

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Membership of the Northern Ireland Women's Football Association (NIWFA) shall be granted to a club who satisfy the NIWFA Committee during an interview process, that they can meet the NIWFA Entry Criteria.

The committee will also take into account the effect on established local clubs already in membership. This will also apply to any member club wishing to register an additional team. Any additional team will have to satisfy the NIWFA Committee via the same process, and the same criteria will be applied.

1.2 If a club already in membership merges with another club (or is taken over by another club) or changes its name and receives approval to do so from the IFA's Football Committee as a continuation of an existing entity, then their team(s) will retain their league position(s). Otherwise, a club that fundamentally changes their identity will be treated as a new entity and will be placed at bottom of the league structure. Both clubs will be interviewed prior to league registration, as in Rule 1.1.

1.3 No club shall be deemed in membership of the NIWFA until all registration documents have been accepted and the required fees have been paid. Documentation and fees are required to be paid by 16 January each year.

1.4 No team can participate in the women's season unless it has been affiliated to its Divisional Association by 1 March. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that their IFA affiliation has been completed appropriately. Any match played while a team is not affiliated will be adjudged to have been lost, and a score line of three nil shall be recorded in favour of their opponents.

1.5 Membership of the NIWFA shall constitute an agreement between the NIWFA and each club to be bound by and comply with FIFA Regulations, UEFA Statutes, the Rules and Articles of the Irish Football Association, NIWFA Rules, the Laws of the Game, and the Rules and Regulations of any body of which the NIWFA is a member.

1.6 The NIWFA Committee has the power to deal with all matters relating to the operation and administration of the NIWFA league. This includes the power to establish, implement, and enforce minimum operating standards for clubs and teams. The Committee is also responsible for making decisions about the structure and composition of leagues, while taking into account sporting merit and the number of registered teams. If promotion, relegation, or the withdrawal of team(s) creates an imbalance within divisions, the NIWFA Committee reserves the right to fill vacancies or adjust league structures as needed, while maintaining the principle of sporting merit.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

2 GENERAL

- 2.1 All clubs are required to pay a good behaviour bond upon acceptance to the NIWFA. The bond will only be returned to the club should it leave the league, and they have no outstanding fines or debts. The bond will not be returned to any club who is expelled from the league for any reason.
- 2.2 Each club must register with the NIWFA the full address of their home venue, to be approved by the NIWFA. It is expected that the changing rooms shall be adjacent to the pitch, and away teams should be informed if this is not so. It is the responsibility of clubs to notify alterations to the NIWFA Secretary immediately.
- 2.3 Member Clubs can make proposals for changes to either the Rules and/or the Constitution at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting, by following the procedures as laid out in the Constitution.
- 2.4 Club(s), player(s), and official(s) must abide by the NIWFA Code of Conduct. Any breach of the Code of Conduct will be deemed a sanctionable offence and will be subject to any sanctions against the club deemed appropriate by the NIWFA Committee.
- 2.5 The NIWFA Committee shall be responsible for choosing suitable grounds and dates for the staging of finals or playoffs of competitions organised by the league.
- 2.6 All Clubs must send a representative to NIWFA meetings as arranged. This could be in person or via an online platform. Failure to do so will result in a fine as set out in NIWFA Tariffs.
- 2.7 It shall be the responsibility of winning clubs to return their cups to the Association on or before team registration each season (or earlier if so requested by the Association). Winning clubs shall return cups in good or like condition and shall be liable for any costs in the event that cups are destroyed, stolen, lost, or damaged whilst in the possession of the club. The Registered Secretary and one other club official will be expected to sign for any trophy, acknowledging receipt and the conditions attached to retention.
- 2.8 All clubs must register Managers, Coaches and Officials (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).
- a) It is the responsibility of clubs to notify alterations to the NIWFA Secretary immediately, and attention is drawn to the responsibilities and obligations on registered officials in these rules.
 - b) At each game, every official listed on COMET must have completed IFA Safeguarding training and have valid AccessNI disclosure.
 - c) At least one member of coaching staff must have at least an NCC qualification.
 - (d) Clubs failing to comply with this rule, without a valid reason and prior disclosure to the NIWFA Committee, may be subject to a minimum fine of £50, at the discretion of the NIWFA Committee.
- 2.9 Each team in the league shall register its colours and alternative colours with the league secretary as part of team registration.
- 2.10 Clubs with two or more teams competing in the NIWFA League must maintain the status of the team playing at the highest level. Should a club be unable to sustain two teams the team playing in the lower division will be removed from the NIWFA.
- 2.11 All clubs shall retain their own gate receipts.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

- 2.12 The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.
- 2.13 If a club has more than one team competing in the NIWFA League, then any player who is named in the starting 11 in a league match for any Team will be ineligible to play in the next league match(es) for any Team playing at a lower level, until after the Team at the higher level has played again.
- 2.14 Two teams from the same club will not be permitted to play in the same NIWFA division. A team will be denied promotion if its First Team is in the division above. Similarly, when a First Team is relegated to a lower division of which its Second Team is a member, the Second Team must accept relegation to the next lowest division, and should the First team be relegated to the lowest division, its Second Team automatically retires from the league.
- 2.15 Each club must have a club email address for league correspondence, accessible by more than one club official. All club correspondence must be submitted via an NIWFA registered club email address. Correspondence received from other email addresses will not be accepted by NIWFA Committee, and any such correspondent will be advised to re-submit via a registered club secretary.

3 RANKING OF TEAMS

- 3.1 Each club shall play home and away fixtures in NIWFA League competitions. All matches shall be played under the rules and regulations of the Irish Football Association and of the NIWFA and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat.
- 3.3 At the end of the respective NIWFA League championship the club scoring the largest number of points shall be declared the champion club of the league.
In the case of equality of points teams shall be ranked in accordance with the following criteria:
- i. Superior points gained in matches between the teams in question;
 - ii. Aggregate score in head-to-head matches
 - iii. Highest goals scored in all league matches
 - iv. Least goals conceded in all league matches
- Should equality still be the case at the end of the process above, the NIWFA will host a 'play off' match to determine the Champion club. In the event of a drawn 'play off' game, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to decide the winner.
- This process will also apply to decide matters of relegation and play-off positions where two clubs complete the season on equal points.
- 3.4 If required, NIWFA play-offs shall take place at a venue(s) determined by the league committee before the end of the NIWFA season (31 October).

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

- 3.5 Subject to a qualifying club meeting the NIFL licensing criteria and application process, and subject to agreement by NIFL and NIWFA, Promotion and Relegation between the NIFL Premiership and NIWFA Championship League will be determined and communicated before the commencement of the incoming competitive season.
- 3.6 Promotion and Relegation between the NIWFA divisions will be, in principle, on the following basis:
- i. The bottom two clubs in the higher NIWFA division shall be relegated
 - ii. Champion and runner-up Clubs in the lower division will be promoted.

4 MATCHES

- 4.1 Matches must be played on natural turf or artificial turf. It should be noted that a match referee has the power to declare any pitch unplayable.
- 4.2 All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and in accordance with the Articles and Rules of the IFA and also of the NIWFA. All NIWFA League matches shall be played on the dates scheduled at the commencement of the season, except when:
- i. Otherwise directed by the NIWFA
 - ii. A club requests the deferral of a fixture for exceptional circumstances and this is agreed by the NIWFA
 - iii. National Cup and/or Divisional Association Cup ties take precedence
 - iv. A club is competing in a UEFA tournament
 - v. International match exemptions apply, as per IFA Football Regulation 39(d)
 - vi. A club has requested a "Free Date" (where the term free date refers to the actual match date and the fixture may be played on an alternative date) by agreeing a new date with their opposing team not later than 28 days from the original date, and notifying the Fixtures Secretary (or Deputy) and the opposing team by email, giving a minimum of two weeks' notice and providing the new agreed date. Clubs will only be permitted one free date.
- 4.3 Matches shall not be played out of sequence unless with the prior approval of the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary or Deputy.
- 4.4 In the event of a home club having to change their pre-arranged or approved (by the NIWFA Committee) match venue, they must notify their opponents registered Secretary, the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary and Referee Coordinator not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time of the game.
Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined a sum of £100 and shall forfeit three points, such points shall be accredited to the opposing team and a score line of 3 goals to nil awarded to their opponents.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

- 4.5 In the event of a club unable to fulfil an arranged fixture, they must notify their opponents registered Secretary, the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary and Referee Coordinator not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time of the game. In the event that a club does not comply with this requirement, the NIWFA Committee, upon investigation, shall be empowered to order compensation be made to the other club for actual club expenses incurred for such a match. Such club shall also be fined as per NIWFA Tariffs. The Fixtures Secretary shall register a three nil score line in favour of the opponent team. In addition, the offending team will be deducted 3 points.
- 4.5(a) A club failing to fulfil an arranged match for a third time in the same season shall be dismissed from membership of the NIWFA.
- 4.6 A club that has left or been expelled from the league may not re-apply for two full seasons.
- 4.7 Postponed matches shall be played on a date not later than 28 days from the original scheduled date. The home club must reach agreement with their opponent and notify the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary and Referee Co-Coordinator within 72 hours of the original scheduled kick-off, or if postponement is due to application of Rule 4.2 iii then any re-scheduling must be confirmed within 5 working days of the date of the Cup Draw. If no agreement is notified to the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary and Referee Co-Coordinator within the time limit the NIWFA will impose a date.
- 'Postponed' means:
- i. The fixture is postponed due to a ground being declared "unplayable" by a qualified referee or ground provider. Any home club unable to obtain a ground call-off pitch decision that can be confirmed by a governing authority may call for a "pitch Inspection" by calling on the referees' coordinator. The club will be directly responsible for any referee's fees and expenses.
 - ii. The fixture is postponed by the Senior or parent association or local authority.
 - iii. A club requests postponement of their scheduled fixtures during the period of release of (i) their goalkeeper or (ii) two or more players who have been selected to represent their National Association representative team. In such circumstances, the club requesting the postponement must notify the Referee Coordinator, the Fixtures Secretary and the opposing team by email no less than 48 hours before the fixture was due to take place. Failure to do so will result in any additional costs incurred becoming liable to the club.
- 4.8 All NIWFA matches shall be of 90 mins duration - 45 minutes each way with a half time break no longer than 15 mins. All mid-season matches shall have a common start time of 7.30pm. For early and late season matches (before mid-May or after mid-August), as directed by the Fixtures Secretary at the start of the season, matches shall start at 7pm unless floodlights are available. The home team shall supply a minimum of two match balls and ensure there are appropriate nets on the goals and corner flags. Should the start time require modification, agreement should be reached between the respective clubs and both clubs shall notify the NIWFA Fixtures Secretary and Referee Coordinator no less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- 4.9 Should a team not turn up in "Reasonable Time", they shall forfeit their fixture and the points shall be awarded to the opposing club, subject to NIWFA Committee agreement. "Reasonable Time" should be understood to mean that the kick-off time will not be delayed more than 20

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

minutes after the fixed starting time. A team running late should inform the hosting club of an anticipated arrival time no later than 30 minutes prior to the original kick-off time.

- 4.10 Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed fixture, if a minimum of 70 minutes have been completed or the unfinished time may be ordered to be played, or the fixture ordered to be replayed in its entirety.
- 4.11 If a club is found to have caused the abandonment of a match, it will be sanctioned in accordance with Article 19.1 of the IFA Disciplinary Code, with a minimum fine of £200. The NIWFA Committee will decide on the outcome of the match following the outcome of any disciplinary inquiry into the abandonment.
- 4.11 (a) Where any incident is subject to a disciplinary investigation by the IFA or Divisional Association, the NIWFA reserve the power to await the outcome of any such investigation prior to taking any action it deems fit surrounding the playing of the match, the result of the match and the clubs involved.
- 4.12 Any Clubs involved in a game that is ordered to be replayed will be jointly responsible for the cost of the venue and officials, except where the NIWFA direct otherwise.
- 4.13 In order to allow for the accurate recording of goals and disciplinary sanctions, the player's shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and must correspond exactly with the IFA Football Management System match line-up before any match under the jurisdiction of the NIWFA. The team captain must wear a distinguishing armband to indicate their position within the team, as per the Laws of the Game.
- 4.14 Each club shall input their team line-up including the full names of players and club officials taking part in each match (including the names of the nominated substitutes) via the IFA Football Management System 15 minutes prior to kick off. Should a match venue not have a data signal, secretaries or other responsible persons acting for competing clubs shall notify the referee of these details in writing, prior to kick-off.
- 4.15 Breaches of team line-up rules may be subject to an appropriate sanction as the NIWFA Committee deems appropriate, in line with NIWFA Tariffs.
- 4.16 Results will only be recognised on receipt of the official notification from the referee that the match has been played. It is the responsibility of the referee to submit the result notification, goal scorers, substitutions, and disciplinary sanctions for each team on the IFA Football Management System to the NIWFA within 24 hours.
- 4.17 Any team not wearing their registered Home/Away kit (as appropriate) must notify their opposition in writing five days in advance. In the event of the two teams having the same colours, the Home Team must change.
- 4.18 In all fixtures under the auspices of the NIWFA the home club shall be responsible for all expenses including the referee's fee and travelling expenses. This does not apply to teams deemed the home club in matches the NIWFA has responsibility for hosting.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

- 4.19 Where a team is unable or unwilling to complete an allocated fixture programme either through suspension, expulsion or any other reason, their record to date will be removed from the league and their membership will be cancelled. For promotion/relegation purposes the team will be counted as a relegated team from their division.
- 4.20 Where a team has failed to play any matches in the League during the current season, either through resignation, suspension, expulsion or any other reason, it will be considered for the purposes of promotion/relegation that such team has not existed in the league during the current season.
- 4.21 All league matches must be played before the Cup Final for that division, unless NIWFA Committee approval has been given.
- 4.22 The Fixtures Secretary may refer any request for a fixture postponement back to the Committee for consideration if they deem the request to be frivolous in nature. Where it is proven that a club has attempted to misuse NIWFA rules for their benefit they shall be subject to a sanction as determined by members of the Committee who have no conflict of interest in the league or competition under consideration.

5 PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Player Registration/Eligibility Guidelines

- 5.1 All players must be registered in accordance with the IFA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations and the NIWFA Player Registration/Eligibility Guidelines.
- 5.2 In accordance with IFA Football Regulation 29, a player shall only be eligible to play competitive football in an NIWFA league or cup competition if they will be at least 16 years old by the end of the current year, i.e. 31 December.
- 5.3 Only amateur players are permitted to play in the NIWFA League. The NIWFA does not permit the 'loan' of players
- 5.4 No player may be registered for more than one club at a time. Any club registering a player via the IFA Football Management System for more than one club will be investigated and dealt with by the NIWFA Committee and/or the IFA.
- 5.5 All player registrations must be submitted via the IFA Football Management System by the Club Registrar, prior to 12 noon the day before the scheduled kick off time of a game the player intends to play in.
- 5.6 In accordance with Article 8.1 of the IFA Amateur Game Player Registration Regulations, amateur players (with an active registration) moving clubs will be required to complete a transfer. The transfer instruction must be submitted and approved by both clubs involved via the Football Management System. No NIWFA club may transfer more than 2 players from any other NIWFA club in any season. As per Articles 9 (Bridge Transfer) and Article 15 (Cancellation

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

of a Registration and Retirement) players are not permitted to use an intermediate club or terminate a registration in order to circumvent this rule

- 5.7 Any player whose registration was last held outside of the IFA's jurisdiction requires an International Transfer Certificate as outlined in the FIFA Regulations governing the Status and Transfer of Players, before they can play in any NIWFA competition.
- 5.8 Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to different national associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in autumn/winter as opposed to spring/summer) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season.
- 5.9 Player Registrations will only be accepted on or after 1 March in any season and no player may be registered after 7 August 5pm in any season. The only exception to this is the emergency registration of a goalkeeper, with NIWFA Committee approval, or the registration of players from a club which has left the league as per Rule 4.19. A player must register each season.
- 5.10 A player will be deemed to have 'played' when they have actively taken part in a game from the start or entered the field of play as a substitute.

Player Ineligibility

- 5.11 Failure to comply with any of the conditions relating to a registration will render the player ineligible to play for the club concerned as not being a bona-fide player.
- 5.12 Any player who is sent off or dismissed in any NIWFA match shall automatically be suspended for the club's next official fixture. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure their players and officials serve any automatic suspension. The Irish Football Association or the respective Divisional Association will advise of any fine and/or further suspension.
- 5.13 Any club playing an ineligible player or players (whether through non-registration, suspension or otherwise) in any match under the jurisdiction of the NIWFA shall be fined as per NIWFA Tariffs. This shall apply to each and every player breaching this rule.
- 5.14 The offending team will forfeit the match(es) in question, and a score line of three nil shall be recorded in favour of their opponents. If applicable, the offending team will also be deducted 3 points. Notwithstanding the above, the winning team shall not be disadvantaged if the original score line was of greater benefit to that team's goal difference.
- 5.15 Should both clubs play an ineligible player or players in any match under the auspices of the NIWFA then both clubs will be fined as per NIWFA Tariffs. If it is a league match, both clubs will be deducted 3 points for the fixture, and both clubs shall have a minus three (-3) goal difference recorded against them. If it is a cup competition, the NIWFA Committee shall determine the outcome of the tie, which may include but is not limited to: a) ordering a replay of the fixture b) removing both clubs from the competition c) any other sanction deemed appropriate in the interests of the competition.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

- 5.16 Nothing in these Regulations shall entitle the NIWFA to deduct points or impose fines for registration offences committed by any club during any previous season. This means that the NIWFA Committee will not hear any player eligibility complaints outside of each playing season.
- 5.17 For the purpose of all NIWFA regulations, a season will be deemed to start on the 1 March and end on 31 October in each year, as per IFA Articles of Association.
- 5.18 If the Committee, has any doubt at any time (whether arising out of a Protest or otherwise) as to the qualification of any player taking part in a competition, they shall have the power to call upon such player and/or club to which she belongs or for which she played to prove she is qualified according to the rules.

Substitute Players

- 5.19 A club may at its discretion use up to a maximum of five substitute players at any time in any match, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitutions can be made in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 5.20 Clubs may nominate up to a maximum of seven substitute players prior to the commencement of the match.
- 5.21 Substitutions may only be made at most 3 occasions during the game (excluding half-time).
- 5.22 After the team sheets have been completed and submitted to the Comet Football Management System, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following shall apply:
- a) If any of the first eleven players named on the team sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced only by any of the seven (7) substitutes named on the confirmed team sheet. The substitute(s) in question can then be replaced by a player(s) not named on the initial team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five (5) players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team sheet and not be available for selection for this fixture.
 - b) If any of the seven (7) substitutes named on the team sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced by any player not named on the confirmed team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five (5) players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team sheet and not be available for selection for this fixture.
 - c) Any amendments to the team sheet in accordance with points a) and b) above must be communicated to the opposing team manager in the presence of one of the Match Officials as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the match.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

6 REFEREES

- 6.1 A referee is entitled to the relevant rate of match fee and travelling expenses of agreed rate per mile, as specified by the IFA and outlined in the NIWFA Tariffs.
- 6.2 Match fees or expenses must be paid by the home team no later than 15 minutes after the game has finished.
- 6.3 Any club failing to fulfil the above rule will be considered to have committed an offence and will be dealt with by the NIWFA Committee.
- 6.4 Any club who feels that a referee has exaggerated any claim for expenses should immediately notify the Northern Ireland Referee Association, so the matter can be fully investigated.
- 6.5 When a referee declares a ground unplayable, or attends a fixture that is not fulfilled, she/he shall receive expenses as follows: - half match fees and full travel expenses, all to be paid by the home team.
- 6.6 The referee's decision is final as to whether a ground is playable.
- 6.7 Should the official referee fail to turn up, the clubs shall decide upon a qualified club referee, who is currently registered with an affiliated referee association. Such fixture shall stand as a competitive match. Should there be no official referee nor qualified club referee available, the fixture will not stand as a competitive game, and the match will be recorded as postponed.
- 6.8 The NIWFA Committee will appoint a referee co-ordinator(s). Referees will be allocated fixtures by a referee co-ordinator(s) and only properly affiliated referees will be utilised.
- 6.9 The Referees' Co-ordinator will nominate the officials to be considered for all NIWFA finals, play-offs, etc. and the NIWFA Committee will have the final decision in the appointments for these games.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

7 NIWFA CUP COMPETITIONS

- 7.1 The NIWFA Committee shall organise one cup competition for each Division (except Club Pathway league/s), where league timescales permit. The NIWFA Committee may organise other cup competitions, if and when it perceives this to be necessary.
- 7.2 Any club refusing or failing to play the club against which it is drawn on the date fixed by the NIWFA Committee without sufficient reasons for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the tie and will be subject to a non-fulfilment fine as per NIWFA Tariffs.
- 7.3 All NIWFA Cup matches will be 45 minutes duration each half with a maximum 15 mins for half time.
- 7.4 In the event of a drawn game at any stage of the competitions, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to decide the winner. All Cup Matches must be played to a finish.
- 7.5 A player shall not be permitted to play for more than one team in any same league cup competition, nor to play in more than one league cup competition in each season. Players must be eligible to play for their club in league matches to qualify for cup competition matches. Any registered player who participates in a NIFL League Cup competition shall not be permitted to play in any NIWFA Cup competitions in the same season.
- 7.6 In cup draws no team shall receive a “bye” in more than one round of any knock-out competitions. A team may also not receive a “bye” into the semi-final/ final unless through a team being suspended from the cup competition or expelled from the NIWFA or there being only four entrants.
- 7.7 NIWFA Cup Matches may not be postponed except under Rule 4.7.
- 7.7a In the event of a match being postponed in accordance with Rule 4.7, the game must be rescheduled to be played on or before the following Monday at the same venue. If the game is not played at the second attempt the fixture will be reversed and played on or before the following Monday.
- 7.8 If the home team’s ground is unavailable, and no alternative can be source, the fixture will be reversed, at the expense of the first drawn team.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

8 PROTESTS/CLAIMS

- 8.1 The NIWFA Committee has the power to deal with all matters pertaining to the NIWFA League Rules.
- 8.2 Where a club wishes to submit a Protest/Claim, they must notify the Association that they intend to do this via an email to the League Secretary by 10pm of the next day after the match or incident.
- 8.3 All protest/claims giving full particulars (including player's full name and/or club details) and supporting evidence must be lodged with the NIWFA Committee, c/o the secretary, before 10pm on the second business day after the match or incident. Email will suffice and the time on the email will be conclusive evidence. The appropriate fee must be sent to the League Treasurer by recorded delivery or through BACS payment (with an email notification to the Treasurer) no later than 48 hours from the time the full complaint was submitted. Fee posting does not include Sundays or public holidays. This fee will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
- 8.4 A copy of any complaint/protest must be emailed to the registered Secretary of the opposing team at the same time.
- 8.5 All clubs, officials or players will be expected to answer any complaint at any hearing called by the NIWFA Committee to deal with the complaint.
- 8.6 Field offences and referees' reports shall be dealt with by the appropriate Divisional Association or in the case of two teams playing from different Divisional Associations, by the IFA Disciplinary Committee. Field offences will be understood to be sanctions (either cautions or dismissals) given to team players/officials under the Laws of the Game, either before, during or after a match.
- 8.7 Any club, official or player can appeal against any NIWFA Committee or IFA Disciplinary decision to the IFA Appeals Committee by following the appeals procedure as laid down in the IFA Articles of Association. It is the responsibility of clubs and their members to be familiar with the IFA Disciplinary Code and Articles of Association and the deadlines therein.

NIWFA LEAGUE RULES

NIWFA TARIFFS

All tariffs for each forthcoming season shall be fixed by the League Committee prior to commencement of the league season and no later than one month before the commencement of the season.

| Annual Subscription | 2026 Tariffs |
|---|--|
| 1 st XI | £150 |
| Any other XI | £75 |
| Referees Fees | £50 plus 35p per mile (as set by IFA Board) |
| Claim/Protest | £80 (to be returned if claim/protest is upheld) |
| Fine for Playing Ineligible Player | £50 each time the player has played |
| Affiliation to IFA and Divisional Association | As set by IFA and Divisional Associations |
| Failure to affiliate to IFA prior to competitions | Up to a maximum of £200 |
| Failure to fulfil fixtures (cup/league) | £100 for first failure |
| | £200 for second failure |
| | Exclusion from league for third failure |
| | £200 for playoff fixture failure |
| Good Behaviour Bond | £75 (which will be refunded minus monies owed if a club resigns from the NIWFA league) |
| Non-attendance at NIWFA meetings | £50 fine for each meeting missed |
| Breach of team line-up rules | £20 per player per incident |
| Breach of Social Media Policy | Up to a maximum of £200 |

Divisional Associations will require direct payment for each team.

All fines must be paid within twenty-one (21) days of notification, with failure to do so resulting in suspension from the league until payment is made and the fine doubling. If the fine is still not paid within a further 14 days, the team will be dismissed from NIWFA membership.

All cheques must be made payable to N.I.W.F.A. and sent to the NIWFA Treasurer at their home address. All BACS payments directly to the NIWFA bank account should identify the team and reason for payment.