



RULES2016

REVISED NOVEMBER 2016

ULSTER SENIOR LEAGUE



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RULES

Affiliated to

***The Football Association of Ireland
The Ulster Football Association***

Rules 2016



ULSTER SENIOR LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the Ulster Senior League.
2. The Ulster Senior League shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland, and the Ulster Football Association, and games shall be played under their jurisdiction according to the laws of the game.
3. The League shall foster and develop the game of Association Football in the Ulster region and give consideration to other counties outside the province.
4. The control of the Ulster Senior League shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall consist of;
 - a) Chairman.
 - b) Vice Chairman.
 - c) Secretary.
 - d) Assistant Secretary.
 - e) Treasurer.
 - f) Registrar.
 - g) P.R.O.
5. The Executive Committee may fill, by co-option, any vacancies arising within the committee during their term of office.
6. The Executive/Delegate committee of the league shall consist of the Executive members, and at least one representative from each club in membership of the league.
7. The League Executive has the authority to invite and elect any person, deemed to have provided distinguished service to the league, or has been involved in league management, to the position of Hon. Life President of the League.
8. The Executive committee shall have the authority to investigate and deal with any club or member or player thereof accused of any rule infringement or act, deemed to have or could cause, discredit to the league. It has authority to call on club officials and players to produce any evidence they may have in their possession in relation to the matter.
9. Executive committee meetings to be held on the last Monday of each month (during the playing season). Two-thirds executive members to form a quorum.
10. All notices of motions for the purpose of rescinding previous decisions shall be



ULSTER SENIOR LEAGUE **RULES**

made in writing and lodged with the League Secretary no later than 4 days prior to a meeting. Such notice needs a two-thirds majority to be carried.

11. A new club wishing to join the U.S.L. must request in writing an application form from the League Secretary.
Existing clubs must request an application form for readmittance at the beginning of a new season. Application must be fully completed and returned to the League Secretary no later than the date specified by the Executive Committee.
12. Each club in membership must send a representative to each meeting; failing this will result in a fine on the club. If the fine is not paid within 14 days the club stands suspended, pending an appeal.
13. The Hon. Treasurer shall take control of league funds and moneys shall be lodged in a bank approved by the Executive committee. All cheque withdrawals must be signed by any two of the following; Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.
14. The Treasurer shall close league accounts as at 30th June each year and submit duly audited statement thereof to each club no later than seven days prior to the A.G.M.
15. Ownership of all league property shall be vested in the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, who will manage such property in accordance with the directions approved by the executive committee.
16. Professional players engaged by clubs in membership of the league shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations regarding such players as laid down by the Football Association of Ireland.
17. Every officer and member of the Executive or Division committees shall be indemnified by the league against all costs, damage, compensation, and expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties; claims incurred by wilful acts and defaults shall not be considered.
18. All communications must be addressed to the Hon. Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the league.
19. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before the 1st July of each year.
20. The executive committee has the authority to call an Extraordinary General Meeting anytime they deem necessary on giving 7 days notice to clubs along with an agenda of the business to be transacted.
21. On the Hon. Secretary receiving a requisition signed by the secretaries of no less than 50% of the clubs forming the competition, he shall convene an Extraordinary



General Meeting within 14 days.

22. Eight club representatives to form a quorum.
23. New rules and/or alteration to existing rules can only take place at an AGM or at EGM convened for that purpose. Proposed new rules or alterations to existing rules by clubs must be made in writing, and signed by club secretary, and lodged with the League Secretary. Proposed new rules and/or alterations will be forwarded to clubs by League Secretary 14 days before an AGM or EGM. Hon. League officers can submit proposals for rules amendments up to 7 days before AGM or EGM.
24. Members of the incoming Executive Committee shall have full voting rights at the A.G.M.
25. Chairman shall have a deliberate vote as well as a casting vote
26. Players selected for representative matches shall place themselves at the disposal of the League, and any player failing to comply shall be adjudged guilty of misconduct and will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee; the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to suspend the player for a minimum of 2 matches, and fine the club, and/or impose additional disciplinary measures they deem necessary.
27. When a referee has been appointed to officiate in any game under the auspices of the USL, objections to the appointment, by clubs concerned, will not be entertained; except in the case where an objection has been lodged and sustained by the Referee's Committee of the F.A.I.
28. A club must have current Public Liability Insurance, which must cover their grounds, games, and buildings and cover all activities, organised by or participated in, by the club.
29. Each club is encouraged to have Personal Accident Insurance to cover all their signed players.
30. The Ulster Senior League and its affiliated clubs will not discriminate against any person on the basis of religion, ethnic class, gender, politics, disability, age.



EXECUTIVE

1. The Executive: 'Delegate Committee of The Ulster Senior League shall consist of the Officers of the league, one representative from each club in membership of The Ulster Senior League. Each club representative to receive 7 clear days' notice of each meeting.
2. All mail to or from the League Secretary may be registered if deemed necessary, unless specified otherwise.

APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

3. A club changing its secretary, or a secretary changing address, must notify the League Secretary immediately, and must notify all clubs in the league. Notification must be in writing.
4. 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.
5. A club failing or refusing to improve their ground(s) and/or facilities as instructed by the Executive Committee may be expelled from the league.
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.
7. When required a club shall place its ground(s) and facilities, and players, at the disposal of the Executive Committee.
8. 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.
9. 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 it.
10. The first aid kit can be inspected by any League Executive Member, their agent, or a Referee official.
11. A club playing in the league is allowed to enter a reserve team in a lower division of the league.
12. Each pitch must have 2 dugouts.
13. The League must supply a full fixture list of all league games to each club. Clubs must



receive the fixtures list 28 days prior to the commencement of the league season.

PLAYING OF MATCHES

14. All matches, venues and kick-off times, shall be arranged by the League Secretary / Fixtures Secretary.
15. A club or clubs shall not postpone, rearrange, change venue or kick-off time, without prior permission from the League Secretary. If sanctioned the club granted the aforementioned must notify the opposing team and match official of any change. Should the League Secretary be on holidays etc. his designate shall be permitted to decide.
16. A club wanting a postponement of normally scheduled match must make a request in writing at least 14 days before hand to the Executive, which may or may not be granted.
17. In the case of 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 Fixture Secretary will decide to grant or refuse a request for a postponement. (Bereavement as follows; active club official his/her wife/husband/offspring. Player/players 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.
18. Midweek games will be scheduled when required.
19. In the event of a game being unfinished due to whatever reason the matter will be forwarded to Discipline who can direct that unexpired time be played, points allocated according to goals scored, points awarded to opposing team, rescheduled game.
20. All teams will register their home team kit and alternative kit at the start of the season. It will be the away team's responsibility to ensure that they do not clash with the home team's kit especially where jerseys and socks are concerned. Goalkeepers must wear colour that distinguishes them from players. In the event of cup games played on 'neutral ground' the first team drawn will be deemed home.
21. Goal nets to be used in all games and to be supplied by the home club.
22. Clubs intending to change time and date of games must notify the League Secretary/Fixtures Secretary at least 8 days before scheduled date of the game.



23. All league and cup games are reversible throughout the season irrespective of where the corresponding game, if any, was played.
24. If a team is more than 30 minutes late for a kick-off then the match may be awarded to the opposing team. Teams In default will be fined for a late start.
25. The Executive Committee has the power to organise competitions during the season and to make such rules that are necessary in this respect.
26. A club refusing or failing to play the club against which it has been drawn, on the time and dated fixed by the executive, and without sufficient reason(s) for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the match by 3 goals and fine of up to €130 shall be imposed if deemed necessary by the disciplinary committee.
27. A team failing to field for two matches during the season will be expelled from the league.

GROUND INSPECTIONS

28. Grounds are deemed playable at all times. Request for a pitch inspection must be made before 10 am. on day of match to league secretary or the officer on duty. Request for ground inspection for an evening kick off must be made five-hours before kick off time.
29. During inclement weather conditions pitch inspections must be carried out on the day before the game by the match referee or an official designated by him. Should the pitch be turned down the match must be reversed - applicable throughout the season - irrespective of where the corresponding fixture (if any) was played. Inspections should be carried out in good time so that sufficient time can be given to home team to travel to opposing team's ground. If both grounds are unplayable the match will be rescheduled.
30. The ground will be inspected before 11 a.m. by a referee or agent authorised by the league.
31. Travel and inspection costs must be paid to the person concerned in the previous rule.
32. Notification for a pitch inspection must be made in good time so that it can be carried out and if the pitch is declared unplayable the onus is on the club to notify the travelling team secretary, and the match referee, before noon on day of match. Evening kick off notice to be sent three and one half hours before kick off.
33. 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. 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. When a club can supply a ground when their own is unplayable permission is required from the league secretary, or official on duty, to move the fixture.

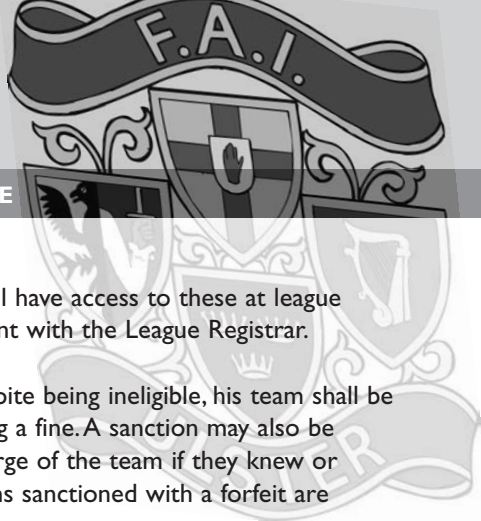
PLAYER REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER

34. A player shall be registered or transferred only on the official league form, which must be completed according to instructions therein and must be signed by the player and club secretaries or managers concerned.
35. Completed registration form(s), with fee(s), shall be sent by registered post to The Registrar only.
36. A player is only eligible to play in a league or cup match if there is at least one calendar day between the date of receipt of the registration form by the league registrar and the day of the match as per FAI rule.
37. A player may be transferred from one club to another by the lodgement of a transfer form, which must be completed according to the instructions therein.
38. Completed transfer form with accompanying €20 fee may be posted, or handed, to the Registrar; either delivery method must ensure that the transfer is in the Registrar's possession no later than 4p.m. on the day prior to player playing for new club. The accepting club must check with the League Registrar that the transfer has been sanctioned before playing the player.
39. Player registration identification; A player must affix a recent passport size photograph of himself on the Player Registration Identification Form and must print and sign his name where indicated.
40. The Executive/Delegate Committee shall decide the registration and transfer fee for the season.
41. Players may transfer from or to any other league when the registrations open.
42. [a] The registration period for the Amateur game, other than the SFAI shall be 1st June to the 31st March inclusive for the winter season and the 1st December to the 30th September inclusive for the summer season.
[b] The two transfer periods for the Amateur game shall be 1st June to 30th September inclusive and the 1st December to the 31st January inclusive. However an Amateur player may be signed on a Professional Contract for the Professional game during the Professional Registration Periods.
[d] If a player's registration / contract expires naturally at the end of his



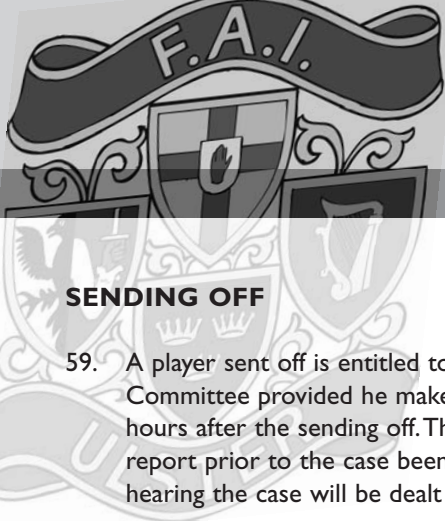
current season (i.e. 31st May winter season / 30th November summer season) a Transfer form is not required for the player to register with another club in another league. Players registered with clubs whose fixtures extend beyond the above dates are committed to these clubs until those fixtures are completed.

43. The Registrar shall enquire and satisfy himself as to the legality of a player before authorising a registration or transfer. If the registrar is not satisfied he may refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee whose decision will be final.
44. A player shall be cup-tied in all domestic cup games.
45. A club registering a player from outside the jurisdiction of the FAI must forward an International Clearance Cert along with the player registration application.
46. A player registered with the USL found to be registered or playing outside the jurisdiction of the FAI will have their registration terminated and further disciplinary action will be taken by the Executive committee.
47. Clubs from the FAI National League with reserve team in the USL must register their senior panel of 16 in block with the USL Registrar.
48. To accommodate National League Clubs the USL will allow their reserve teams to use 3 players only per match, who are classified as senior players to play in the USL and domestic competitions.
49. The Hon. Secretary shall keep a record as presented to him by the Senior Club/s weekly, of all the number of games played by members of the Senior team/s who play in the Senior Competitions. This will suffice as evidence in case of protests, and will be available to protesting teams if requested.
50. A senior player is one registered under rule 48 and any other player who has played more than 4 matches in the League of Ireland, IFA League or any nations League in the current season, with the exception of players who are under 19 years of age as defined by FAI.
51. To 'play' means to take part in the match.
52. A player can only register for one club and a player double signed shall be referred to discipline who shall adjudge and if found in default the player may be fined and will be suspended.
53. The responsibility rests with the club to ensure a player is registered in accordance with the rules.
54. A player with a club that has been removed, or has withdrawn, from league membership cannot transfer to another club without receiving sanction from the executive committee.
55. The League Registrar shall keep a record of registrations and transfers, and club



secretaries or their club representatives shall have access to these at league meetings, or by private access by appointment with the League Registrar. Private access fee payable €15.

56. If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team shall be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a fine. A sanction may also be imposed on player and/or the person in charge of the team if they knew or ought to have known of the ineligibility. Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 0-3.
57. A club requesting the transfer of a player must approach the player via the player's club secretary. If agreement is reached the accepting club secretary, must forward a completed transfer, accompanied by fee, to the USL Registrar.
58. Any club in membership of the League which withholds a players transfer without having a valid claim against such players when the transfer has been applied for by the player or on his behalf by any club in membership, the club withholding the transfer will be reported to the Executive committee who after investigating the matter, may take an order for transfer of such player, which order must be complied with within 2 days of making of such order. Any club in membership of the league found guilty of unreasonably holding a players transfer will be dealt with as the Executive committee deem necessary.



SENDING OFF

59. A player sent off is entitled to a personal hearing of his case with the Disciplinary Committee provided he makes the request to the Disciplinary Secretary within 72 hours after the sending off. The clubs Secretary will be issued with relevant Referees report prior to the case been heard. In the absence of a request for a personal hearing the case will be dealt with as routine.

REFEREES

60. The Appointments Officer shall appoint referees. In the event of the appointed referee not attending the game and both clubs agreeing to one on the ground such referee shall be counted a league official and the result will stand. Should the clubs not agree on the appointment of a referee yet decide to play a friendly game instead this may be deemed to be the official match and the result will stand.
61. He - the stand-in referee - should notify the League Secretary of this as soon as possible.
62. A referee unable to fill an appointment must inform the Appointments Officer 72 clear hours prior to kick off.
63. Official match card must be completed by both teams and signed by their secretaries or managers and returned to the referee before kick-off
64. The referee's fees must be paid before the start of the match.
65. The referee shall enter the result and sign and return the official match card, with any report, to The Registrar within 48 clear hours after the match.
66. A complaint by a club against a referee must be submitted in writing, signed by the club secretary and lodged with Regional Referees Committee within 4 clear days of the match.
67. A referee must comply with the instructions on the official match card. He must notify immediately, in writing, the League Secretary of any change in the following; address, telephone number, work telephone number, contact telephone number.
68. 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 Committee to prevent hoax calls etc.
69. On producing identification and authorisation to the referee an Executive Member or Disciplinary Member can inspect an official match card before the kick-off during the interval, or immediately after the match.



PROTESTS

70. Protests against the eligibility of a player or players in any game, or unfinished game, must be made in writing to the League Secretary by registered post bearing postmark within three days - Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holiday excluded of the date of playing the match. A copy of the protest must be forwarded by registered post at the same time to the secretary of the club under protest. A period of 72 hours after receipt of protest shall be afforded the club under protest to lodge a counter protest and all formalities regarding lodging of protest shall be observed and copy of counter protest sent to the League Secretary. Protests and counter protests to the league must be accompanied by a fee of €40 made payable to the Ulster Senior League. Fee refunded if protest is upheld.
71. Protest cannot be withdrawn without the approval of the Disciplinary Committee.
72. If any member of the Executive committee or Disciplinary committee has any doubts as to the qualification of any player taking part in competition, they must report it to the Executive committee who will in turn refer it to Disciplinary committee. The Disciplinary committee shall investigate the matter and if the player/s is found guilty he may be fined and suspended, and the club may be fined and will lose the points or game/s in question. The point shall be awarded to the opposing team/s.

CHAMPIONSHIP

73. Averages for the championship shall be taken from wins and draws, not from goal average. In the event of two or more clubs being equal on points the clubs concerned shall play-off to decide the championship. Other positions shall be decided on goal difference and if these are the same the team scoring most goals will be adjudged the most qualified.
74. Play-off shall be extra time and penalties if necessary.

GENERAL

75. Previous season holders of USL cups must return them to the League Secretary and they must be returned in the condition that they were received or risk disciplinary action.
76. Postponement may be granted, on request, to a club that has two players involved in representative duties at Senior or Youth level.



77. Home team is responsible for supplying match balls.
78. Clubs receiving cups etc. at the end of the season must be represented by a minimum of 13 players at the presentation function. Runners-up must purchase a minimum of 4 tickets each for the function. Remaining clubs must purchase a minimum of 4 tickets each and must be represented by a minimum of four of their club delegates at the function.
79. Tars, oils, dry lime, or sawdust shall not be used to line pitches.
80. The home club must notify the League PRO of the match result, and submit a detailed match report, within the time allocated. Absent result fine €25, absent or undetailed report fine €15. No reports accepted outside allocated time.
81. Attendance is compulsory at A.G.M. and Delegate meetings, a club not represented will be fined €70.
82. Admission to games be €5 (maximum).
- 83a. An Executive Member, Disciplinary Member, Member of League subcommittee. 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.
- 83b. The committee shall have the power to deal with any offending club/s, player/s as they think fit and to deal with any matter that is not in these rules so far as the U.S.L is concerned.
84. 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.
85. Opponent(s) of suspended club(s) shall be awarded the games.



A CLUB IMPOSING DISCIPLINE ON THEIR OWN MEMBER

86. A suspension and/or fine imposed by a club on its member is only recognised as valid by the league if the member so suspended and/or fined was informed by registered post to attend a club disciplinary meeting.
87. 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 club secretary must sign the notice.
88. The member shall be informed by registered post of any disciplinary action taken against him/her and when such action becomes effective.
89. 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 by registered post within 3 days of the club's decision.
90. The member has the right of appeal to the League Disciplinary Committee and any such appeals will only be recognised if they are received by the Disciplinary Secretary 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.
91. The decision of the Ulster Senior League Disciplinary Committee will be final but an appeal can be made to the UFA and the F.A.I.

PLAYER SUSPENSION

92. A suspended players club will be notified of his/her suspension by registered post and the suspension is effective on and from the date indicted on the notice.
93. If a players suspension is a result of bookings accumulated during the season the club will be notified of the players suspension and the onus is on the club to notify the player concerned.
94. A player sent off in an FAI. Cup game may play in the league until notified by the F.A.I. of his/her suspension, if any.
95. A player sent off in USL must serve an automatic one match ban in the same level of football.
96. Any subsequent suspension of a USL player must be served in USL. Any subsequent suspension of a 1st division player served in any of USL leagues.
- 97a. A player sent off in the league after he served his automatic suspension can play until

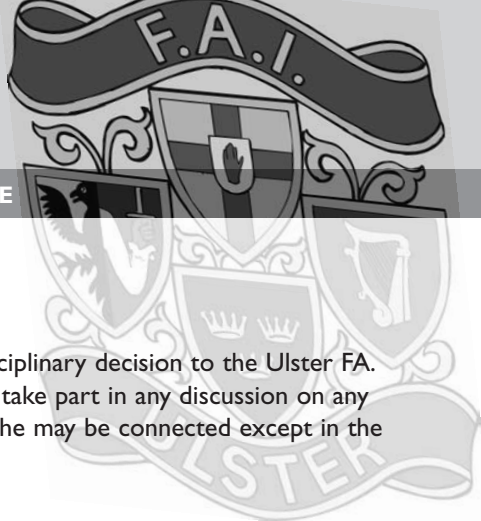


his case is heard by the disciplinary committee and then he must comply with any disciplinary action taken against him.

- 97b. Any dual registered player with a suspension carried over from the end of the USL season, cannot sign in any other league to serve that suspension
- 97c. Suspensions issued at the end of season to be carried over into the next season. An addendum to this for players who reach twenty points or issued red cards the disciplinary committee meeting to be deferred.
- 97d. In all F.A.I. National Cup Competitions an expulsion automatically incurs a suspension from the subsequent match of the same competition if his/her team is successful. If team is defeated he/she must serve the suspension in the next league game.
98. On receipt of his/her fourth booking a player will be suspended for 1 match and fined up to a maximum of €15. On accumulating a further 4 bookings for the second time during the season the player will be suspended for 3 matches and fined up to a maximum of €20. If a player accumulates a further four bookings for the third time during the season he will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee. The player's **club only** will be informed when suspension commences and its duration.
99. Players who have not reached their 15th birthday will not be eligible to play in USL competitions.

THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

100. Executive/Delegates shall elect a Disciplinary Secretary who shall act as Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee also elected by the Executive.
101. The Disciplinary Committee shall elect from amongst themselves a Chairman for the season.
102. 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.
103. 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.
104. The Disciplinary Secretary shall notify concerned official/club player of decision(s) taken against them.
105. The Disciplinary Committee shall convene once per month, or oftener if required.



APPEAL

- 106. A club has the right of appeal of an USL Disciplinary decision to the Ulster FA.
- 107. 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 as a witness.