.3.1. If any club has any doubt about the condition of their match day pitch, they may request a pitch inspection through the League Secretary a minimum of 2½ hours before the scheduled kick-off time. The League Secretary will contact the Referees' Convenor to arrange for an Official Referee to inspect the pitch. The Official Referee will be entitled to expenses as per Rule 14.2.6.

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 for any reason a 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 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.
- 13.5.2. 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.
- 13.5.3. 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; and
 - ✦ the team at fault will be deducted nine points
- 13.5.4. If it is deemed that an abandonment is caused by both teams;
- ✦ the match will be void
 - ✦ both teams will be deducted nine points.

13.5.5. A second similar occurrence by a club within the same season will be punished appropriately as above and a further nine points will be deducted.

13.6. Free Weeks

13.6.1. Any club requiring a free Saturday for any reason must notify the League of the date giving a minimum of four weeks' notice in writing. Clubs will only be granted two free Saturdays a season under this Rule. Free weeks requested for dates after 31 March will be at the League Council's discretion.

13.6.2. In the event that a Club's 1st XI is granted a free week, their 2nd XI will not be allocated a fixture.

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. Clubs failing to fulfil any fixture will be dealt with by the League Council.

13.8.3. Where clubs fail to fulfil a fixture, the match card should be completed by the team present, signed by the Match Referee if present, and be forwarded to the League Secretary. Failure to submit a match card will result in a Match Card offence (see Rule 5.2.6)

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 club fails to turn up for a fixture, the Official Referee shall receive full fee and expenses from the Club present. The Club will be reimbursed by the League, the League will proceed to seek recovery from the offending team.
- 13.8.6.1. The club failing to fulfil the fixture shall also reimburse their opponents where there were costs incurred in hiring the pitch for the unplayed match.
- 13.8.7. A Club 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.
- 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 match balls for home matches, and at least one match ball for away matches, all equipment to be in first class condition, failure to do so will incur a fine.
- 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 suitable 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. Non-Comet based 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 5.2.6.
- 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.
- 13.11.7. 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.

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.

13.13. Discrimination, Misconduct, Threatening Behaviour

13.13.1. If A Club, player or official is found guilty of misconduct by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA, with the exception of Discrimination, the Club will

- ✦ on their 1st occasion be deducted three League points, regardless if the fixture was a cup game.
- ✦ on their 2nd occasion be deducted a further 3 League points, regardless if the fixture was a cup game.
- ✦ on any further occasion lose their Good Behaviour Bond, required to pay an additional Good Behaviour Bond and be deducted 9 League points, regardless if the fixture was a cup game, on each occasion.

13.13.2. If a Club, player or official is found guilty of Discrimination by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA, the Club will

- ✦ be deducted a minimum of 12 points;
- ✦ lose the tie 3-0, unless there is a greater advantage in which case the score will stand; and

13.13.3. Any identified Players or Officials found guilty of threatening a League Official by the DAWFL will be suspended for 6 DAWFL games.

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.

14.1.3. 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.

14.1.3.1. If only one club can provide a Club Referee, then he will be deemed the Match Referee, and the match will be considered a fixture.

14.1.3.2. 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.

14.1.3.3. 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.

14.1.3.4. In the event where a Match Referee is injured and cannot continue then Rules 14.1.3, (14.1.3.1, 14.1.3.2.and 14.1.3.3) apply

14.1.4. Clubs player(s) or official(s) found guilty of harassing the match official(s) or League Council members in any way before, during or after games shall be dealt with by the League Council.

14.1.5. Any club official(s) or player(s) found guilty of assaulting a referee shall be expelled from this League.

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 5.2.6 - Other Charges.

14.2.2. Any club paying an Official Referee more than a normal fee shall be deemed guilty of severe misconduct.

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 5.2.6 - 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 home club.

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 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
- 14.3.5. The League Council, when they deem appropriate, may instruct the Referee's Convenor to allocate a fourth official to Cup finals and league play offs.

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.
- 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 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
- 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.

15.2. 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 date of each round, each player must have played at least one DAWFL league game for the Club represented in the Competition.

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 shall disqualify such player and shall 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. Only four recognised 1st team players will be eligible to play in the Reserve team cup competitions. A recognised 1st team player is defined as a player who has played 10 or more matches in the Premiership, Division 1 or Division 2, Billy Allen Memorial Shield, Sittlington Cup or Frank Moore Memorial Cup.

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. This Competition shall be called the Down Area Winter Football League Frank Moore Memorial Cup Knock-out Competition and shall be governed by the League Council.

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. The Competition will be conducted on a knock-out basis.

15.3.2.4. All other knock-out Rules will apply to this Competition.

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)

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.

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 endeavor 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, the trophy will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

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 Charge and/or Sanction a player, official or Club with any item which contravenes League Rules.
- 17.2.2. Any player, official or Club charged and sanctioned by the County Antrim FA or Irish FA will be deemed guilty by the DAWFL, unless an Appeal is lodged with the Irish Football Association or the County Antrim FA in the manner stated in their rules and appeal upheld. The DAWFL League Council will subsequently apply any further sanctions, as per DAWFL League Rules
- 17.2.3. A Club may challenge a DAWFL Charge by notifying the League Secretary and providing all evidence to back up their case within 4 days after the date the Disciplinary Charge has been issued.

A deposit of £50 must be lodged with the League Bank account no later than 7 days after the date the Disciplinary Charge has been issued. This sum shall be returnable only where the Challenge is either successful or not heard.

For the avoidance of doubt, any DAWFL sanctions based on decisions ratified by the Country Antrim FA or Irish FA cannot be challenged.

17.3. Appeals

- 17.3.1. Appeals may be lodged with the Irish Football Association in the manner stated in their rules.

18. COVID-19 and other pandemics

- 18.1. All clubs must adhere to all guidelines and protocols issued by the government, the Irish Football Association and the DAWFL 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. Representatives of the League Council will carry out regular COVID-19 audits on games under the DAWFL remit.
- 18.3. Any club who have a member who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be supported by the League Council.
- 18.4. The League Council will have the power to decide the outcome of any scheduled games that is not played due to the effects of COVID-19
- 18.5. The League Council will have the power to deal with all other matters that arise due to COVID-19.

Appendix

Registered club referees

TBC