

## 2022 FOOTBALL & LEAGUE REGULATIONS

1. Coiste Contae Ard Mhacha will make the draws for the 1st round of the Senior, Intermediate Junior and U.19 Championships at a meeting of its choice, with the remaining rounds being drawn at subsequent times
2. The Fixtures in the County Handbook are the Official Fixtures, but Dates and Times of matches may be amended by written notice from the CCC Secretary, by reference to the Press or at County Committee meetings, provided that **TWO** clear days' notice be given. The CCC Secretary shall also have the power to re-fix matches that have been postponed.
3. All club fees, which will be payable to Coiste Contae Ard Mhacha for the following year, shall be agreed at the October meeting of the County Committee of the previous year(s). These fees (*which shall be in sterling or equivalent value at time of payment*) shall then be collected in three tranches as follows: -
  - 25% on or prior to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022
  - 25% on or prior to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022
  - Remainder on, or prior to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Failure to meet one or any of these deadlines shall entail no further fixtures for offending club(s) with matches being awarded to opponents until outstanding payment is made. Clubs with outstanding fees at the end of the financial year (*30<sup>th</sup> September*) shall not be eligible to participate in the following years competitions.

Public Liability and Property Insurance to be paid in full by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Penalty:** For non-payment of Public Liability or Property Insurance – closure of ground until payment is made.

All other fees shall be paid by the prescribed date.

4. The Armagh All-County Football Leagues will be based on 5 Divisions initially. One of which shall consist of 8 teams in Senior A, One of which shall consist of 7 teams Intermediate A, two of which shall be 9 teams Senior B and Intermediate B with remaining teams in Junior Football League. On conclusion of Junior League, it will split into Junior A and Junior B These Divisions shall be known as:
  - Senior A Football League; 8 Teams
  - Senior B Football League; 9 Teams
  - Intermediate A Football League; 8 Teams
  - Intermediate B Football League; 9 Teams
  - Junior Football League; 12 Teams
  - Junior A Football League; 6 Teams
  - Junior B Football League; 6 Teams

Fixtures to be on a 'Home & Away' basis in Senior and Intermediate league. Junior League will be 1 way league, at the conclusion of the one-way League the League will split into Junior A and Junior B. Proposed League Placing to be as per positions at the end of the 2021 All-County Football Leagues

**Winners, Promotion and Relegation shall be as follows: -**

**Senior A Football League (8 teams)**

Winner is the team that finishes top of the league.

Bottom two teams shall be relegated to Senior B Football League

**Senior B Football League (9 teams)**

Winner is the team that finishes top of the league, they shall be promoted to Senior A Football League

Second placed team shall be promoted to Senior A Football League

Bottom three teams shall be relegated to Intermediate A Football League

*(If Senior Football Championship winners finish in either of the bottom three places they shall not be relegated. In this instance the team finishing fourth from bottom shall be relegated)*

**Intermediate A Football League (7 teams)**

Winner is the team that finishes top, they shall be promoted to Senior B Football League

Intermediate Championship winners shall also be promoted to Senior B Football League

*(If Intermediate Football Championship winners finish in top position then second placed team shall also be promoted to Senior B Football League)*

Bottom two team shall be relegated to Intermediate B Football League

*(If Intermediate Football Championship winners finish in either of the bottom places they shall not be relegated. In this instance the team finishing third from bottom shall be relegated)*

**Intermediate B Football League (9 teams)**

Winner is the team that finishes top, they shall be promoted to Intermediate A Football League

Second placed team shall also be promoted to Intermediate A Football League, except where Intermediate Football Championship winners come from this league then second placed team shall not be promoted – in the event of the winners of the Intermediate Football Championship finishing top of this league then the second placed team shall be promoted

Bottom three teams shall be relegated to Junior A Football League

*(If Intermediate Football Championship winners finish in either of the bottom three places they shall not be relegated. In this instance the team finishing fourth from bottom shall be relegated)*

**Junior A Football League (6 teams)**

Winner is team that finishes top, they shall be promoted to Intermediate B Football League

Junior Football Championship winners shall also be promoted to Intermediate B Football League

*(If Junior Football Championship winners finish in top position then second placed team shall also be promoted to Intermediate B Football League)*

Bottom two teams shall be relegated to Junior B Football League

**Junior B Football League (6 teams)**

Winner is team that finishes top, they shall be promoted to Junior A Football League

Second place team shall also be promoted to Junior A Football League, second placed team shall also be promoted to Intermediate A Football League, except where Junior Football Championship winners come from this league then second placed team shall not be promoted - in the event of the winners of the Junior Football Championship finishing top of this league then the second placed team shall be promoted

## **For 2022, the following shall apply to the Junior Football Leagues:**

### **Junior Football League (12 teams)**

All junior teams play each other in one round of fixtures giving each team eleven games. After Round 11 (11 games per team) the league will be split into Junior A Football League (teams 1-6) and Junior B Football League (teams 7-12) with points totals carried through. Each team in Junior A Football League will play each other once more giving a total of 16 games played. Winner is the team that finishes top and shall be promoted to Intermediate B Football League for 2023. Junior Football Championship winners shall also be promoted to Intermediate B Football League for 2023. (If Junior Football Championship winners finish in top position then second placed team shall also be promoted to Intermediate B Football League for 2023). There will be no relegation to Junior B Football League in 2023. Each team in Junior B Football League will play each other once more giving a total of 16 games played. Winner is the team that finishes top and shall be promoted to Junior A Football League for 2023.

**Trophies & Medals:** The winners of each league shall receive a Cup plus **24** medals. The runners-up in each league shall receive 24 medals

## **5. Championship Format: Straight Knock Out**

### **6. Championship Status**

All teams shall have no option other than to play in their respective championships relative to their league status – i.e. All teams in the senior league ('A' and 'B') shall participate in the senior championship; All teams in the intermediate league ('A' and 'B') shall participate in the intermediate championship and all teams in the junior league ('A' and 'B') shall play in the Junior Championship.

Under-19 Football Championship - Teams shall participate in their current adult championship grade or higher. Teams who wish to participate at a lower grade than their current adult championship grade may make written representations to the CCC (by a date decided by CCC) who shall make the final decision. The CCC shall decide as to which grade amalgamated teams shall participate.

Those eligible for the 'B' Championship shall be those who have not played in the previous or current year's County Junior, Intermediate or Senior Football Championship or in the previous or current year's Ulster Club and/or All-Ireland Football Championships. Except where a 'seconds' team has withdrawn from the adult Junior league and championship, having competed in both in the previous year, then its players will be considered eligible for the 'B' Championship provided that they have not played in the previous or current year's County Intermediate or Senior Championship.'

### **7. Hosting Club**

Clubs hosting Armagh Championship fixtures shall receive 15% of the gate receipts (minimum payment £50). In addition, where floodlights are used, the host club shall receive a payment to defray the cost (minimum £80) prior to or on the night of the fixtures.

### **8. Matches may only be put off on the following grounds: -**

**(a)** A death in **(i)** the immediate family circle (father, mother, wife, husband, brother, sister, child) or in **(ii)** the household of a registered player or registered committee member this shall also apply to day of the funeral. The relevant club secretary must make contact with the **CCC**

**secretary** at the earliest opportunity and provide satisfactory evidence that the deceased had the necessary link with **(i)** or **(ii)** above within **SEVEN (7)** days, as failure to do so will entail the award of the game to their opponents.

**(b)** When two clubs are in agreement to cancel an official fixture, the **CCC secretary** shall be informed, by written Notification signed by the secretaries of both clubs, at least **FOURTEEN (14)** days prior to the official fixture. The **CCC secretary** acting on behalf of the **Competitions Control Committee** shall have the sole power to re-fix the game, which will be at an earlier date to the original fixture.

**(c)** Games which have been re-fixed may only be put off as per **(a)** of this Regulation. Non-compliance of **(a)**, **(b)** and / or **(c)** shall be dealt with under **Football & League Regulation 12**.

9. A **club** calling off a match must notify the opposing team, Football Fixtures Secretary and Referee. Except in the case of a death, notification must be given as per **Football & League Regulation 8 (b)**. A Club which defaults shall be dealt with in accordance with **Football & League Regulation 12**.
10. If there is a doubt regarding the play-ability of a pitch the home club shall **4 Hours** before starting time contact an Independent Member of the **Competitions Control Committee** to arrange an inspection of the pitch, and the decision of the latter shall be final. In the case of the **Athletic Grounds Armagh** and **Davitt Park Lurgan**, the decision will rest with the **Grounds Committee**. The home club will then contact the **CCC Secretary**, with the relevant details, who will then have the power to reverse the fixture if possible. If a Club fails to follow these procedures **Football League Regulation 12** will apply.
11. When the match cannot take place on the appointed Sunday because of regulations 8 **a, or b**, during the period **3rd Sunday in April to 2nd Sunday in August inclusive**, it must be played on the following **Friday** evening (provided clubs involved have not already been allocated a fixture on that date in which case **CCC** will inform clubs of re-fixture date). The penalties described in **Football League Regulation 12** shall apply to a team that does not conform to this regulation.
12. When a **team** defaults in an official fixture, the **Competitions Control Committee** shall determine the penalties, which shall include the deduction of points already won, two **(2)** points deducted for first offence, four **(4)** points deducted for second offence) and /or fines, to be imposed as well as the outcome of the match.
13. A **team** that has forfeited the points for **three (3)** matches shall be expelled from the league, points for un-played matches shall be awarded to the opposing team, and next season must apply to the **County Committee** for re- admission. **Competitions Control Committee** shall then decide in which division, the team is to play in
14. When a team is over **15 minutes** late in fielding it shall be fined **£10** and if over **30 minutes** late it shall also forfeit the points. Teams shall wait for 30 minutes before leaving the field in the case of non-appearance of the referee at the starting time of a game.
15. When **fines** are imposed the time allowed for payment shall be **4 weeks** from the date of imposition. **Teams** in default will receive no more fixtures until fine is paid and points for un-played matches will be awarded to the opposing team.

16. A **club** shall not be allowed to take part in the League until players and officials have been registered and a list submitted to the County Committee and the points for any un-played matches shall be awarded to the opposing teams.
17. A **club** against whom **two cautions** has been recorded; regarding the conduct of its spectators shall be suspended for the remainder of the season for any similar offence. Points for un-played matches shall be awarded to the opposing teams, and next season must apply to the **County Committee** for re-admission. The **County Committee** shall decide in which Division, if any, the team is to play.
18. When there is a **clash of colours** in league matches the home team shall change. Penalty for non-compliance: award of game to opponents upon proven objection of other team.
19. The following regulations shall apply to clubs who wish to enter a second team in the all-county league: -
- A. New applications, in writing, must reach the County Secretary by **1st January** of the year in which they wish to participate. This application will be considered at the first meeting of the **County Committee** after **1st January**.
- B. Each application must be accompanied by a list of **twenty-four (24)** players who shall be ineligible to play for the second team. Clubs which currently have a second team in the all-county league shall also submit a list of **twenty-four (24)** players who shall be ineligible to play for their second team by **1st January**.
- C. All clubs shall be circulated with a copy of these list(s) at least **seven (7)** days prior to the date of the first **County Committee** meeting after **1st January** at which list(s) will be ratified or otherwise.
- D. A club wishing to replace a player from the list of **twenty-four (24)** with another player must make application, in writing explaining the reason(s), to the secretary of **Competitions Control Committee (CCC)**. The CCC's decision shall be final
- E. In the event of the first team being relegated to the Junior 'B' league then the second team shall not be permitted to participate in the following years League.
- F. Clubs with a team in the junior league shall not be permitted to enter a second team.
- G. The first team shall always play in the higher division with the second team conceding promotion or accepting relegation to prevent this occurring.
- H. In this instance (g) the next placed team outside the promotion places will be promoted and the highest placed team within the relegation places of the division will not be relegated.
- I. A player may not play in any lower league division once he has played in any higher league division in the same season except as per County Bye Law

*A junior or intermediate graded player who finds himself excluded from returning to his clubs junior or intermediate team (by virtue of the fact that he made an appearance for his club's senior team) may make a written application to the CCC to request permission to return to play at his previously approved junior or intermediate grade. The CCC will consider and decide on all applications of this nature.*

**Penalties-** For a second team including a player from the current list of twenty-four (24) ineligible players and/or including a player as per Regulation 19i the following penalties shall apply-

**Player-** 12-week suspension;

**Team-** On a proven Objection-Award of game to the opposing team. On an inquiry by the Committee in charge- Forfeiture of game without award of game to the opposing team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances

**Club Chairperson and Secretary-** 12 months' suspension.

20. Fixtures involving senior, intermediate or junior teams in the Armagh Reserve/'B' League shall be 15-a-side with the option of 13-a-side if agreed by both teams.
21. For Junior Football League only, games will be 13-a-side but where both teams have 17 or more players the game will proceed as 15-a-side.