**BALLYMENA and PROVOINCIAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

 **RULES 2017-18 SEASON**

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 **BALLYMENA and PROVINCIAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

 **RULES FOR SEASON 2016-17**

**1**

**Rule 1(a).** The league shall be called the **“Ballymena and Provincial Football League”** consisting of Members of Intermediate and Junior Grade. Intermediate Members shall play in the Intermediate Grade and Junior Members in the Junior Grade. All Members shall be affiliated to and operate under the Rules and Constitution of the Irish Football Association**.** The league will participate in all forms of Intermediate and Junior Competitions and where appropriate Senior Competitions as Permitted by the Governing Body.

If the Members deem there are sufficient numbers to operate more than one division in each grade this may be done with the Members making the decision on how this should be done.

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***Committee.***

**1(b).** The league will be controlled by a Committee (hereinafter called **“The Committee”**) who will be elected each year by the Members in Attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

**1. Chairperson. 2. Vice Chairperson.**

**3. Secretary. 4. Treasurer. 5. Registrar**

Nominations for such elections must be duly proposed and seconded by Two Members, either prior to or at the Annual General Meeting.

If there is only One Nomination for any of the Posts the Person so Nominated shall be duly elected.

If there are Two Nominations for any of the Posts a vote will be taken with the winner requiring a simple majority?

If there are Three or more Nominations for any of the Poststhe voting procedure to decide the winner will be as follows:-

1. If a Nominee receives 60% or more of the vote in the First or any Subsequent round of Voting they will be declared the winner.

2. If No Nominee receives 60% or more of the vote, a series of voteswill be taken with the Nominee polling the lowest number of votesin each round being eliminated until there are Two Nominees left then a simple majority will decide the winner.

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***Membership.***

**Rule 2(a)** All teams, properly affiliated under Rule 1(a), shall be recognised as league members at the start of each season and must be affiliated to the Irish Football Association and their respective Divisional Association prior to them participating in games under the jurisdiction of the league.

Teams, who do not have the appropriate Insurance cover in place prior to the start of the season, will not be part of the league for that season.

**Note: - The Definition of a League Member is defined as a Club or Teams of a Club This means a club will have a member for each of its teams within the league jurisdiction**

**2(b).**  Application(s) from clubs seeking membership to the league, will be examined by **“The Committee”** who will then give a report and seek the view of the members in attendance at the monthly meeting as to the suitability or otherwise of the applicant club(s).

A decision for acceptance or rejection will then be taken at a league meeting with the members in attendance casting their vote but in cases Involving Intermediate applications only Intermediate members shall vote.

A simple majority being required to decide the issue

In a tied vote the Chairman of **“The Committee”** will have the casting vote.

Any team leaving the league to become a member of another league, will automatically lose their right to have a Reserve or an Associated Team as members of the league

**Note: The only exception to this will be if an Intermediate Team who leaves by way of promotion to the NIFL Premier Intermediate League**

**2(c).** If **“The Committee”** have reason to believe that an Intermediate Member becomes Associated with an Intermediate Club from outside the Leaguein such a way that it questions their Intermediate Status, they have the Authority to request such a Member to explain their actions. **“The Committee”** shall then have the power to deal with the matter as they may determine**.** (Failure by a Memberto provide a Satisfactory Explanation could see that Member being Dismissed from the Intermediate Division).

**2(d). Insurance.** It is Compulsory for all Members to carry Public Liability and Player to Player Insurance Cover. This can be done through the League Insurance Scheme or proof of cover through an outside Insurer.

**Note:** Insurance must be in place prior to a team playing in competition.

All Insurance proposal forms must be forwarded to the league Secretary accompanied with the Correct Payment for the Cover selected.

In addition to the Player to Player Cover the Cost for Public Liability will be as set by the Insurance Company.

If Payment is made by Cheque it should be made payable to the Ballymena and Provincial League

**Clubs should not forward Forms or Money to the Insurance Company**

 **2**

***Meetings.***

**Rule 3(a).** League meetings will be held on the Second Monday of Each Month during the Season at **8.00pm** Sharp. If for any reason a meeting has to be re-arranged, members will be given adequate notice of this.

**3(b).** All **Clubs** to ensure they are represented at each League meeting (by a member of their own club preferably an official of such club), with One Person acting as sole spokesperson. **Clubs** failing to attend a league Meeting will be automatically fined, the sum of **“Forty Pounds”** for the First Meeting Missed, **”Sixty Pounds”** for the Second Meeting Missed and **“Eighty Pounds “** for each meeting missed thereafter or possible dismissal from the league at the discretion of **“The Committee”**

The only exception to this will be, if **“The Committee”** deem that extenuating circumstances existed at the time of Absence

**Note: -** Members of **“The Committee”** cannot represent their Own Member Club at Meetings.

**Note: Fines must be paid in accordance with Rule 31**

**3(c).** The Annual General Meeting of the league shall be held not later than June 30th in each year. **“The Committee”** shall set the Time, Date and Venue of such meeting. **“The Committee”** shall also have the power to convene an Extra Ordinary Meeting at any time giving Members 14 days notice and the reason for such Meeting. Any Member who gains the support of Ten other Members can also request **“The Committee”** to convene an Extra Ordinary Meeting.

**Note: -** Clubs failing to attend the Annual General Meeting will be fined the sum of **“Fifty Pounds”** unless **“The Committee”** deem that extenuating circumstances existed.

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***Voting Procedure.***

**Rule 4.** All Decisions made by **“The Committee” or “Members”** will be decided with a vote being taken, a simple majority being requiredto decide the issue**.** Members of **“The Committee”** shall not vote in a decision being taken by the **“Members”**

Where there is a tied vote The Chairman of **“The Committee”** or Acting Chairman will have a casting vote in All Matters.

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***League Rules.***

**Rule 5 (a).** Members will be furnished with a copy of the rules for the season at the Monthly meeting prior to the commencement of the season.

**5 (b).** All breaches of League Rules, Referees Reports etc., will be dealt with by **“The Committee“**. If any of

**“The Committee”** cannot participate in decision making due to their connection with a Member that may be involved; their place on the committee will be taken by a representative selected from a panel of Six Members, who will be nominated to fulfil this role at the Annual General Meeting.

**5 (c).** Any member of **“The Committee”** who has reason to believe that the Rules of the League have been transgressed, has the authority to bring this matter to the attention of **“The Committee”** who will deal with the matter as they may determine as laid down in Section (b) of the Rule. This shall also include where **“The Committee”** are of the opinion that the name of the league has been brought into disrepute.

Matters of bringing the game into disrepute will be referred to the Irish Football Association Executive Board.

**5 (d).** Any proposed changes to the league rules from a Member or “The Committee” must be submitted in writing to the league secretary at least **Twenty One Days** prior to the Annual General Meeting by whoever is seeking such change.

After collating the proposals the Secretary will distribute copies to All Members **Seven Days** prior to the League Annual General Meeting.

Each Member in attendance shall have a vote on the proposals considered with a simple majority being required to decide the outcome.

Proposals not receiving a Seconder will be withdrawn.

**Note: - No Amendments will be Allowed to be Proposed to Rule Changes at the Annual General Meeting.**

**5 (e). “The Committee”** shall have the power to deal as they may determine on any matters not covered in these rules.

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***League and Guarantee Fees.***

**Rule 6.** Members shall pay an Entry fee for the League and Knock out Cups of **One Hundred and Twenty Pounds** per season.

Teams may pay half of the Entry fee prior to playing in competition and the Second half at the following January monthly meeting.

Teams who fail to pay the second half of the entry fee at the January meeting will be suspended until the Monday after such payment has been made thus they will forfeit any games to be played during the time of suspension to their opponents.

A guarantee fee of **Fifty Pounds** will also be paid by each Member prior to the start of the season which will be returnable to all Members who fulfil all their matches.

If **“The Committee”** of the league deem that the financial situation is such where the league may not being able to fulfil its financial commitments, they shall have the power to request each member to make a suitable one off payment to cover such a situation.

**Note: - Membership and Guarantee fee MUST be paid prior to a team competing in competition.**

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 **3**

***Club Particulars.***

**Rule 7(a).** Each Member shall forward the following to the league secretary by the **1st August** in each Season**:-**

**(a)** Team Colours Shirt, Shorts and Socks

**(b)** Address where Ground is situated.

**(c)** Name, Address, and Telephone number of Hon. Secretary.

**(d)** Location where Hon. Secretary can be contacted urgently.

**(e)** Name and Telephone number of other contacts who can be contacted urgently if the Hon. Secretary is unavailable.

Members not adhering to this rule shall be **Fined Ten Pounds** and stand suspended until such information is

Forwarded to the league secretary. Any changes in the above shall be notified to the league Secretary Immediately or within Seven Days of such Change.

**7(b).**  Teams must play in their registered colours unless there is agreement with the opponents not to.

**7 (c).**  In the case where Two Teams meet and **both having the same colours registered**, **the Home Team shall change. This includes if there is a colour clash in socks.**

**7 (d).**  The Shirt, Jersey or Shorts of each player must be numbered in accordance with normal practice e.g.:-1 - 17 so that players may be easily identified.

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***Player Registration***

**Rule 8(a).** All players must be registered by their club on the IFA Central Registration System using the Three Part Central Registration Form R6. White Copy is retained by the League, Blue Copy is retained by the Club and Yellow Copy is retained by the player after registration is complete.

All information must be entered correctly on the form as requested, otherwise the form will be declared void.

Any dispute regarding the registration of a Player will be dealt with initially by **“The Committee” or referred to the Relevant Irish Football Association Committee** who will deal with the matter as they may determine.

Clubs who have their registrations entered on the Central Registration System by another league MUST provide a copy of such to the league secretary as laid out in Rule 8 (b)

**Note: -** Players can only be registered at any one time by One Club within the Jurisdiction of the Irish Football Association.

Notwithstanding any of the above, a player may only register for Any Club Twice in One Season.

Completed registration forms must be submitted to the league secretary **within Seven Days** of being signed by the

Player otherwise the form will be declared void.

**Addition to Rule 8(a)**

Note: Fees for Registrations/Transfers will be as follows:

1. Normal registration = 50p per registration

2. Emailed registration = £1.00 per registration

3. Transfers = £6.00

Fees must be paid in full at the league meeting following the end of the registration period.

Clubs failing to adhere to this will stand suspended until the Monday after such fees are paid.

Teams suspended will forfeit the games they were to play within the suspension period to their opponents 3-0.

**Note:** The registration periods are determined by the IFA and are that which is laid down in the IFA Professional Game Player Registration Regulations.

This applies to all Intermediate and Junior Football within the League.

**Note: If a Club is registering a player under 18 years of age such a players Parent or Guardian must also sign the form.**

**Addition to Rule 8(a)**

**Rule 8(b).** For players to be eligible to play in competition within the jurisdiction of the league, the secretary must be in possession of the registration form at least **Seventy Two Hours** prior to kick off.

Example: - For a Saturday 2.00pm Kick Off the secretary must be in possession of the registration form by 2.00pm on the preceding Wednesday.

**8 (c).**  League registration forms can be handed in at league meetings, sent through the post or handed to the secretary of the league personally.

**8 (d).** A Club wishing to avail of an emergency registration can do so by facsimile or email to the league secretary plus any other documents that may be required. The original forms must then be forwarded to the league secretary as per Rule 8(c).

**The Club must ensure that they remain compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998**

**Note: If forms are emailed there will be a charge of £1.00 for each registration. Faxed copies will be charged at 50p per registration**

 **4**

**8 (e).**  Notwithstanding anything in any rule, If **“The Committee”** have any doubt at anytime and whether

arising out of a Protest, Appeal or Claim or Otherwise, as to the eligibility of any player being registered or taking part in matches under the leagues jurisdiction, they shall have the power to call upon such Player and/or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is/was qualified to do so according to the League rules. Failing satisfactory proof **“The Committee”** shall have the power to deal with the matter as they may determine.

**Note:** A Team found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be dealt with by “The Committee” of the league as laid down in the FIFA Articles.

In addition “The Committee” may also impose a minimum fine of £100 for a First Offence. A Team found guilty of a Second Offence within the same season in addition to a fine may be expelled from the league.

A Team found guilty of playing a player whilst under suspension imposed by the Irish Football Association or a Divisional Association will be dealt with by **“The Committee”** as they may determine and also reported to the Irish Football Association Disciplinary Committee.

**8 (f)** Clubs who field more than One Team within the various League Divisions are at liberty to select players from their panel of registered players to play for either of their teams.

**Note: -** Clubs with more than One Team can only field One Team to compete in the League Cup Competitions.

If the situation arises where a Club has more than One Team who will compete within the same Junior Division the matter will be addressed at the time

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**Rule 9 (a).** A player can only be transferred using the Three Part Central Transfer Form R9. White Copy is retained by the League, Blue Copy is retained by the Club and Yellow Copy is retained by the Player after completion of Transfer.

All information must be entered correctly on the form as requested, otherwise the form will be declared void.

Any dispute regarding the Transfer of a Player will be dealt with by **“The Committee” or referred to the Relevant Irish Football Association Committee** who will deal with the matter as they may determine.

**Note: -** As per FIFA Regulations a Player can be registered for a Maximum of three clubs during the period from 9th June to 31st August and 1st January to 31st January in the following year. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in Official Matches for Two Clubs.

A player can only be transferred a maximum of Two Times during the Season.

Completed Transfer forms Must be submitted to the league secretary within Seven Days of being signed by the

Player otherwise the form will be declared void.

***Note:***

The Maximum number of Transfers between any Two Member Clubs within the Ballymena Provincial Football League must not Exceed Four.

Notwithstanding any of the above, a player may only register for the same Club Twice in One Season.

**Note:**

**A player may only be Transferred into the league within the registration periods as laid out in Rule 8(a) to be eligible to play within the Jurisdiction of the League**

**Note:** Amateur player(s) may be Transferred out of the League Jurisdiction as laid down in the IFA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations

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**Rule 9(b).**

A Professional player may be loaned between clubs using the Three Part Loan Agreement Form R8, White Copy is retained by the League, Blue Copy is retained by the Club and Yellow Copy is retained by the Player after agreement is completed.

All information must be entered correctly on the form as requested, otherwise the form will be declared void.

**Note: -** The loan period of a Player will be governed as per FIFA Regulations.

A player can be loaned a Maximum of Two Times during the current season

Completed loan forms must be submitted to the league secretary within Seven Days of being signed by the player otherwise the form will be declared void

Clubs shall only be permitted to register a Maximum of Four Players on loan at any time in Junior and Intermediate Football.

A loan period will be that which is agreed between the Clubs and Player with a minimum period of 28 days.

If a Club wishes to recall a player prior to the expiry of the agreed period they may do so using the appropriate documentation.

If there is disagreement between the Clubs regarding a player recall the matter will be referred to the Irish Football Association OPOC Committee who will deal with the matter as they may determine.

**Note: Loans do not apply to Amateur Players**

**Rule 9(c).** A Professional player or a Player leaving to play outside the jurisdiction of the Irish Football Association may have their registration cancelled between himself and club by mutual consent using the Cancellation Form R7.

**Note: -** The Cancellation of a Player Registration will be governed as per FIFA Regulations.

**Rule 9(d).** Professional Players can play for any team under the Jurisdiction of the League provided they are registered in

Accordance with the Irish Football Association and FIFA Articles

**Note: -** For each Transfer, or Cancellation executed by the league an Administration Fee of £6 shall be charged.

Fee must be paid prior to the player playing for his new club.

 **5**

***Facilities Criteria.***

**Rule 10 (a).** Nets to be provided for all games by the Team having home advantage

**10 (b).**  The home Team in each match must present to the Referee **Two Footballs** which are in a match worthy condition. This must be done at least **Fifteen Minutes** prior to kick off time.

**10 (c).** All objections to Grounds, Goalposts or Balls etc., must be lodged in writing to the Referee prior to the start of the match. The Referee shall have the power to have such objections rectified prior to the match commencing. If the Referee cannot get the objection(s) raised rectified and the game is not played, he will report the matter to the league. **“The Committee”** will then deal, with the matter as they may determine.

**10 (d).**  All teams participating in the Intermediate Division must have their facilities accepted and passed by the Irish Football Association Intermediate Committee.

**10 (e).** In the Junior Divisions teams must have separate changing rooms as well as a separate room for the referee.

Note: - Communal Bathing/Showering Facilities and Access to such are Acceptable at Junior level.

**10 (f).** If an Intermediate Member has to move ground location for any reason, they can seek permission from **“The Committee”** to move to a new location in order to remedy their situation and provided the new location fulfils the criteria as laid out Rule 10 (d).

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***Match Card Information.***

**11 (a).** It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that, all the players named on the Referees card are eligible to play and a responsible person enters the full names in a legible manner on the referee’s card correctly.

The league secretary will have the authority to carry out checks on referee’s cards to ensure that they are completed correctly. This includes checking that the players named on the cards are eligible to play in the particular game.

Any abnormalities found to be brought to the attention of **“The Committee”** who will deal with the matter as they may determine.

**11 (b).** A responsible person from each Team should mark their Teams goal-scorers on the Referees Card after each match. Failure to comply with this will result in **Goals Scored not being taken into account, when the Final Tally is Counted to Decide the Leading Goal-scorer of the Season.**

**11 (c).** Each Team can name a panel of **Five Substitutes** on the referee’s card in games played under the leagues

Jurisdiction. Only **Three Substitutes** can be used by each Team from their respective panels.

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***Referees.***

**Rule 12(a).**  All Referees officiating in the Ballymena and Provincial Intermediate Football League must send written

Reports to both the league and the Irish Football Association for all offences committed on or off the field of play.

**12 (b).** In Intermediate Division Matches, if there is no available Official Referee to Officiate the Match will not take place and will be Re-arranged for a later Date.

In Junior Division Matches, if there is no available Official Referee to Officiate the match but the teams agree on a suitable replacement the Match can take place otherwise it will not be played and re-arranged for a later date.

**12 (c).**  Referees fees will as laid down by the Irish Football Association.

**12 (d).**  The Referee of each game will record on the match card his Total expenses for the game. (Match fee plus travelling costs).

At the end of each season the league secretary will tally up the Total amount paid out by all the Teams during the season.

The average cost per game will then be calculated via Total money paid out divided by the Total number of

Games played.

This average will then be used to calculate what each Team should actually have paid via Average cost per game times the Total number of games played. This will ensure all Teams pay the same amount per game in Referees Fees over the season.

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 **6**

***League and Cup Competition.***

**Rule 13(a).** All scheduled matches to be played on the Date and Kick off Time arranged.

Any Team failing to play on the Date and Kick off Time arranged will be sanctioned as follows:

1st Offence: Team will lose Guarantee Fee and also be fined the Sum of £50

2nd Offence: Team will be fined the Sum of £100and issued with a warning

3rd Offence: Team will be fined the Sum of £150 and may be suspended from the league

A team may request a hearing with “The Committee” regarding them not fulfilling a fixture. Such request must be submitted in writing to the league secretary who must be in possession of the request within four days of the match not being played.

**If a hearing is held “The Committee” will rule on the matter as they may determine**

**Note:** Fines to be paid in accordance with Rule 31

The Offending Teams opponents will be awarded the League Points or Cup Tie without having to claim such.

**13 (b).** If a match is played where the start was delayed the result will stand and no Protest, Appeal or Claim will be considered by **“The Committee”** if lodged by either Team. Where a Team is reported for a Second offence of causing a late start and in the opinion of **“The Committee”** there is insufficient reason a minimum fine of **Twenty Pounds** will be imposed. For any subsequent offences after the Second “**The Committee”** will deal with the matter as they may determine.

**13 (c).** If a match is stopped by the Referee for any reason, prior to the completion of the specified time, **“The Committee”** will deal with the matter as they may determine. (This could see the match being re-played in full or the result of the game at the time of the stoppage being allowed to stand or if abandoned the team found responsible forfeiting the game by 3-0).

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**Fixtures**

**Rule 14.**

Fixtures will be issued to teams via email or at monthly league meetings and this action will deem teams have been informed. They will also be posted weekly on the league web site

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure they are aware of their forthcoming fixtures.

***League Competition.***

**14 (a).** League matches will be played on a home and away basis. Gate receipts will be retained by the home team

 After payment of expenses.

**14 (b). Three Points for** a win and **One Point** for a draw will be awarded in **All League Games** and any **Cup Games** played on a league basis.

**14 (c).** All league games must be played singly. No Two teams can play **One** match and count it as **Two** games

 Played.

**14(d).** Where a match has not taken place in competitions decided on goal difference the team found at fault under Rule

13(a) will forfeit the game under FIFA Article 31: Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 3-0

**14 (e).** In the event of Two Teams or more, tying for any of the League Championships, by having accumulated the same

 Number of Points, the following criteria will be introduced to decide the Championship winner:-

1. The team with the best goal difference: - That will be Goals For minus Goals Against will be declared the Winner.

If there is a tie between two or more teams, a play off will be held to decide the Championship Winner

 2.The Same criteria as outlined in article (1) will be used in the event of Teams tying for the Runners-up

 Position in the Championship having accumulated the same number of Points.

3.If after goal difference there is still a tie between two or more teams, the team who scored the most goals will be declared the winner.

**14 (f).** The Team or Teams, who finish at the bottom or equal bottom position of the league at the end of the season, have to apply for re-election to the league for the next season.

**14** **(g).** In the event of a Team withdrawing from the league during the playing season the following criteria to

 Apply:-

 1. All results of league games and goals scored in **All** competitions to be deleted from the season’s records.

 2. If the team had been the winning Team in a Cup Final prior to the time of withdrawal the result of this

 Competition will stand.

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 **7**

***Cup Competitions.***

**Rule15 (a).**  In the event of a match being drawn at the end of 90 minutes **Two Ten** minute periods of extra time will be played. Should the match still be drawn at the end of extra time penalty kicks to be taken to decide the Tie?

If extra time cannot be played or penalty kicks cannot be taken due to reasons decided on by the Referee or if a match is stopped by the Referee for any other reason, prior to the completion of the specified time, **“The Committee”** will deal with the matter as they may determine. (This could see the match being re-played in full, remainder of the allocated time including extra time if required being played, penalty kicks being taken or the result of the game at the time of the stoppage being allowed to stand).

**15 (b).** In Cup matches if the Team first drawn at home registered ground is unavailable for any reason other than inclement weather conditions, the match will be switched to the ground of their opponents who will then become the Home Team.

If a match is postponed for **Two** Consecutive Dates due to inclement weather conditions, the Team who was to play away from home shall have choice of ground on the Third Date. If necessary Teams then to Alternate Venues until the game is played

**15 (c).** Cup matches may be played on a home and away basis if authorised by **“The Committee”** with the aggregate scores deciding the winners. If the aggregate scores are level at the end of the two matches, two periods of extra time will be played. If still drawn at the end of extra time, away goals to count as double.

If this still does not produce a winner penalty kicks will be taken to decide a winner.

**15 (d).**  In Cup competitions under the jurisdiction of the league a Team who receives a, Bye in the First Cup competition will not again receive a Bye in the Same Season until all other Teams have had the same opportunity to receive a Bye**.** “The Committee” will decide on the Number of Byes required in Each Competition and Draw these prior to the main Draw being made.

***15 (e).*** A player can only play for One team in any Cup Competition during the season and is therefore subject to being cup-tied if transferred. Any contravention of this Rule will be dealt with by “The Committee” as they may determine.

**15 (f).**  In cup ties including semi-finals the Team First drawn out of the ballot will have choice of ground. This

Team will then be the home Team who will be responsible for lifting gate receipts retaining such receipts after payment of expenses. In semi-finals where the receipts do not cover the Assistant Referees expenses these will be paid from league funds.

**15 (g).**  All Cup Final gate receipts will be retained by the league after payment of expenses.

**15 (h).** Each Team competing in Cup Finals under the jurisdiction of the League must make available to **“The Committee”** Three People to carry out Genera/Stewarding Duties as Directed by **“The Committee”.**

**15 (i).** Teams competing in All Cup Finals should not be allocated games, less than **Three Days** before a Final.

(Unless the Team(s) requests a game)

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***Free Saturday.***

**Rule. 16.**  All Teams will be allowed **One Free Saturday during the Season.** Requests for this must be made to the

Secretary not later than **Fourteen Days** prior to the Date Requested

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***Protests and Claims.***

**Rule 17 (a).**  The secretary must be in possession of any Protests or Claim within Four Days after the cause of such Protest or Claim accompanied with a **Fee of Five Pounds**.

A copy of the Protest or Claim must be sent to theclub protested against by **Special Delivery** bearing **Postmark Dated within Four Days** after the cause of Protest or Claim. In no case will the deposit be returned unless the protest or claim is upheld, not lodged according to rule, withdrawn or not discussed by “The Committee”.

**Rule 17 (b).** All Protests or Claims against Ineligible Players must bear Players Names and cause of Protest or Claim. Where applicable the necessary evidence to substantiate the Protest or Claim must be provided.

All protests or Claims must be signed by a **Responsible Person of** the club who lodges such, otherwise the Protest or Claim will be judged as not being lodged according to rule.

**Note: - Sundays and Statutory Public Holidays are not applicable in the Computation of Time in Above Rule**

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***Club Behaviour.***

**Rule 18(a).** Members shall at all times take all such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure the safety, good conduct and behaviour of their supporters. Members reported for the systematic interference with the play of opposing Teams by use of Physical or Verbal means, or Physically or Verbally abusing Match Officials, or inciting their own Club Members or Supporters to use violence on Opponents or Match Officials will be dealt with by **“The Committee”** as they may determine.

**Rule 18(b).** Teams with home advantage are responsible for the Safety of Match Officials at All Times. This includes whilst they are in the Dressing Room Complex, in Transit from Dressing Rooms to Pitch and Vice Versa or in Transit from the Dressing Rooms to their Transport after a Match. Teams found to be in breach of this rule will be dealt with by **“The Committee”** as they may determine.

 **8**

***Player of Year Nominations.***

**Rule 19.**  For selecting the Player of the Year, each Team to nominate on the form provided a maximum of **Two Nominations** from their own Team for the award. The form when completed to be returned to the league secretary

**Note:**

All Players nominated must have played in at least **75%** of their clubs games under the jurisdiction of the Ballymena and Provincial Football League.

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***Club Person of the Year Nominations***

**Rule 20.** For selecting the Sportsperson of the Year, each Team to nominate on the form provided a maximum of **Two Nominations** from their own Team for the award. The form when completed to be returned to the league secretary

**Note:**

All Players nominated must have played in at least **75%** of their clubs games under the jurisdiction of the Ballymena and Provincial Football League.

Other persons Nominated must have been involved in at least **75%** of their clubs games under the jurisdiction of the Ballymena and Provincial Football League.

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***Young Player of Year Nominations.***

**Rule 21.**  For selecting the Young Player of the Year, each Team to nominate on the form provided a maximum of **Two Nominations** from their own Team for the award. The form when completed to be returned to the league secretary

**Note:**

Players nominated must be **Under 21 Years of Age** **on May 31st of the current season** and have played in at least **50%** of their Teams games under the jurisdiction of the Ballymena and Provincial Football league.

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***Manager of the Year Award.***

**Rule 22.** For selecting the Manager of The Year the secretary will draw up a list of the Managers names and circulate to all clubs.

When completed the form to be returned to the league Secretary

**Note :- Clubs cannot vote for their own Manager.**

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***Fair Play team of the Year.***

**Rule 23.** For selecting the Winning Fair Play Team of the Year the secretary will draw up a list of the team’s names and circulate to all clubs. When completed the form to be returned to the league secretary

**Note: - Clubs cannot vote for their own Team.**

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***Deciding Award Winners***

**Rule 24.**

Nomination sheets for All the Individual Awards plus Manager of the Year will be issued to teams via email or at the April Monthly Meeting of the current season.

On Receipt of the Completed Nomination forms the secretary will draw up a list of candidates for each Individual Award plus Manager and Fair Play Team of the Year award and circulate via email to the teams for them to cast their votes.

Clubs then to complete and return to the league secretary by no later than the date of the May Monthly meeting of the current season.

If “The Committee” deem there is an unacceptable response they shall have the power to dispense with the award(s) for the season.

**Note:**

If a team fails to participate in voting for the awards they will automatically deem their own members to be excluded from receiving an award.

**Note: - Teams will have a Maximum of Two Votes for Each Award but Cannot Vote for their Own Players, Team or Manager.**

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**Rule 25.** The winner of any award, either Individual or Team will be decided by whoever fulfils the criteria applicable and then polls the highest number of votes being declared the winner.

All Awards are applicable to both Intermediate and Junior Grade

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***Safekeeping of Trophies.***

**Rule 26.** Where a Club or Individual has won trophies, the Club or Individual involved will ensure the safekeeping and return of the trophies in good condition when they are required. If **“The Committee”** feels that such requests have not been adhered too, they will have the authority to insist that all costs of recovery, repair and replacement shall be met by the Club or Individual concerned.

**Note:- All Trophies to be returned to the League Secretary by the September Monthly Meeting unless “The Committee” agrees otherwise.**

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***Enquiries from Others.***

**Rule 27.** Enquiries from other Affiliated League’s or Associations requesting information regarding players etc must be made in writing to the league secretary. Information will only be given if the request is made by the secretary or his/her deputy of the said organisation requesting information. The league secretary will have the authority to supply the information if he/she believes the

Request is a bona fide one

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***Annual Dinner***

**Rule 28.** For the Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation Function Clubs shall **Purchase a Minimum of Two Tickets.**

Members will be advised as to the Cost Per Head for the Function by “The Committee” at the April Monthly Meeting

Tickets for the Function will be supplied to the Clubs at the May Monthly Meeting and Must be Paid in Full at the same Meeting

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***Secretary and Treasurer Annual Report.***

**Rule 29.** The Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Annual reports will be read out at the League’s Annual General Meeting.

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***Enquiry on Player Registration***

**Rule 30.** For a fee of **One Pound** officials of clubs shall be permitted to make enquiry regarding the registration of an individual player registered with the league by their opponents. This request must be made to the league Secretary in writing. In order to comply with the Data Protection Act the information provided will only state if the player is registered or not.

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***Fines.***

**Rule 31.** All Fines imposed by the League on Teams or Clubs must be paid in Full within Fourteen Days from the Date the Fine was Imposed.

Example: - If a fine is imposed on the 1st Day of a Month the Fine must be paid by the 15th Day of the same Month.

Teams failing to pay fines as per rule shall be suspended from the league until the Monday after such a fine is paid. Teams suspended will forfeit the games they were to play within the suspension period to their opponents 3-0.

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***Communications.***

**Rule 32.**

All clubs must have access to an email address in order to be able to receive communication from the league secretary etc.

It would be advantageous if Team Secretaries had direct access to their Teams Email Address.

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***Money Owed to the League***

**Rule 33.**

**Any Team who fail to honour their financial obligations throughout the Season from whatever source and are sanctioned with a suspension which remains in place on the Monday preceding the Date of the AGM of that Season, shall not be allowed to attend the AGM and may lose their Membership for the following Season.**

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***Admission to Matches***

**Rule 34.**

The home team in any game played under the jurisdiction of the league has the authority to lift an Admission Fee of up to a Maximum of £5.00 per person in each Game.

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