

**THE DONEGAL LEAGUE ORGANISATION CO.LTD**

# **The Donegal Junior League**

**(Est 1971)**

## **RULES**

**Affiliated to the FAI and UFA**

**Rules sanctioned at 1984 A.G.M.**

**League Headquarters; The Diamond Park,  
Ballyare, Ramelton.**

**Updated AGM 2026**

## ORDER OF RULES

| <b>SECTION</b> | <b>CONTENTS</b>                 | <b>PAGE</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.             | Membership.                     | 3           |
| 2.             | Control of the league.          | 3           |
| 3.             | Application for membership.     | 4           |
| 4.             | Registration of players.        | 5           |
| 5.             | Protests and Appeals.           | 6           |
| 6.             | The Disciplinary Committee.     | 6           |
| 7.             | Discipline.                     | 7           |
| 8.             | Club discipline on its member.  | 7           |
| 9.             | The playing of matches.         | 7           |
| 10.            | Matches and ground inspections. | 9           |
| 11.            | Promotion and relegation.       | 10          |
| 12.            | Suspension of players.          | 10          |
| 13.            | Referees.                       | 11          |
| 14.            | Meetings.                       | 12          |
| 15.            | Annual General Meeting.         | 13          |
| 16.            | Annual Presentation Dance.      | 13          |
| 17.            | Cups, trophies and shields.     | 13          |
| 18.            | Rule omissions.                 | 14          |
| 19.            | Standing orders.                | 14          |
| 20.            | Executive Meeting procedure.    | 15          |
| 21.            | Annual General Meeting agenda.  | 15          |
| 22.            | The Chairman.                   | 16          |
| 23.            | The Secretary.                  | 16          |
| 24.            | The Brian McCormick Sports Cup. | 16          |
| 25.            | The Saturday Cup.               | 17          |
| 26.            | Play off.                       | 17          |
| 27.            | Saturday League.                | 17          |

# **RULES**

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## **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP.**

- 1.1. The amalgamation of clubs shall be known as The Donegal League Organisation & Co. Ltd., and referred to hereafter in these rules as "The League". "The League" to mean the Donegal League Organisation Co. Ltd, unless stated otherwise.
- 1.2. The League shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland and the Ulster Football Association. It shall promote, foster, develop and govern the game of association football within the league area i.e. that part of County Donegal not under the jurisdiction of the Inishowen League.
- 1.3. The Donegal Junior League season shall commence on the last weekend in August and finish in May each season unless otherwise agreed at an AGM. **(AGM 2026)**

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## **SECTION 2. CONTROL OF THE LEAGUE**

- 2.1. The League shall be controlled by a minimum 11-member Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Fixtures' Secretary, and other area representatives. All shall be elected at the A.G.M. Each area must have a minimum of one representative on the Executive Committee. League areas are; (Milford/Fanad/Letterkenny) (Gweedore) (Donegal Town) (Lifford/Raphoe/Ballybofey)
- 2.2. At their first meeting the Executive Committee shall elect a Disciplinary Committee, Registrar, Referees' Appointments Committee, Facilities Inspector, P.R.O., Assistant P.R.O., Diamond Park Maintenance Committee, League Representative Manager(s), and any other subcommittee(s) or person(s) required for running the League.
- 2.3. The Executive Committee shall appoint from amongst themselves a League Administrator who shall be remunerated for his/her services at the end of March annually. The remuneration to be agreed between the Executive Committee and Administrator at the start of a season.
- 2.4. The Executive can co-opt onto the Executive Committee any of the above committee(s) or person(s) whose service(s) they deem necessary.
- 2.5. The Executive Committee can at any time assume responsibility of any elected committees or offices.
- 2.6. Any five members shall form a quorum.
- 2.7. Only people elected to the Executive Committee at the A.G.M., or those co-opted onto the Executive Committee, shall have full voting rights on the Executive Committee.
- 2.8. Executive appointed members of sub-committees, League Representative Manager(s), non- Executive Member(s) of the Disciplinary Committee, and other office holders can attend A.G.M. but are not allowed to vote.
- 2.9. The ownership of League property is vested in the Trustees i.e. The Board of Directors of the Donegal Football League Ltd, and the current clubs. (Amended AGM 2004)
- 2.10. All communications to the League can be sent to the League Secretary, unless specified otherwise. Payment of fines, protests, etc. must be sent to the Treasurer. Matters relating to the registration of player(s), and fee(s) thereof must **ALWAYS** be sent directly to the Registrar.
- 2.11. Correspondence to League Member(s) - club(s), player(s) etc. signed by the Administrator or on behalf of any Executive Member shall be counted as legitimate provided the procedure has been sanctioned by the Executive officer concerned.

### **SECTION 3.**

#### **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE.**

- 3.1. Application by clubs for membership of the league must be submitted in writing, to the League Secretary or Administrator, no later than the date specified by the Executive Committee. The application must include the following particulars; a) Status of grounds and whether public or private. b) Location of dressing facilities. c) Club colours. d) Names, Addresses and Telephone numbers of club committee members and Club Secretary.
- 3.2. A club changing its secretary, team manager or a secretary changing address, must notify the League Secretary immediately, and must notify all clubs in the league. Notification must be in writing/email and failure to comply with this rule will render a club liable to removal from the League.
- 3.3. To be considered eligible for membership the ground and dressing facilities of the club must be of a standard satisfactory to the league. The Executive, or their agent, can inspect any ground at any time during the year. All clubs must have changing facilities with hot and cold showers for both teams and referee. Each pitch must have 2 dugouts. Goal nets and corner flags must be used in all games and must be supplied by the home team and be in place before the start of the season.
- 3.4. A new club accepted into the league shall be confined to the lowest division for their first year of membership.
- 3.5. A club failing or refusing to improve their ground(s) and/or facilities as instructed by the Executive Committee may be expelled or relegated from/by the League.
- 3.6. All outstanding moneys and fines due to the league by a club must be paid in full on or before the last Delegate Meeting of the season.
- 3.7. Existing League clubs must re-apply for League membership at the beginning of each season.
- 3.8. Clubs leaving the League, or clubs expelled from the League, will only be considered for re-admittance to the League after a period of 2 years has elapsed and then would be considered or admitted at Executive's discretion.
- 3.9. When required a club shall place its ground(s) and facilities, and players, at the disposal of the Donegal Junior League.
- 3.10. A match not under the auspices of the League shall not be played on a League registered ground if the playing of such a match is likely to cause a postponement of a subsequent league fixture i.e. if the playing of the match would endanger ground conditions which would result in the postponement of the League fixture.
- 3.11. A club must have a first aid kit which must be present at all matches involving the club and one person must be responsible for same. The first aid kit can be inspected by any League Executive Member, their agent, or a Referee official.
- 3.12. The Sunday League will consist of a maximum of 40 teams.
- 3.13. The Sunday League shall have a Premier Division of a maximum of 10 teams.
- 3.14. A club playing in the Premier League may be allowed to enter a reserve team in the Saturday League only.
- 3.15. A club must have Personal Accident insurance for players as well as current Public Liability insurance cover on all grounds it intends using. Clubs playing on uninsured grounds will be expelled.
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## SECTION 4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS.

- 4.1. All players must be properly registered online with the FAI approved system. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure all information entered on the registration is correct. The appropriate registration fee must be paid via the online payment system. **(AGM 2026)**
- 4.2. A player shall be eligible to take part in competition only when confirmed by the league Registrar. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure all information entered on the registration is correct. **(AGM 2026)**
- 4.3. The Executive Committee shall set the registration fee.
- 4.4. A Senior player wishing to register with the League must be re-graded. Application for re-grading must be made, in writing/email, to the League Secretary. Check that re-grading has been approved before using player.
- 4.5. The registration period for the Donegal Junior League winter season shall be **1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June** inclusive. **Registrations** may only be conducted during two periods **1<sup>st</sup> July to 23<sup>rd</sup> September** inclusive and **1<sup>st</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> January** inclusive each season. Re-grading closes on the 31st January. **(AGM 2024)**
- 4.6. In the case of any dispute, the player concerned or the club seeking his Registration shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee.
- 4.7. All mail to or from the Assistant Secretary or Registrar may be registered if deemed necessary or unless specified otherwise in these rules.
- 4.8. The Registrar shall enquire and satisfy himself/herself as to the legality of any player before authorising a registration. If the registrar is not satisfied or is undecided on the matter, then he/she shall refer it to the Disciplinary Secretary.
- 4.9. The Disciplinary Secretary shall make enquiries and decide, and shall have the power to arrange a registration, fine, suspend or otherwise deal with the offending player and/or club.
- 4.10. A club is permitted to register a maximum of 2 players to junior status from outside the jurisdiction of the F.A.I. A club infringing this rule will be expelled from the league. The Registrar may ask for an International Clearance Certificate on the registering of such a player.
- 4.11. A player shall be cup-tied in all domestic cup games.
- 4.12. Once registered with the league a Player's Registration cannot be terminated and remains in force for the duration of the season.
- 4.13. A player dual registered (doubled signed) will be suspended indefinitely.
- 4.14. A person under 15 years is prohibited from playing in the Donegal League or cup competitions in the Saturday or Sunday sections.
- 4.15. When a player is selected for a trial for a representative team selection and he fails to appear he shall not be selected for any further trials for the duration of the season and will be referred for disciplinary action.
- 4.16. A player registered in the league is not be permitted or allowed to register or play with a club in another jurisdiction irrespective as to whether or not the club in question is affiliated to a governing body.
- 4.17. The fixtures for each league be made available in two segments. A set of fixtures released for the start of the season for the first half of the season and a set released for the second half of the season which can be released

later in the season. Every effort should be made to ensure no team has more than two home or two away league games in a row during the season (Exceptions include reversed and backlog matches) **(AGM 2021)**

4.18. Where possible (providing no huge backlog), bank holiday or public holiday weekends remain free from fixtures, unless cup semi-finals or finals. **(AGM 2021)**

#### 4.19 **National League Third Tier player movement (EGM 2026)**

- a) Clubs in the new National League shall be allowed to use two (Under 23) players in the Donegal League Sunday Premier Division from a list of five players, to be submitted to the Donegal League Committee in advance of the Donegal League season commencing. These players are not eligible to play in the Saturday League, or any of our domestic Saturday or Sunday cup competitions. This list remains in place for the duration of the Donegal League season.
- b) Any player who has made five (5) or more appearances in the National League (Tier 3) fixtures during the relevant season shall be ineligible to participate in Domestic League Competitions with the same club for the remainder of that season.
- c) An appearance shall mean a player entering the field of play in a National League (Tier 3) fixture, whether as a starting player or as a substitute.
- d) A player who is named on an official match card but does not enter the field of play shall not be deemed to have made an appearance.
- e) Friendly matches or any other non-competitive fixture shall not count as appearances for the purposes of the National League (Tier 3).

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## **SECTION 5. PROTESTS AND APPEALS.**

5.1. Decisions of the Executive Committee on all matters shall be final and binding but a club or player shall have the right of appeal to the U.F.A., and F.A.I.

5.2. In appeals to the U.F.A., and F.A.I., the rules of the U.F.A., and F.A.I., as regarding appeals shall apply. The onus is on the player or club to contact the aforementioned bodies regarding appeal procedure to them.

5.3. In appeals to the U.F.A., and F.A.I., no new evidence is allowed.

5.4. A protest must be lodged by registered post within 72 clear hours of the game to the League Secretary. The protest must be signed by the Secretary of the protesting club

5.5. A protest must be accompanied by a fee of **€50** (non personal cheque or money order, bank draft only, not cash). Fee will be refunded if protest is upheld. If cash or personnel cheque is included the protest will be ruled out of order. **(AGM 2024)**

5.6. A copy of the protest must be sent by registered post bearing a postmark within 72 clear hours of the cause of the protest to the secretary of club under protest.

5.7. Counter protest must be lodged by registered post within 72 clear hours of receipt of protest.

5.8 A player sent-off is entitled to a personal hearing of his case with the Disciplinary Committee provided he makes a request in writing/email, to the Disciplinary Secretary or League Secretary within 72 hours after being sent off. In the absence of a request for a personal hearing the case will be dealt with as routine.

5.9 No member of any committee shall vote or take part in any discussion on any matter affecting a club or player with which he may be connected except in the capacity of a witness.

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## **SECTION 6. THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

6.1 The League Assistant Secretary shall act as Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee.

6.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall elect from amongst themselves a Chairman for the season.

6.3 The Disciplinary Secretary shall notify official(s)/club(s) of serious case(s) for decision where they may have an interest and may require a personal hearing.

6.4 The Disciplinary Committee have the power to call before them any member of the league, to enquire into any breach of discipline or etiquette which may be alleged to have taken place, to ban, suspend or fine, or a combination of the latter, such members found guilty.

6.5 The Disciplinary Secretary shall notify concerned official/club/player of decision(s) taken against them.

6.6 Disciplinary Members have the right to attend Executive Meetings but do not have the right to vote except they are already an elected member of the Executive Committee.

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## **SECTION 7. DISCIPLINE.**

7.1 An Executive Member, Disciplinary Member, Member of League sub-committee, Club Official, Club Member, Player, who has been suspended shall not during the period of his/her suspension take part in any match or fixture under the league, or hold any office in any club, or otherwise act in any capacity under the league.

7.2 Unless in the case of an appeal all money fines fall due and must be paid on, or within 14 days of issue date. Unpaid fines are automatically doubled after this time. If doubled fines aren't paid in full within a further 7 days, then the club may be suspended. No warning will be issued on overdue fines.

7.3 Opponent(s) of suspended club(s) shall be awarded the game(s).

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## **SECTION 8. CLUB DISCIPLINE ON THEIR MEMBER**

8.1 A suspension and/or fine imposed by a club on its member is ONLY recognized as valid by the league if the member so suspended and/or fined was informed by registered post to attend a club disciplinary meeting.

8.2 The notice must reach member 4 clear days before the meeting and must include the following; place of meeting, date and time member is to attend meeting, case against member. The notice must be signed by the club secretary.

- 8.3. The member shall be informed by registered post of any disciplinary action taken against him/her and when such action becomes effective.
- 8.4. A copy of all documentation on the case i.e. proof of notification, postage registration receipt(s), case and verdict etc. shall be sent to the League Secretary or Administrator by registered post within 3 days of the club's decision.
- 8.5. The member has the right of appeal to the League Disciplinary Committee and any such appeals will only be recognized if they are received by the Disciplinary Secretary or Administrator by registered post within 48 hours of the club's decision. The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of €50. Fee forfeit if club's verdict is upheld in whole or part.
- 8.6. The decision of the Donegal League Disciplinary Committee will be final and binding.
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## **SECTION 9. THE PLAYING OF MATCHES.**

- 9.1. A match should start at the prescribed time.
- 9.2. Kick-off for league and cup games is 1 p.m. throughout the season or as otherwise directed by the Executive.
- 9.3. If a team is more than 30 minutes late for a kick-off then the match may be awarded to the opposing team.
- 9.4. The Executive Committee have the power to organise competitions during the season and to make such rules that are necessary in this respect.
- 9.5. A club shall not postpone or break a fixture, or change the time, date and/or venue without prior consent from the League Secretary or whoever is on official League duty at the time.
- 9.6. Postponement for normal program league matches will only be granted in the most extreme circumstances. The secretary of the club seeking a free weekend request per season, must apply in writing/email to the League Secretary 28 clear days before the fixture scheduled date except in the case of a bereavement. **(AGM 2021)**
- 9.7. A club involved in a National Competition, or a club having player(s) on the Inter League Team Panel (Oscar Traynor), shall be granted a postponement provided the club secretary requests a postponement from the league secretary or whoever is on official league duty at the time.
- 9.8. In the case of a bereavement the League Secretary, or whoever is on official league duty at the time, has the power to postpone a match. In the event of a tragedy the League Chairman, Secretary and Area Rep will decide to grant or refuse a request for a postponement. (Bereavement as follows; active club official his/her wife/husband/offspring. Player/player's parent/ wife/offspring, or if the wake house is in the vicinity or visible from the ground where the match is to be played. **\*\*Within these brackets are guide-lines only, not rules.**
- 9.9. A club refusing or failing to play the club against which it has been drawn, on the date fixed by the Executive, and without sufficient reason(s) for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the match by 3 goals and a fine of up to €130 shall be imposed if deemed necessary by the disciplinary committee.
- 9.10. A late start will be reported by the referee along with the reason for the late start.
- 9.11. A team that fails to field for two matches during the season will be expelled from the league.
- 9.12. When it can be proven to the satisfaction of the disciplinary committee that the partisans of a club systematically interfere with the play by using obscene language and/or inciting players or spectators to use violence towards their opponents etc., the disciplinary committee have the power to deal with the offending club as they think



fit.

9.13. A club must supply two suitably inflated match balls for each match they are involved in, home and away.

9.14. Each club must provide a linesman for the match. A team manager shall not act as a linesman.

9.15. Five substitutes, from a named panel of 7, may be used in each match. An additional one substitution can be used in extra time. **(AGM 2022)**

9.16. All teams will register their home team and alternative colours at the start of the season. The home team to change jerseys when there is a clash of colours between the home team and the opposition team. In the event of a match being played at a neutral venue or a cup competition within the league then the team drawn first will be deemed to be the home team.

9.17. All jerseys must be distinctly numbered.

9.18. A player's jersey number must correspond to his position entered on the official match card.

9.19. Averages for the division championship will be taken from wins and draws as follows;- 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw. In order to decide league winners, where two or more teams finish equal on points, there will be a playoff/playoffs, to decide the championship. All other positions will be decided by goal difference. If goal difference is the same it will be decided by goals scored. In the case of relegation or promotion playoffs, if teams have the same goal difference and number of goals scored, a playoff will result. **(AGM 2026)**

9.20. Players names on the official match card for all league and cup games must be assigned by the team manager/club secretary. Only named registered players, on the match card at the start of the game, are deemed eligible to play in the fixture. **(AGM 2025)**

9.21. If a team leaves the league in the first half of the season then all league matches that the team was involved in this half become void. If a team leaves the league in the second half of the season then all matches in this half involving the team become void and all results from the first half of the season will stand. If a team leaves in the second half of the season and they have outstanding match(es) to play from the first half of the season then the team(s) concerned will be awarded 3 points. (and a 3-0 score to be recorded)

9.22. Unfinished games will be dealt with in one of the following ways; a) game will be replayed, b) unexpired time will be played, c) result will stand, d) points will be awarded against team in default, e) match becomes void f) fixture to be awarded to the non offending team (cup only).

9.23. A team shall not be asked to play three games in 7 days.

9.24. A home match is a match played on the club's registered ground. Should the home club be permitted to play its home game on the ground of another club then that ground will deem to be the club's home ground for the match.

9.25. If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeit of the match. (FAI Rule 39.4) **(AGM 2022)**

9.26. Teams should have the option to request linesmen for certain games. The home club would have to cover the cost of providing linesmen for any such fixture. **(AGM 2026)**

## **SECTION 10.**

### **MATCHES AND GROUND INSPECTIONS**

10.1 The home club must notify the league via sports Manager text after the game by 5pm concerning the result. It is the responsibility of the home club to email a detailed match report by 5pm on a Saturday for Saturday games and 5pm on Sunday for Sunday Games. Failure to do so will result in financial penalties. A fine of €20 shall be imposed for the first offence. For each subsequent failure to submit a match report within the same season, an incremental fine of €10 will be applied (e.g. €30 for a second offence, €40 for third, €50 for a fourth, and so forth). **(AGM 2025)**

10.2 The Executive Committee have the power to deal with any club that has brought the game into disrepute by deliberately or carelessly fielding a weakened team.

10.3 Grounds are deemed playable at all times. Request for a pitch inspection for all games must be made before 10 a.m. on day of match to league secretary or the officer on duty. Request for ground inspection for evening kickoffs must be made three hours before kickoff time to league secretary or the officer on duty. **(AGM 2025)**

10.4 The ground will be inspected before 11 a.m. by a referee or agent authorised by the league. A ground inspection form must be completed by the inspecting referee or agent authorised by the league and returned by the club to the League Secretary no later than Wednesday after the scheduled fixture date. Non-compliance by clubs will be referred to discipline.

10.5 Travel and inspection costs must be paid to the person concerned in the previous rule.

10.6 In the first half of the season, if the home venue is unplayable for a cup or league match and the club can't provide an alternative playable venue then the match and the referees fees will be reversed. If the opponent's ground is also unplayable and they can't provide an alternative playable venue then the match will be postponed. The match reverts to an original fixture.

In the second half of the season, if the home venue is unplayable for a cup or league match and the club can't provide an alternative playable venue then the match will be reversed and the travelling team will be responsible for the referees fees. If the opponent's ground is also unplayable and they can't provide an alternative playable venue then the match will be postponed. The match reverts to an original fixture.

10.7 All fixtures shall be arranged by the Executive Committee and clubs shall play home and away fixtures except as otherwise directed.

10.8 When a club can supply a ground or an approved artificial surface when their own is unplayable permission is required from the League Secretary, or official on duty, to move the fixture.

10.9 A player selected to play in any match arranged by the Executive Committee and whom, without good and sufficient cause, refuses to comply with the arrangement of the committee for the playing of the match, or fails to play in such a match, may be adjudged by the committee to be guilty of mis-conduct. Any player, or any club which may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated any player to such mis-conduct, will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee as deemed necessary. Where the players absence is due to personal illness he must supply a medical certificate as proof of his illness.

10.10 The home club is responsible for the ground and the referee's fee and expenses.

10.11 When a team fails to appear and the referee is present the home club will pay the referee's traveling expenses. This fee will be recovered from the team in default.

10.12 Where a club fails to follow procedures for pitch inspections (10.3, 10.4, 10.6) and the travelling team arrives at the home venue and it is deemed unplayable by the match referee, the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the Donegal League. The Disciplinary Committee will have in their power the option to reverse the fixture to the travelling teams pitch at a future date decided by the League Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of the Donegal League.

## **SECTION 11. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- 11.1. The Executive Committee alone have the power to elect club and/or fill vacancies.
- 11.2. Promotion and relegation shall be two teams up with two teams down unless otherwise stated by the Executive at the start of the season.
- 11.3. The last two teams in the league must seek re-election from the Executive Committee.
- 11.4. If a team leave or is expelled from the league they remain on the League Tables for the duration of the season and are classed as a relegated team at the end of the season.
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## **SECTION 12. SUSPENSION OF PLAYERS**

- 12.1. A suspended player's club secretary will be notified of his/her suspension by email and/or text at least 3 days prior to the suspension taking effect. The suspension is effective on and from the date indicated on the notice.
- 12.2. If a player's suspension is a result of bookings accumulated during the season then only the club will be notified of the player's suspension and the onus is on the club to notify the player concerned.
- 12.3. A player sent off in an F.A.I. Junior Cup, Ulster Cup, Ulster Shield, Brian McCormick Cup or Voodoo Cup game is automatically banned for one match in the cup competition you get sent off in, or in your next league match if you are knocked out of the cup. **(AGM 2024)**
- 12.4. A player sent off in the league is automatically banned for the next league match, and then he must comply with any disciplinary action taken against him. **(AGM 2024)**
- 12.5. A club playing ineligible player(s) in any competition, including a club playing more than the allowed quota of players from their senior panel, shall lose the match(es) in question. Three points will be awarded to the opposition of the team in default and a score of 3-0 to be recorded. In cup fixtures match will be awarded against the team in default.
- 12.6. On receipt of his/her fourth booking a player will be suspended for 1 match and fined up to a maximum of €20. On accumulating a further 4 bookings for the second time during the season the player will be suspended for 1 match and fined up to a maximum of €30. If a player accumulates a further four bookings for the third time during the season he will be suspended for 2 matches and will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee. The player's club only will be informed when suspension commences and its duration. A player cannot be suspended for either the Brian McCormick or Voodoo Cup finals as a result accumulating their 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> bookings. **(AGM 2023)**
- 12.7. Each booking received by a player will result in a €2 fine on the player's club.
- 12.8. If a club has a team in the Saturday & Sunday leagues a suspended player serves his suspension in the league which he received it. If a player is suspended in a Saturday or Sunday Cup competition the player serves his suspension in the league which he obtained it. ie if the suspension was in the Saturday League the suspension is served in that league. If the suspension was in the Sunday League the suspension is served in that league. He cannot be reregistered until his suspension, under this rule, is served.
- 12.9. Any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- 12.10. If a player is sent off in a match due to two bookable offences and in turn disciplined for this offence, then the booking or bookings received in this match cannot be used as part of an accumulation of bookings from other games played against the player.

## **SECTION 13. REFEREES**

- 13.1. Referees will be appointed by the Referees' Appointment's Officer.
- 13.2. In the absence of the appointed referee at a match the two teams should agree to the appointment of an official at the venue and such referee shall be considered a league official for the time being and the result of the match will stand.
- 13.3. He should notify the League Secretary of this as soon as possible.
- 13.4. Official match card must be completed by both teams and returned to the referee before kick-off.
- 13.5. The referee's fee must be paid before the start of the match.
- 13.6. The referee shall enter the result and return the official match card, with any report, on the FAI online system within 24 clear hours after the match. He shall enter the goal scorers on the match card by inserting the number of goals scored by the player beside the players name. **(AGM 2024)**
- 13.7. If a referee is unable to fulfill an appointment with the league he must notify the Referees' Appointment's officer no later than Thursday prior to the match.
- 13.8. A complaint by a club against a referee must be submitted in writing, signed by the club secretary and lodged with the League Secretary within 4 clear days after the match.
- 13.9. A referee must comply with the instructions on the official match card.
- 13.10. A referee must notify the Administrator immediately, in writing, of any change in the following; address, telephone number, work telephone number, contact telephone number.
- 13.11. It is the sole responsibility of the referee to collect or have delivered any messages that may be left at his home, emergency or work telephone numbers up until 12.15 p.m. on day of match. The referee should confirm all messages he receives with the Referees' Appointment's Officer to prevent hoax calls etc.
- 13.12. On producing identification and authorisation to the referee an Executive Member, Disciplinary Member, or their agent, can inspect an official match card before the kick-off, during the interval or immediately after the match.

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## **SECTION 14. MEETINGS**

- 14.1. The Executive Committee shall meet once per month or as often as required. The meeting shall commence at no later than 8.00 p.m., and irrespective of the amount of business outstanding on the agenda the meeting shall conclude at 10.45 p.m. The time can be extended if two-thirds of the members present and voting agree.
- 14.2. The Disciplinary Committee shall hold their meeting at least once every month, or when required. **(AGM 2021)**
- 14.3. A meeting of the Executive Committee and Club Delegates shall be held 2 times during the season, or more if deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Each affiliated club is entitled to send two delegates, from their named panel of 4 delegates to each meeting and only delegates bearing the authorisation of their club will be allowed admittance. Deputy delegates may be nominated but in no case may two clubs be represented by one and the same delegate. A club changing any delegate entered on their panel for Delegate Meetings and A.G.M. must notify the Administrator, in writing, within 3 days.

14.4. Should any member of the Executive Committee absent himself/herself from 3 successive Executive meetings without special leave of absence, or reason satisfactory to the Executive Committee, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned.

14.5. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the league at which he is present. He shall conduct the business in accordance with the ordinary rules of procedure of which he shall be the judge.

14.6. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman the Executive committee have the power to fill the vacancy from amongst its members.

14.7. In the absence of both Chairman and Vice Chairman at any meeting a member from amongst those present shall act as Chairman and in the event of equality of votes on any motion etc. the presiding Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

14.8. A.G.M. and Delegate Meetings are compulsory and a club not represented at any such meeting will be fined up to a maximum of €70.

14.9. A topic discussed, and turned down at an Executive Meeting cannot again be raised until a period of two normal executive meetings have elapsed. The topic can be raised again within this period if two-thirds of the members present and voting agree.

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## **SECTION 15.**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

15.1. Notification of the date, time and venue of the Annual General Meeting, and all matters which will be included on the agenda, together with any motions and any proposed alterations and/or additions to these rules, will be sent in writing to each club secretary by the League Secretary/administrator no later than 10 days before the A.G.M.

15.2. Each affiliated club shall be entitled to representation at the A.G.M. by two delegates, from their named panel of four delegates. No two clubs shall be represented by one and the same delegate. One voting card will be issued to each club at the A.G.M. - one vote per club.

15.3. Members of the outgoing Executive Committee present at the A.G.M. shall have full voting rights throughout the A.G.M. except the Chairman if re-elected.

15.4. A Special General Meeting can be called by the Executive Committee as they deem necessary.

15.5. A Special General Meeting shall also be called upon receipt by the league secretary of a requisition signed by the secretaries of a minimum of two-thirds of affiliated league clubs.

15.6. At a Special General Meeting no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the requisition to, or contained in the agenda by the league secretary. Seven days notice of such a meeting shall be given by the league secretary to all club secretaries.

15.7. Any additions and/or alterations to these rules being deemed necessary, notice of any proposed additions and/or alterations must be sent to the league secretary, or administrator, 21 clear days before the A.G.M., signed for and on behalf of the club by the club secretary concerned. Alterations shall not be made unless supported by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at the A.G.M.

15.8. No affiliates of the FAI may hold its AGM later than the third Monday in June each year unless by special permission of the FAI.

## **SECTION 16. ANNUAL PRESENTATION DANCE**

16.1. A club due to receive awards at the Annual Presentation & Dinner function must be represented by their panel of players.

16.2. All club shall purchase a minimum of **4** tickets for the above function. Winners must purchase a minimum of **13** tickets each and runners up must purchase a minimum of **10** tickets each for the above function.

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## **SECTION 17. CUPS, TROPHIES AND SHIELDS**

17.1. Clubs and players winning perpetual cups/trophies/Shields must return same, in good condition, to the League Secretary or Administrator no later than 1st. March the following year or a fine of €70 will be imposed

17.2. All cups and trophies are perpetual challenge.

17.3. Winners of perpetual cups/trophies/shields must sign form of agreement for same.

17.4. Clubs and player winning perpetual cups/trophies/shields must inscribe their name on same before returning it to the league.

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## **SECTION 18. RULE OMISSIONS**

18.1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter arising which is not particular covered by these rules.

18.2. It is the responsibility of the club to obtain a copy of these rule

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## **SECTION 19. STANDING ORDERS**

19.1. A.G.M. procedure of elections; A Chairman is elected pro-tem then the permanent Chairman is elected and he/she conducts the remaining elections and proceedings.

19.2. When the office bearers are elected then the meeting will proceed to fill vacant areas in which the candidate from the area will be elected by the clubs in that area.

19.3. When all areas are represented and a vacancy/vacancies still exists on the Executive Committee then the vacancy/vacancies shall be filled in a general vote by all the members present and voting.

19.4. The election of officers is by a general vote and the officer so elected doubles as a representative for the area in which he resides. All seven officers can be from the same area.

19.5. The proposer of a motion must be present at the A.G.M., or his written authority submitted as proof of his/her intentions.

19.6. Only Executive Members will be elected at the A.G.M.

19.7. Matters not on the agenda shall not be considered at the A.G.M. unless, without discussion, a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting agree consent.

19.8. Standing orders will not be suspended unless the notice to suspend obtains a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

19.9. Agenda; All matters on the agenda shall be dealt with in rotation from item one onwards, unless agreed otherwise.

19.10. These rules are devised to regulate procedure at meetings and once adopted they can only be changed at a subsequent A.G.M., or Extraordinary General Meeting, of all members present by passing a special resolution i.e. one passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

19.11. Each candidate must be proposed and seconded. Nominations for positions must be received at the meeting.

19.12. The straight vote system method of voting shall be used.

19.13. A secret ballot will be allowed on the request of three present and voting members.

19.14. All meetings are convened by the League Secretary in consultation with the League Chairman and Executive Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month unless agreed otherwise.

19.15. A two-thirds majority vote is required at an A.G.M. to change a rule made at a previous A.G.M. A simple majority vote at an A.G.M. can allow new rules to be introduced. A simple majority vote at an A.G.M. can alter a decision taken at an Executive Meeting A simple majority vote at an Executive Meeting can change a decision taken at a previous Executive Meeting. An Executive Meeting cannot alter a decision taken at an A.G.M.

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## **SECTION 20. EXECUTIVE MEETING PROCEDURE.**

20.1. Roll Call.

20.2. Minutes of previous Meeting to be read/submitted and adopted and signed by the Chairman.

20.3. Matters arising from the minutes, progress reports on resolutions passed at the previous meeting are to be dealt with.

20.4. Correspondence.

20.5. Items of business.

20.6. Any other business.

## **SECTION 21. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.**

- 21.1. Chairman's Opening Address.
  - 21.2. Roll Call.
  - 21.3. Minutes of previous A.G.M. to be read/submitted, and adopted and signed by the Chairman.
  - 21.4. Matters arising from the minutes.
  - 21.5. Secretary's Report.
  - 21.6. Treasurer's Report.
  - 21.7. Assistant Secretary/Disciplinary Secretary's Report.
  - 21.8. Registrar's Report.
  - 21.9. Reports from other officers/person(s)/referees' branch/sub-committees etc. where deemed necessary.
  - 21.10. Chairman's Closing Address and election of a pro-tem Chairman.
  - 21.11. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, and area representatives.
  - 21.12. Motions and amendments.
  - 21.13. Close of meeting.
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## **SECTION 22. CHAIRMAN**

- 22.1. The League Chairman shall only have a casting vote and has the right only to vote in the event of a tie.
- 22.2. He can suspend standing orders if he thinks fit.
- 22.3. The chairman at his discretion can adjourn a meeting until a later time or date because of a lack of quorum, disorder etc.
- 22.4. He can postpone a meeting due to a bereavement etc.
- 22.5. He has the power to maintain order, decide points of order, postpone meetings etc.
- 22.6. The chairman can call to order any member that he feels is talking too often or too much on any issue.
- 22.7. In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman takes the chair. If both are absent from a meeting then the meeting can appoint a chairman for that meeting and the person so appointed will have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.



## **SECTION 23. THE LEAGUE SECRETARY**

23.1. The League Secretary will draft agendas, keep minutes, carry out resolutions, and see to correspondence.

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## **SECTION 24. THE BRIAN Mc CORMICK SPORTS CUP**

24.1. The cup shall be competed for annually on a format agreed by the Executive.

24.2. The league shall be divided into the following areas for the purpose of the competition; Donegal Town, Gweedore, Lifford/Ballybofey, Letterkenny/Milford.

24.3. A team shall compete against team(s) in its own area up to and including the area final. The area finalist shall compete in the semi-finals of the overall competition, and in the final if they qualify.

24.4. Extra time and penalties, if necessary, will decide all games.

24.5. Overall competition semi-finals and final will be played on neutral ground.

24.6. Area winner will receive the Brian McCormick Perpetual Area Shield. Cup, and medals for competition winner. Medals for competition beaten finalist.

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## **SECTION 25. THE SATURDAY CUP.**

25.1. The Saturday Cup will be competed for by Saturday League teams on a format agreed by the Executive.

25.2. Cup, and medals, for winner. Medals for beaten finalist.

25.3. Players who play in the Saturday Cup can still play in the Brian McCormick Cup. If they play in the Brian McCormick cup, they can no longer play in the Saturday Cup. Players who are still U18 will not be cup tied for either. **(AGM 2024)**

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## **SECTION 26. PLAY OFF**

26.1. Play off; Applicable to Saturday & Sunday League. The third team from the bottom of a higher division shall play the third team from the top of the next lower division in a league play-off for promotion and relegation. (unless an alternative format is otherwise agreed at the start of that season) In the play-off extra time and penalties to decide if required. Should teams in a division eligible for a play-off be equal on goal difference and points, then the team with the greater goals scored will be in the play-off. Should teams in a division eligible for a play-off be equal on goal difference, goals scored and points, then a play-off will first determine the team that advances to the division play-off. All play offs kick off at a time, venue and date to be decided by the Executive **(AGM 2023)**

## SECTION 27. SATURDAY LEAGUE

27.1 The rules of the Donegal League will apply to the Saturday League where appropriate.

**Rule 27.2** Clubs with a Saturday & Sunday team. Up to the 31<sup>st</sup> January a maximum of three players of the starting eleven from the previous match card of the club's Sunday side are allowed to play in the Saturday League. After 31st January a maximum of three players from the club's Sunday team who have started five or more games at Sunday level are allowed to play in the Saturday League. Clubs with only a Saturday team are exempt from this rule in non-domestic Saturday and Sunday competitions. **Players who are still under 18 will be exempt from this rule. (AGM 2025)**

27.3. Club official in charge of team must clearly mark the subs on the referee card before kick-off. Unmarked subs will deemed to have started the game.