

# **FERMANAGH & WESTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE -**

## **RULES 2019-2020**

- 1** This combination of Clubs shall be called the Fermanagh and Western Football League and shall be affiliated to the Irish Football Association Limited. All Member Clubs must be affiliated to a Divisional Football Association.
- 2** An Annual General Meeting will be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.
  - (a)** The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting provided that at least 50% of the Member Clubs are present:
    - (i)** Receipt and Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
    - (ii)** Consideration of any Matters Arising therefrom
    - (iii)** Presentation of the Annual Report of the Secretary
    - (iv)** Presentation of the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
    - (v)** Chairman's Address
    - (vi)** Consideration of Proposed Alterations and Additions to Rules of which notice has been given under Rule 2(f)
    - (vii)** Election of Office Bearers
    - (viii)** Appointment of Auditors and Trustees
    - (ix)** Appointment of Vice-Presidents, Life Members and Honorary Members
    - (x)** Consideration of Entries
    - (xi)** Election of Divisional Representatives to Management Committee
    - (xii)** Consideration of Any Other Relevant Business
  - (b)(i)** One Delegate from each Team, together with all Office Bearers, will be eligible to attend and vote.
  - (ii)** Clubs who have withdrawn from the League during the Season being concluded, or who are not continuing in Membership, shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded.
  - (iii)** All continuing Clubs must be represented. Any continuing Club not represented without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00. Any continuing Club not represented on two or more consecutive occasions, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined a minimum of £50.00. Persistent non-attendance may result in further action by the Management Committee as it deems fit.
  - (c)** At least fourteen days-notice in writing of the Annual General Meeting must be given (by Royal Mail or email) to each Club by the League Secretary.
  - (d)** Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports to be made up to 31st May each year. Copies of the Secretary's Report and the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be forwarded to each Club at least five days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
  - (e)** No person will be allowed to represent more than one Club.
  - (f)** The Rules of the League can only be altered at the Annual General Meeting or an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting as detailed in Rule 3. Notice of any proposed alterations to Rules proposed by Member Clubs shall be sent in writing by Royal Mail Signed For, Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed or e-mail to the Secretary on or before 1st May each year. The Rules Revision Committee will also have the power to propose alterations to Rules. The

Secretary will inform all Clubs of the proposed alteration(s) at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting. No alteration to Rule may be made unless supported by a three-quarters majority of those present and voting at the Meeting. Alterations to Rules, which must be approved by the IFA, shall not become effective until the following Season.

- (g) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter the Chairman, or Acting Chairman, shall have a second or casting vote.
  - (h) The Meeting will elect the following Office Bearers: President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Match Secretary, Assistant Secretary(ies), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer. Retiring Office Bearers are eligible for re-election and shall be entitled, by virtue of their respective Offices, to vote.
  - (h)(i) Vice-Presidents, Life Members and Honorary Members may be appointed.
  - (h)(i) **VICE-PRESIDENTS:** No person may be elected as a Vice-President unless he / she has been an Office Bearer for a minimum of ten years. Only the Management Committee may recommend persons to be elected as Vice-Presidents at the Annual General Meeting. Vice-Presidents shall not be Office Bearers nor shall they be Members of the Management Committee. Vice-Presidents shall have such rights and privileges as the Management Committee shall from time to time prescribe.
  - (h)(ii) **LIFE MEMBERS:** Life Members may be elected at an Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Management Committee. No person shall be eligible for election as a Life Member unless he / she has served as a Member of the Management Committee or has rendered assistance, financial or otherwise, to the League for at least ten years. Life Members shall have such rights and privileges as the Management Committee shall from time to time prescribe.
  - (h)(iii) **HONORARY MEMBERS:** Honorary Members may be elected at an Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Management Committee. Honorary Members shall have such rights and privileges as the Management Committee shall from time to time prescribe.
  - (j) Auditors and Trustees may be appointed.
  - (k) Entries will be considered. The Meeting shall have the power to refuse the entry of any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable. Voting shall be conducted by a show of hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least two-thirds of the Delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from the voting.
  - (l) The Meeting will elect a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve Representatives to the Management Committee. No Club will have more than one elected Representative on the Management Committee.
  - (m) The Meeting will be open to the Press.
- 3** An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting can only be convened on receipt by the Secretary of a written request by at least one-third of Club Secretaries to have such a Meeting convened or by direction of the Management Committee. The request must state the agenda for the Meeting and the Meeting can only deal with that agenda. No other business shall be transacted.

- (a)(i)** One Delegate from each Team, together with all Office Bearers, will be eligible to attend and vote.
  - (a)(ii)** Seven to form a quorum.
  - (a)(iii)** All Clubs must be represented. Any Club not represented without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00. Any Club not represented on two or more consecutive occasions, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined a minimum of £50.00. Persistent non-attendance may result in further action by the Management Committee as it deems fit.
  - (b)** At least fourteen days-notice in writing of an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting must be given by e-mail to each Club by the Secretary.
- 4** An Information Meeting will be held on the last Thursday in July each year. All Clubs must be represented. Any Club not represented without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00. Any Club not represented on two or more consecutive occasions, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined a minimum of £50.00. Persistent non-attendance may result in further action by the Management Committee as it deems fit.
- 5** The business of the League shall be conducted by a Management Committee which shall have full power to act as it deems fit including power to suspend, fine, levy, deduct points or expel any Club, Club Official or Player guilty of a criminal offence, misconduct, infringing or failing to observe the Rules of the League or acting in a manner which could be construed as bringing the League into disrepute and contrary to the best interests of the League as a whole. The Management Committee shall also have power to deal with any other matters not provided for in the Rules and such authority shall also be vested in any Sub-Committee as appointed by the Management Committee.
- (a)** The Management Committee shall consist of the Office Bearers and Representatives elected at the Annual General Meeting.
  - (b)** No Member of the Committee shall, during his / her term of Office, be a professional Referee.
- 6** At the first Meeting of the Management Committee the following Committees will be appointed:
- A** **EMERGENCY** - The Committee will consist of all the Office Bearers.
  - B** **FINANCE** – The Committee will consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and four elected Members.
  - C** **REFEREES** – The Committee will consist of the Chairman, Secretary and six elected Members.
  - D** **RULES REVISION** – The Committee will consist of the Chairman, Secretary and six elected Members.
- (a)** Four Members of the Emergency Committee, Finance Committee, Referees Committee and Rules Revision Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
  - (b)** The decisions of the Emergency Committee, Finance Committee, Referees Committee, and Rules Revision Committee shall be reported to the Management Committee for information.

- 7 The Management Committee shall meet as required to deal with business as it arises but no less than four times during the Season.
- (a) Six Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
  - (b) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Committee and have one vote thereat but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to himself / herself or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest.
  - (c) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter the Chairman or Acting Chairman, shall have a second or casting vote.
  - (d) Any Member of the Committee absenting himself / herself, without proper notification being given, from two Meetings of the Committee in succession or four in total within the same Season shall cease to be a Member of the Committee. The Committee may appoint a successor.
  - (e) The Committee shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur among Divisional Representatives during the course of a Season.
  - (f) In the event that a vacancy occurs in any Office during the course of a Season the vacancy shall be filled by the Committee and the person so appointed shall hold Office until the next Annual General Meeting.
  - (g) Decisions of the Committee shall be notified in writing to the Clubs concerned within fourteen days.
  - (h)(i) Where any Team is under investigation or disciplinary consideration by the Management Committee, or any other Committee of the League, where that Team is liable to expulsion from the League, suspension from the League, have points taken away or a match awarded to any other Team, then that Team shall be given the opportunity of a personal appearance before said Committee except where Rules provide for the imposition of mandatory penalties.
  - (h)(ii) Where any Team is under investigation or disciplinary consideration by the Management Committee, or other Committee of the League, where that Team is liable to financial penalty, then that Team shall be given the opportunity to submit a written submission for consideration by said Committee except where Rule 16 (e) applies.
  - (i) All fines / levies imposed by the League, unless appealed against, shall be paid within fourteen days from the date of notification of imposition unless a payment plan has been agreed with the Club. An additional fine / levy of £50.00 shall be imposed on any Club that defaults in the payment of a fine / levy. In the event of the cumulative fines / levies not being paid within seven days of the date of notification of imposition the defaulting Club shall be suspended forthwith and will only be reinstated on the Monday following the receipt of the cumulative fines / levies by the Treasurer.
  - (j) All fines / levies imposed by the Committee must be notified in writing to the Clubs fined / levied within fourteen days of the date of imposition.
  - (k) **APPEALS AGAINST COMMITTEE DECISIONS MUST BE LODGED WITH THE IFA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT IFA ARTICLE OF ASSOCIATION.**
  - (l) In cases of Protests, Claims or Investigations of any kind any Member of the Committee who may have played or officiated as a Referee or Assistant Referee

will not be allowed to be present at the Hearing other than as a witness or to vote or take part in any discussion. Where any Team or Member of a Team is involved in a Protest, Claim or Investigation of any kind the Representative of that Team shall leave the Committee Meeting and shall not take part in the discussions other than to give evidence on request. Office Bearers who are Members of a Club whose Team or Players are involved in a Protest, Claim or Investigation of any kind shall also leave the Meeting.

- (m)** Where a Rule describes a mandatory punishment the decision of the Committee shall be as per Rule and no vote shall be taken.
- (n)** All Meetings shall be open to the Press.
- 8(a)** The Management Committee shall authorise the payment of Honoraria as deemed necessary.
- (b)** All Office Bearers shall be indemnified by the League against all Costs, Losses or Expenses incurred in or about the discharge of their respective Duties. All Claims to be presented to the Treasurer for his / her consideration.
- 9** Application for Membership of the League shall be made on the Official Form/s provided.
  - (a)** All Clubs in membership of the League shall acknowledge that they are bound by the Rules of the League and the decisions of its Committees which are final and binding subject to the right of appeal to the IFA.
  - (b)** Each Club must submit a completed Application Form giving an undertaking that their membership of the League is contingent on full participation in all activities including social and fund-raising ventures and undertaking to obey the Rules of the League.
  - (c)** All Teams must have appropriate Public Liability Insurance. Evidence of such cover must be provided to the League Secretary not later than 31st July in each Season. Proof of renewal is required before the date Public Liability Insurance has expired.
  - (d)(i)** Each Club must register the name, address and telephone number/s of its Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and League Representative with the League Secretary not later than 1st July each year.
  - (d)(ii)** Any Club permanently changing its Secretary shall immediately notify in writing (by Royal Mail Signed For, Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed or e-mail) the League Secretary and the Secretaries of all Teams in its respective Divisions. Telephone calls, texts or ordinary mail will not be accepted.
  - (d)(iii)** Any Club changing its Chairman, Treasurer or League Representative shall immediately notify in writing (by Royal Mail Signed For, Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed or e-mail) the League Secretary and the Secretaries of all Teams in its respective Divisions. Telephone calls, texts or ordinary mail will not be accepted.
  - (e)(i)** Each Team must register the situation of its ground; the colours of its shirts, shorts and socks with the League Secretary not later than 1st July each year.
  - (e)(ii)** Any Team permanently changing the situation of its ground or the colours of its shirts, shorts and socks shall give the League Secretary and the Secretaries of all Teams in its respective Division at least forty-eight notice of apposite change(s) in writing (by Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed,

Royal Mail Signed For or e-mail). Telephone calls, texts or ordinary mail will not be accepted.

- (e)(iii)** A Reserve or Third Team of a Northern Ireland Football League / Intermediate League Club must register a ground alternative to that registered by their First Team.
- (f)** Except where otherwise mentioned all communications from Clubs to the League shall be addressed to the League Secretary and will only be acceptable if sent by the registered Secretary of the Club or in his / her absence by the registered Chairman of the Club.
- (g)** All communications from the League to a Club may be given either personally or by sending it by e-mail or by post to the registered address/es supplied by the Club for the giving of notices.
- (h)** All Clubs must provide at least one or more suitable e-mail addresses to receive information from the League. The League will accept communication by e-mail in all cases, except where communication is expressly requested under signature, subject to one of the following criteria being adhered to:-
  - (h)(i)** where the communication originates from an e-mail address bearing the domain name of a Club;
  - (h)(ii)** where the e-mail address is listed on the Club Entry Form lodged with the League and
  - (h)(iii)** where an attachment to an e-mail is on Club Headed Notepaper and includes a scanned copy of the Club Secretary's signature.
- (i)(iv)** Details of a change of the e-mail address listed in (ii) above must be immediately notified in writing (by Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed, Royal Mail Signed For or e-mail) to the League Secretary.
- (j)** Approved changing accommodation, including adequate shower facilities, must be provided for the Away Team and Match Officials by the Home Team.
- (k)** Any Team not providing approved changing accommodation may have a levy imposed on them for each Home match in which the approved changing accommodation has not been provided.
- (l)** Home Teams shall be responsible for spectator behaviour. In cases where there is persistent and continued interference by the supporters of any Team the Management Committee may fine, suspend, expel or remove such Team from any Competition.
- (m)** Teams must wear their registered colours (shirts, shorts and socks). In the event of Teams having colours (shirts, shorts and socks) which are, in the opinion of the Referee, not distinguishable from those of their opponents the Home Team shall change unless mutually agreed not to do so. In the event of Teams having to play a match on a neutral ground and whose colours (shirts, shorts and socks) are clearly not distinguishable both Teams shall change unless mutually agreed not to do so.
- (n)** The Team Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.
- (o)** Bibs of a colour different from the colours of both Teams' shirts must be worn by unused Substitutes and Substituted Players during a match.
- (p)** The Management Committee may, through any of its Members, take notice of a Club, Player, Member of a Club or Referee whose conduct may be deemed in any way prejudicial to the welfare of the Game and deal with the matter as they

- deem fit. The matter can be only dealt with at the next Management Committee Meeting after the incident. A copy of the complaint must be sent by the Secretary to the Club, Player, Member of a Club or Referee complained against.
- (q)** Any Team proved to have played an ineligible Player in any match shall be fined a minimum of £75.00 and shall be adjudged to have lost the match and any other match in which he may have played.
- Should the match in question result in a win for the offending Team, or end in a draw, then such points shall be forfeited by the offending Team and its Opponents awarded three points in respect of that match and a score-line of 3-0 recorded in its favour.
- In addition, the offending Team shall have three points deducted for each infringement irrespective of the match result. In cases where both Teams have been proved to have played an ineligible player in any match the match shall be declared null and void and both Teams shall have a minus three (-3) goal difference recorded against them. For the purpose of this Rule an ineligible Player is
- (i) A Player who has not been properly registered
  - (ii) A Player who has played whilst under suspension
  - (iii) A Player who has otherwise played in contravention of the Rules of the Competition in which he has taken part.
  - (iv) A Player whose name has not appeared on the Official Comet Team List but has played in the fixture
- (r)(i)** Teams shall only play on an alternative pitch with the permission of the Match Secretary which must be granted for each match so played.
- (r)(ii)** Applications from Teams seeking to play on an alternative pitch must be sent by email to the Match Secretary and copied to the League Chairman at least seventy-two hours before the appointed kick-off time of a match. Both Teams shall be given at least forty-eight hours notice of a change of match venue.
- (r)(iii)** Teams may also play on an alternative pitch provided that agreement has been obtained from their Opponents and permission has been granted by the Match Secretary.
- (s)** The Management Committee will have the power to arrange Inter-League matches and can claim the use of the ground of any Club under its jurisdiction for at least three matches per Season.

### **GENERAL**

- 10** Any objection to field of play or goal posts, which must include adequate netting, must be lodged with the Referee before the match is started and the Referee shall have power to have such objections made right before the match is started.
- 11** Any notice sent by post from the League shall be deemed to have been served on the day following that on which the letter containing such notice was posted and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to produce a Certificate that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and put into the Post Office.
- 12** Entries for any Competition received after the closing date shall be subject to a £50.00 extra charge.

## **PROTESTS & CLAIMS**

- 13(a)** All Protests or Claims must be signed by the Secretary (or in his / her absence by the Chairman) of the Club lodging the Protest or Claim.
- (b)** Protests and Claims must be received by the League Secretary by Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed bearing postmark within four days after the cause of the Protest or Claim accompanied by a deposit of £75.00 which will be forfeited in all cases where the Protest or Claim is not upheld.
- (c)** An identically worded copy of the Protest or Claim must also be sent by Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed by the appellant Club to the Secretary of the Club or Individual protested or claimed against if appropriate bearing postmark within four days after the cause of the Protest or Claim
- (d)** In lodging a Protest or Claim the appellant shall state fully, in writing, the grounds for the Protest or Claim.
- (e)** Protests or Claims in respect of ineligible Players must bear the names of the ineligible Players and the cause of the Protest or Claim.
- (f)** A Protest or Claim shall be declared “out of order” if the above conditions are not fulfilled. However, the Management Committee shall have the right to investigate the subject and content of any Protest or Claim declared “out of order” and shall take any action it deems necessary.
- (g)** In the case of a Protest or Claim regarding the eligibility of any Player in any Competition the League shall have power to call upon such Player, or the Club to which he belongs or for which he played, to prove that he was qualified according to the Rules of the League and failing satisfactory proof the League may suspend such Player and expel, fine, deduct points or otherwise deal with the offending Club as it deems fit.
- (h)** In the case of a Protest or Claim being upheld against a Team that has won or drawn a match by any violation of Rule points so won shall be forfeited by the offending Team and its Opponents awarded three points in respect of that match and a score-line of 3-0 recorded in its favour.
- (i)** A Team may be represented at the hearing of an Appeal or Claim by a maximum of three of its Members at any one time.
- (j)** Any person summoned to attend at the hearing of an Appeal or Claim must attend personally.

## **TROPHIES**

- 14(a)** Cups and Trophies are the property of the League. A Club declared Champions of its Division shall receive a Cup or Trophy which must be returned in good condition when requested by the League but not later than 1st April of the following Season.
- (b)** No person, other than the League Secretary, shall be authorised to have engraving carried out on or repairs made to any Cup or Trophy the property of the League.



- (c)** The League shall award eighteen medals to the Winners and Runners-Up for presentation to their Players. Additional medals may be purchased by the Teams concerned if so warranted.
- 15** A Club returning a Cup or Trophy in a damaged condition shall be liable to furnish the cost of repair and / or replacement of the Cup or Trophy to the League. No repair shall be effected by any Club. A Club may be fined if it fails to return a Cup or Trophy in a sound, cleaned and polished condition by the due date.

### **MATCHES**

- 16(a)** All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and under the Rules and Regulations of the IFA and of the League.
- (b)** The Season shall commence on the third Saturday in August each year.
- (c)** All matches shall be of ninety minutes duration (i.e. two equal periods of forty-five minutes) unless otherwise mutually agreed between the Referee and the two participating Teams and in any event shall be of equal halves. Any agreement must be made prior to the commencement of the match. No match shall be of less than seventy minutes duration.
- (d)** A Team failing to fulfil a match shall be adjudged to have lost the Match and a score-line of 3-0 shall be recorded in favour of its Opponents. A Team failing to fulfil a match shall be fined in the sum of £75.00. A Team failing to fulfil a second match in a Season shall be fined in the sum of £100.00. A Team failing to fulfil a third match in a Season shall be fined in the sum of £125.00. A Team failing to fulfil a fourth match in a Season shall be fined in the sum of £150.00 and shall be expelled from the League.
- (e)** A Team failing to fulfil a match shall be liable to pay any expenses incurred by their Opponents provided the Opponents lodge a Claim for Expenses, in writing, to the League Secretary within fourteen days of the match. Such Claims will be assessed by the Management Committee.
- (f)** Any Club with one or more Teams in the League shall always fulfil its matches within the League in the following order of preference: First Team, Reserve Team, Third Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement may be fined a sum not exceeding £100.00 and / or have points deducted.
- (g)** Teams must get notice of a match at least forty-eight hours before the match.
- (h)** A match must be played on the date fixed except as in (j), (k), (l), (m), (o), (p), (q), (r), (v), (x), (y), (z) and (ee). A Team failing to play on the date fixed shall automatically lose the match.
- (i)** The hour of kick-off for all Saturday matches shall be 2.30pm, except for the months of December and January when Saturday matches will kick-off at 2.00pm, unless otherwise mutually agreed by both Teams and sanctioned by the Match Secretary.
- (j)** Clubs playing in the various Challenge Cup Competitions organised by the IFA (i.e. Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Youth) will be facilitated in respect of requests for postponements of scheduled League matches for their (First / Reserve / Third) Teams on the same date provided that such requests are made in writing and sent by email to the Match Secretary and copied to the League

Chairman not later than the Friday of the week previous to the Challenge Cup Tie. Requests for postponements of scheduled League matches for First / Reserve / Third Teams of Clubs playing in the various Divisional Challenge Cup Competitions will not be facilitated.

- (k)** In the event of the postponement of a Challenge Cup Tie organised by the IFA a Club that has been granted postponement of scheduled League matches for their (First / Reserve / Third) Teams need not seek approval for the subsequent postponement of scheduled League matches for their (First / Reserve / Third) Teams on the date rearranged for the aforesaid Challenge Cup Tie.
- (l)** In the event of the postponement of a Challenge Cup Tie organised by the IFA on the date arranged a Club may request postponement of its Reserve Team's scheduled match on the date rearranged provided that such request is sent by email to the Match Secretary and copied to the League Chairman not later than the Monday of the week of the date rearranged for the aforesaid Challenge Cup Tie.
- (m)** The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of ground for play in all matches except in the case of a ground of a local District Council or other Authority whose decision as to the fitness of ground for play must be accepted.
- (n)** A Club which has sole control of its own ground cannot decide as to the fitness of ground for play and must request an inspection by a Referee appointed by the League or any Agent it designates.
- (o)** A Referee who, under direction from the League, inspects the pitch of a Club that has sole control of its own ground shall take due cognisance of local advice and his / her decision shall be final. Such Referee shall be paid a £10.00 Inspection Fee plus Travelling Expenses by the Club requesting the pitch inspection. The Inspection Fee and Travelling Expenses will initially be paid by the League who will recoup same from the Club requesting the pitch inspection.
- (p)** In the event of extreme weather conditions, the Match Secretary may, in consultation with the League Chairman, declare any match or matches postponed without a formal pitch inspection.
- (q)** Nothing but stress of weather such as frost, snow, fog or ground being declared unplayable by an Official Referee can annul a match.
- (r)** A match may be postponed in the event of the death of a Player, Senior Club Official (i.e. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Team Manager) or an Immediate Family Member of a Player or Senior Club Official (i.e. father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter).
- (s)** In the event of a Team not being on the field ready to commence the match at the appointed time, or within fifteen minutes thereafter, the match may be awarded to the opposing Team. Referees must report all late starts to the Match Secretary. When a late start is reported a Team or Teams being responsible without reasonable excuse shall be fined a minimum of £10.00.
- (t)** The Match Secretary shall have the power to rearrange matches provided at least forty-eight hours notice is given to the Teams involved.
- (u)** Teams may rearrange matches that have previously been postponed and not rescheduled by the Match Secretary provided that:
  - (u)(i)** Agreement has been obtained from their Opponents;

- (u)(ii)** Written advance notice of at least two weeks has been given to the Match Secretary and
- (u)(iii)** Permission has been granted by the Match Secretary.
- (v)** IFA and Divisional Association Competition matches will take preference over any Fermanagh & Western Football League matches.
- (w)** The half time interval shall be of at least five minutes but it shall not exceed ten minutes.
- (x)** The Management Committee / Match Secretary shall have the power to postpone or cancel any match.
- (y)** All Clubs shall be entitled to have one “free date” during the course of the Season. All Clubs shall also be entitled to additional “free dates” during the course of the Season when Home Northern Ireland ‘A’ Internationals are played on the same dates as scheduled matches. Applications for the granting of free dates must be made in writing and sent by email to the Match Secretary and copied to the League Chairman at least four weeks before the date required. Once a “free date” has been granted it may not be cancelled for any reason.
- (z)** All Teams playing in the Youth Division will be facilitated in respect of one request only during the course of the Season for the postponement of a scheduled League match provided that such request is sent by email to the Match Secretary and copied to the League Chairman not later than the Monday of the week previous to the date of the scheduled League match.
- (aa)** Teams must enter the details of their starting eleven players, identifying goalkeeper and captain, along with substitutes, on the COMET system a minimum of fifteen minutes prior to the appointed kick-off time. Should a team require to change the details of the team once submitted, due to injury or withdrawal, this must be done directly with the Official Referee prior to kick-off. The players’ shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and the players’ names must correspond exactly to the numbers assigned on the COMET system.
- (bb)** In the event of a match being abandoned by the Referee before the completion of the specified time due to the behaviour of a Team or Teams the Management Committee shall have the power to:
  - (bb)(i)** award a forfeiture or
  - (bb)(ii)** order the match to be replayed in full at a venue of its choice. Should the abandonment of a match take place due to circumstances beyond the control of the competing Teams the result at the time of termination shall stand provided more than seventy minutes have elapsed.
- (cc)** Match footballs, fit for play, must be provided by the Home Team and the Match Referee shall make a report to the Match Secretary if insufficient footballs are provided.
- (dd)** Goal nets must be used at all matches.
- (ee)** Teams may, with the agreement of their Opponents and sanctioned by the Match Secretary, alter the scheduled kick-off time of any match by up to forty-eight hours.
- (ff)** Matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf provided that such artificial turf meets FIFA Recommended Standards. The League shall not be held responsible for any damages resulting from the use of artificial turf.

- (gg)** If at any time during the season a Team withdraws or is expelled, irrespective of reason, its record shall be expunged and points awarded shall be deleted except in cases where five or less matches remain, in which cases any remaining matches will, for this purpose, be treated as unfulfilled engagements and the points awarded to their Opponents. The Management Committee shall make such determination as to Divisional position and any other measures considered appropriate in the circumstances.
- (hh)** Any Team withdrawing from the League must immediately notify the League Secretary of its withdrawal in writing by Royal Mail Signed For, Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed or e-mail.
- (hh)(i)** Any Team withdrawing from the League shall be fined a sum not exceeding £150.00 and may be debarred from Membership for the following two Seasons.
- (ii)** If any Team withdraws or is expelled from the League during the Season the Management Committee shall declare that the number of Teams to be relegated from a Division be reduced by the corresponding number of defaulting Teams in that Division.
- (jj)** Each Team in Division 1, 2 and 3 Team shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the League, mark the performances of its Opponents' Players after every match. Teams failing to comply shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. The League shall keep a record of all marks awarded to Players.

### **REFEREES**

- 17(a)** Referees must affiliate to the IFA each Season. The Affiliation Fee is £15.00. Affiliation Fees fall due on 31st July each Season.
- (b)** The appointment of Referees for matches in all Competitions will be made by the Referees Committee or any Agent it designates.
- (c)** Referees must upload completed match reports to COMET within 24 hours of completion of the match.
- (d)(i)** In the event of a match being postponed by the Referee at kick-off time the Referee must submit a Report to the Match Secretary within three days of the match.
- (d)(ii)** In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of a serious injury to a player or adverse weather conditions the Referee must submit a Report to the Match Secretary within three days of the match.
- (d)(iii)** In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of the misconduct / indiscipline of either or both Teams the Referee must immediately submit a Report to the Match Secretary.
- (e)(i)** In the event of the appointed Referee not attending the match and the two Teams mutually agree to a Referee at the ground such a Referee will be considered the Official Referee.
- (e)(ii)** When Teams fail to agree on a Referee when the appointed Referee does not attend each Team shall nominate a person to referee and the toss of a coin will determine who shall referee the match. He / she shall be considered the Official Referee.

- (e)(iii)** In all cases where one or both Teams nominate an individual who is a qualified Referee and that person is currently affiliated to the Referees' Association, he / she will take precedence over any other nominee.
- (e)(iv)** Once chosen the person appointed as the Official Referee should officiate for the duration of the match and should only be replaced in the event of an injury preventing him / her from completing the match.
- (f)** All complaints against the Referee must be made in writing and sent to the League Secretary by Royal Mail Signed For, Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed or e-mail bearing postmark within four days after the cause of the complaint.
- (g)** An appointed Referee who does not attend a match, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be dealt with by the Management Committee as it deems fit.
- (h)** Referees' Charges will be as laid down by the IFA.
- (i)** All Match Officials shall be entitled to claim Travelling Expenses or Motoring Expenses actually and necessarily incurred on a scale to be decided by the IFA. Where two or more Match Officials travel together by car only one shall be entitled to claim Motoring Expenses.
- (j)** The Home Team must pay the Referee's Charges within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match. Referees shall submit a written claim for his / her Charges to the Home Team before each match.
- (k)** When a match is postponed by the Referee at kick-off time or abandoned before completion the Referee's Fee shall be half Match Fee plus Travelling Expenses or Motoring Expenses actually and necessarily incurred.
- (l)** An Assistant Referee, when appointed by the League, shall be paid half Match Fee plus Travelling Expenses or Motoring Expenses actually and necessarily incurred.
- (p)** Each competing Team shall provide an Assistant Referee in all matches unless otherwise arranged by the League.
- (q)** Each Team shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the League, award marks to the Referee of each match. Teams failing to comply shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. The League shall keep a record of all marks awarded to Referees.

## **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS & TRANSFERS**

### **18.0 Introduction**

- a.** Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered to be amateurs.
- b.** All amateur registrations shall be administered by Clubs/Leagues using the IFA Central Registration System (IFA CRS).
- c.** All Club registrars shall act as agents for the League and will be obliged to agree to the terms and conditions of the access to and use of the IFA CRS. It will be a mandatory requirement for all users of the central registration system to attend data protection training organised by the IFA.

- d. Appointed league officials shall have full access to player registration records within their own league and will have full administrator rights. Such officials will be obliged to agree to the terms and conditions of the access to and use of the IFA CRS.
- e. A player not registered with the League who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club by the organising body of the competition concerned.
- f. It shall be the responsibility of clubs playing in any match to be played under the jurisdiction of the Association to ensure that its players are eligible to play in such a match.
- g. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the Association of their last club for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

#### **18.1 Number of Registrations/Clubs**

- a. A player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2 (FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players). Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.
- b. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.
- c. Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season (the period from 1st August to 31st May. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he/she has fully complied with his/her contractual obligations towards his/her previous clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (article 6 – FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (article 18 paragraph 2 – FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players) must be respected.  
This exception may also apply to players moving between two clubs belonging to domestic leagues with overlapping seasons.
- d. In the event of the League receiving formal notification, in writing, of a club ceasing to exist all amateur players registered with said club during the current season shall be immediately released from their registration and free to register with another club, subject to compliance with the relevant league's rules. For the avoidance of any doubt the club who cease to exist will not be counted in the number of clubs for which the player has been registered in the current season.
- e. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship

or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations. (FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players).

- f. Notwithstanding any of the above, a player may only register for any club twice in one season.

## **18.2 Registration Periods**

- a. Players may only be registered during the official registration period for purely amateur competitions which shall open on 1st June and close on 31st March.

## **18.3 Reacquisition of Amateur Status**

- a. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional (and provided the previous registration has either expired or been cancelled).

## **18.4 Amateur Registrations**

- a. All amateur registrations must be submitted via the IFA CRS by Club Registrars.
- b. All mandatory fields of the IFA CRS must be completed in full before a registration is confirmed. The player shall be considered registered upon completion of the online procedure and is eligible to play for his club provided registration is completed before 12 noon on the day prior to the fixture. Any player who is under the age of 18 on the date of registration must have written consent from a parent or guardian agreeing to the registration.
- c. The length of an amateur registration shall be from its effective date until the end of the season.
- d. Priority of registration shall determine the eligibility of a player to play for the club with which he was first registered.

## **18.5 Transfers**

Amateur players moving clubs will be required to complete a transfer. The transfer instruction must be submitted via the IFA CRS and approved by both clubs involved in the transfer. The player shall be considered transferred on the completion of the online procedure by both parties except in cases as Rule 10 and shall be eligible to play for his new club provided transfer is completed before 12 noon on the day prior to the fixture. Transfers will only be accepted during the periods from 1st June to the Friday immediately preceding the third Saturday in August and from 20th December to 31st January in each Season.

## **18.6 International Transfer Certificates (ITC)**

- a. An amateur player whose last registration was held outside Northern Ireland may not be registered with a Club unless the Association has received an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) issued by the National Association which the player wishes to leave.
- b. A player shall not, under any circumstances, be authorised to play in official matches for his new Club until an ITC has been received by the Association
- c. Only the Irish Football Association is entitled to request an ITC to enable a player to be registered in Northern Ireland

- d. The ITC may not be made subject to any conditions. In particular, the validity of an ITC shall not be restricted to a certain period and any clauses to this effect appended to the certificate shall be considered null and void.
- e. The registering association is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player passport shall indicate the club with which he was registered during the season following his birthday.

### **18.7 Loan of Players**

The loan of amateur players is not permitted.

### **18.8 Cancellation of a Registration**

Cancellation of an amateur player shall only be administered by the Irish Football Association to cancel an amateur player's registration where he/she is moving to another national association.

### **18.9 Transfer Disputes**

- a. Where a club has not responded to a transfer request for an amateur player within 7 days the League (if both clubs are in membership of the same League) or the IFA (if both clubs are in membership of different Leagues) shall terminate the former registration to enable the transfer to be completed unless 11b applies.
- b. Where a club objects to a transfer request for an amateur player they must notify their League / IFA within 7 days. Proceedings will be instigated to arrange a dispute resolution hearing.
  - i. If both clubs are in membership of the same League such hearing shall be considered by that League.
  - ii. If both clubs are in membership of different Leagues such hearing shall be considered by the IFA Player Registration Sub Committee.
- c. All registration disputes will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- d. Any club who rejects the transfer of an amateur player within 7 days, without just cause, shall be fined a minimum sum of £100.
- e. In the event of any transfer dispute being officially reported to the Association less than 7 days before the expiry of a registration period the Player Registration Sub Committee shall have discretionary powers on a case by case basis to approve such registration.

### **18.10 Leagues retain the Right**

Leagues retain the right to determine the criteria for the eligibility of players playing for clubs within their league and to impose sanctions where appropriate in accordance with their rules but must comply with the FIFA Regulations as adopted by the IFA.

## **DIVISION I MERCER LEAGUE**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Division I and the Trophy shall be the Mercer Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.



- 2 Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).
- 3 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground(s).
- 4 The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) shall pay the Referee his Fee and Travelling Expenses and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5 The Entry Fee shall be £190.00.
- 6 The Teams finishing in the bottom two places in the Final League Table shall be relegated to Division II. In the event of one of the Teams promoted from Division II refusing promotion the second last Team may seek re-election. In the event of both Teams from Division II refusing promotion both relegated Teams may seek re-election.
- 7 The Management Committee shall have the power to promote third and / or fourth placed teams in Division II if necessary. For the purpose of this Rule a Team having withdrawn or having been expelled from the League shall be deemed to have finished in bottom place in the Final League Table.
- 8 The Competition is annual and open to Teams in Full Membership of the Fermanagh & Western Football League.
- 9 No Team may play more than three recognised Senior or Intermediate Players in any one match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than six matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 10 Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 11 Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 12 A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.
- 13 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 14 No more than fourteen Teams may compete in Division I in any Season.
- 15 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **DIVISION II ENDA LOVE CUP**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Division II and the Trophy shall be the Enda Love Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.
- 2 Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).
- 3 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground(s).

- 4 The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) shall pay the Referee his Fee and Travelling Expenses and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5 The Entry Fee shall be £180.00.
- 6 The Teams finishing in the top two places will be offered election to Division I the following Season.
- 7 The Teams finishing in the bottom two places in the Final League Table shall be relegated to Division III. In the event of one of the Teams promoted from Division III refusing promotion the second last Team may seek re-election. In the event of both Teams from Division III refusing promotion both relegated Teams may seek re-election. The Management Committee shall have the power to promote third and / or fourth placed Teams in Division III if necessary. For the purpose of this Rule a Team having withdrawn or having expelled from the League shall be deemed to have finished in bottom place in the Final League Table.
- 8 The Competition is annual and open to Teams in Full Membership of the Fermanagh & Western Football League.
- 9 No Team may play more than three recognised Senior or Intermediate Players in any one match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than six matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 10 Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 11 Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 12 A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.
- 13 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 14 Should more than twelve Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Division II the Management Committee may, at its discretion, divide the Competition into two Sections with not more than twelve Teams in any Section.
- 15 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **DIVISION III – BRENDAN KEOGH MEMORIAL CUP**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Division III and the Trophy shall be the Brendan Keogh Memorial Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.
- 2 Should less than ten Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Division III the Management Committee may, at its discretion, decree that Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams or shall play each other on three occasions (either twice at home and once away or once at home and twice away) as determined by the match schedule except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).

- 3 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground(s).
- 4 The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) shall pay the Referee his Fee and Travelling Expenses and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5 The Entry Fee shall be £170.00. New Clubs seeking entry must pay an initial non- refundable Deposit of £200.00.
- 6 The Teams finishing in the top two places will be offered election to Division II the following Season.
- 7 The Competition is annual and open to Teams in Full Membership of the Fermanagh & Western Football League.
- 8 No Team may play more than three recognised Senior or Intermediate Players in any one match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than six matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 9 Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team’s last match shall be allowed to play for the Club’s Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 10 Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 11 A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.
- 12 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 13 Should more than twelve Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Division III the Management Committee may, at its discretion, divide the Competition into two Sections with not more than twelve Teams in any Section.
- 14 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **RESERVE DIVISION I – PETE KEANE MEMORIAL CUP**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Reserve Division I and the Trophy shall be the Pete Keane Memorial Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.
- 2 Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).
- 3 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground/s.
- 4 The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5 The Entry Fee shall be £170.00.
- 6 The Teams finishing in the bottom two places in the Final League Table shall be relegated to Reserve Division II. In the event of one of the Teams promoted from Reserve Division II refusing promotion the second last Team may seek re-

election. In the event of both Teams from Reserve Division II refusing promotion both relegated Teams may seek re-election. The Management Committee shall have the power to promote third and / or fourth placed Teams in Reserve Division II if necessary. For the purpose of this Rule a Team having withdrawn or having been expelled from the League shall be deemed to have finished in bottom place in the Final League Table.

- 7 The Competition shall be restricted to Reserve Teams excepting the Reserve Teams of Northern Ireland Football League Premiership or Northern Ireland Football League Championship Clubs.
- 8 No Team may play a recognised Senior or Intermediate Player in any match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than four matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 9 No Team may play more than three recognised Division I, II or III Players in any one match. A Division I, II or III Player is one who has played more than a cumulative total of six matches in Division I, II or III in the current Season.
- 10 Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 11 Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 12 A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.
- 13 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 14 No more than fourteen Teams may compete in Reserve Division I in any Season.
- 15 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **RESERVE DIVISION II – ROBIN PORTER MEMORIAL CUP**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Reserve Division II and the Trophy shall be the Robin Porter Memorial Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.
- 2 Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).
- 3 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground/s.
- 4 The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) shall pay the Referee his Fee and Travelling Expenses and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5 The Entry Fee shall be £160.00. There will be a £50.00 reduction for a third team playing in the League
- 6 The Teams finishing in the top two places will be offered election to Reserve Division I the following Season.

- 7 The Teams finishing in the bottom two places in the Final League Table shall be relegated to Reserve Division III. In the event of one of the Teams promoted from Reserve Division III refusing promotion the second last Team may seek re-election. In the event of both Teams from Reserve Division III refusing promotion both relegated Teams may seek re-election. The Management Committee shall have the power to promote third and / or fourth placed Teams in Reserve Division III if necessary.  
For the purpose of this Rule a Team having withdrawn or having been expelled from the League shall be deemed to have finished in bottom place in the Final League Table.
- 8 The Competition shall be restricted to Reserve Teams excepting the Reserve Teams of Northern Ireland Football League Premiership or Northern Ireland Football League Championship Clubs.
- 9 No Team may play a recognised Senior or Intermediate Player in any match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than four matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 10 No Team may play more than three recognised Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I Players in any one match. A Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I Player is one who has played more than a cumulative total of six matches in Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I in the current Season.
- 11 Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 12 Where a Club whose Reserve Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the Reserve Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Third Team on that given matchday.
- 13 Where a Club whose First and Reserve Teams do not have a match on a given matchday no more than a cumulative total of three players who played in the First Team's and / or Reserve Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Third Team on that given matchday.
- 14 Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 15 A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.
- 16 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 17 Should more than twelve Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Reserve Division II the Management Committee may, at its discretion, divide the Competition into two Sections with not more than twelve Teams in each Section.
- 18 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **RESERVE DIVISION III – PATTON CUP**

- 1** The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western League Reserve Division III and the Trophy shall be the Patton Cup. The Competition shall be administered by the League.
- 2** Should less than ten Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Reserve Division III the Management Committee may, at its discretion, decree that Teams shall play each other on a home and away basis on the registered ground of the Home Teams or shall play each other on three occasions (either twice at home and once away or once at home and twice away) as determined by the match schedule except as in Rules 9(p)(i) and 16(bb)(ii).
- 3** The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches on Neutral Ground(s).
- 4** The Team having choice of Ground will take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) shall pay the Referee his Fee and Travelling Expenses and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses where applicable.
- 5** The Entry Fee shall be £150.00. There will be a £50.00 reduction for a third team playing in the League.
- 6** The Teams finishing in the top two places will be offered election to Reserve Division II the following Season.
- 7** The Competition shall be restricted to Reserve Teams excepting the Reserve Teams of Northern Ireland Football League Premiership or Northern Ireland Football League Championship Clubs.
- 8** No Team may play a recognised Senior or Intermediate Player in any match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than four matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 9** No Team may play more than three recognised Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I or II Players in any one match. A Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I or II Player is one who has played more than a cumulative total of six matches in Division I, II, III or Reserve Division I or II in the current Season.
- 10** Where a Club whose First Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the First Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Reserve Team on that given matchday.
- 11** Where a Club whose Reserve Team does not have a match on a given matchday no more than three Players who played in the Reserve Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Third Team on that given matchday.
- 12** Where a Club whose First and Reserve Teams do not have a match on a given matchday no more than a cumulative total of three players who played in the First Team's and / or Reserve Team's last match shall be allowed to play for the Club's Third Team on that given matchday.
- 13** Only Amateur Players may play in this Competition.
- 14** A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of any match.

- 15 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 16 Should more than twelve Teams apply for Membership in any Season to Reserve Division III the Management Committee may, at its discretion, divide the Competition into two Sections with not more than twelve Teams in each Section.
- 17 All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **YOUTH DIVISION**

- 1 The Competition shall be called the Fermanagh & Western Youth League and the Trophy shall be the Fermanagh Shield. The Competition shall be administered by the Fermanagh & Western Football League.
- 2 The Competition will be decided by points – three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of Teams being equal on points the Teams concerned shall, if necessary, play off a deciding match or matches.
- 3 Referees' Fees, Referees' Travelling Expenses and Ground Expenses shall be borne equally by all Teams.
- 4 The Entry Fee shall be £40.00.
- 5 No Team may play a recognised Senior or Intermediate Player in any match. A recognised Senior or Intermediate Player is one who has played more than four matches for an acknowledged Senior or Intermediate Club in the current Season.
- 6 All Players must be registered in accordance with Fermanagh & Western Football League Rules and no Player will be eligible to take part in the Competition who is 18 years of age before the 1st day of January in the Season in which the Competition commences.
- 7 A Team may at its discretion use five Substitute Players at any time in any match except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee. Substitute Players must be nominated prior to the commencement of any match.
- 8 A Substitute Player shall be construed as taking part in a match for which he was nominated only if he has actually played in such match.
- 9 The Competition may be divided into two Sections with not more than twelve Teams in any Section.
- 10 All Rules of the Fermanagh & Western Football League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.

### **KENNEDY CUP**

- 1 The Kennedy Cup shall be contested annually between the previous Season's Mercer League Champions and Mulhern Cup Winners.
- 2 In the event of a Team winning both the previous Season's Mercer League and the Mulhern Cup the opposition will be determined by the Management Committee of the League.

- 3** The Tie will be played on the Tuesday immediately preceding the commencement of the League Season.
- 4** All suspensions in force at the time of the Tie shall remain in force.
- 5** The League may take the entire Gate Receipts and (i) may pay the Match Officials' Fees and Travelling Expenses or Motoring Expenses actually and necessarily incurred and (ii) pay all Ground Expenses. Should there be a surplus following the payment of all Expenses the League may, at its discretion, donate this amount to recognised Charities nominated by the Competing Teams.
- 6** All Players taking part in this Tie must be registered according to the Rules of the League.
- 7** A Team may at its discretion use three Substitute Players at any time in the Tie except to replace a Player who has been dismissed from the Tie by the Referee. Teams may nominate up to a maximum of five Substitute Players prior to the commencement of the Tie.
- 8** All Rules of the League, where appropriate, apply to this Competition.