

Rule Change Template

Proposed new text in **red bold**

Deleted current text in ~~blue strikethrough~~

Below is an example of how to present your changes

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 5.5 Suitable on-site dressing accommodation must be provided by home Club | 5.5 Suitable on-site dressing accommodation must be provided by home Club. Any club failing to conform to this rule shall be dealt with by the Junior Shield Committee who shall have power to compel the offending Club to pay such expenses or take such action as they may deem expedient. |
| Rationale: Additional wording to provide clarity on the powers available to the Committee should this rule be breached. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>5.6. All weather pitches will not be accepted, however matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf, provided that such turf meets the “FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard”. Matches may be played on grass or 3rd generation (3G) artificial turf.</p> | <p>5.6 All weather pitches will not be accepted, however matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf, provided that such turf meets the “FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard”. Matches may be played on grass or 3rd generation (3G) artificial turf.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Updated wording to align with the recommendation from the IFA Football Committee for the 2024/25 CAFA Women’s Cup rules.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>7.1 To be eligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield, players, (subject to Section 8) must be eligible to play for their Club in their respective league competitions.</p> | <p>7.1 To be eligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield, players, (subject to Section 8) must be eligible to play for their Club in their respective league competitions in the current season.</p> |

Rationale: Clarity that this rule relates specifically to the current season.

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>7.4.1 Failing satisfactory proof, they shall disqualify such player and shall remove the Club from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition, and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons.</p> | <p>7.4.1. Failing satisfactory proof, they shall disqualify such player and shall remove the Club from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition, and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons for a maximum of three seasons.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Allows the Committee the power to debar a team for up to 3 seasons rather than for 3 seasons.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>7.5. A player named as substitute for an Irish Senior or Intermediate Club and not called upon to play, shall not be considered as having played.</p> | <p>7.5. A player named as substitute for an Irish Senior or Intermediate Club and not called upon to play, shall not be considered as having played.</p> |

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| Rationale: Determined that 'Irish' is not required. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.1 A player registering, or re-registering, with his club after the 31st December in any season will not be eligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.1.1. A player registering, or re-registering, with his club after the 31st December in any season will not be eligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition, with the date of registration that as the date the registration is confirmed by Comet.</p> |
| Rationale: Clarity that the date is the date confirmed on Comet. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.3. A player having taken part in the Irish Cup, Senior Challenge Shield, Steel and Sons Cup or Intermediate Cup competitions shall be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield in the same season.</p> | <p>8.1.3 A player having taken part in the Irish Cup, Senior Challenge Shield, Steel and Sons Cup or Intermediate Cup competitions shall be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield in the same season.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Removed the word 'competitions' to avoid any confusion. The rule does not mean that a player who participated in any 'Intermediate' cup competitions is ineligible but specifically a player who has participated in the 'Intermediate Cup'.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.4. A player who has taken part in a Senior International contest or a Senior Interleague game will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.1.4 A player who has taken part in a Senior International contest in the current or previous 3 (three) seasons or a Senior Interleague game will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> |

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| <p>Rationale: Introduced a time period (3 seasons) in line with the IFA Junior Cup rules. Also removed 'Senior Interleague game' as it is not required.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.6. Any player who has at any time taken part in more than 12 (twelve) competitive matches for Irish League/ Premiership Senior Clubs during the previous season 3 (three) seasons will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.1.6. Any player who has at any time taken part in more than 12 (twelve) competitive matches for Irish League/Premiership Senior Clubs during the current and previous season collectively, 3 (three) seasons will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Amended wording in line with IFA Junior Cup and removed 'Premiership' as the Championship is also a Senior League.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.7. Any player who has taken part in more than 4 (four) competitive matches for Irish League/Premiership Senior or Intermediate Status Clubs collectively during the current season will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.1.7. Any player who has taken part in more than 4 (four) (six) competitive matches for Irish League/Premiership Senior or Intermediate Status Clubs collectively during the current season will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> |

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| Rationale: Amended from 4 to 6 in line with IFA Junior Cup rules. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.1.8. Any player who has at any time taken part in more than 12 (twelve) matches during the previous 3 (three) seasons or more than 4 (four) during the current season in a competition senior to the Irish Junior Cup under the jurisdiction of any other National Association will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.1.8. Any player who has at any time taken part in more than 12 (twelve) matches during the previous 3 (three) seasons or more than 4 (four) during the current season in a competition senior to the Irish Junior Cup under the jurisdiction of any other National Association will be ineligible to play in the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Rule is not required.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.2. Any Club playing an ineligible player will be removed from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons.</p> | <p>8.2. Any Club playing an ineligible player will be removed from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons for a maximum of three seasons.</p> |

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| Rationale: Revised wording to give the Committee greater flexibility. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.2.1. The County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall have power to suspend any offending player or official, may impose a fine of £10.00 for each ineligible player played, and may withhold the Shield and Medals if they are satisfied that such Club has violated the rules during the course of the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> | <p>8.2.1 The County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall have power to suspend any offending player or official, may impose a fine of £120.00 for each ineligible player played, and may withhold the Shield and Medals if they are satisfied that such Club has violated the rules during the course of the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Increasing the sanction from £10 to £20.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>8.2.2. If a Club is deemed to have misled the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee in giving evidence, in such case the Club will be removed from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons.</p> | <p>8.2.2 If a Club is deemed to have misled the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee in giving evidence, in such case the Club will be removed from the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Competition and the Club may be debarred from competing during the ensuing three seasons for a maximum of three seasons.</p> |

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| Rationale: To give the Committee greater flexibility on determining an appropriate sanction. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 10.5 In the event of a match not taking place on the date arranged owing to the ground being declared unplayable by the Referee, the teams shall forthwith arrange to play on the following Saturday at the same venue. | 10.5 In the event of a match not taking place on the date arranged owing to the ground being declared unplayable by the Referee, relevant council or groundsmen where clubs have a private ground the teams shall forthwith arrange to play on the following Saturday at the same venue. |
| Rationale: Additional wording to cover additional scenarios. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| | <p>13. Replacement of Players on the Team Sheet</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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 five (5) substitutes named on the</p> |

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| | <p>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, three (3) 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.</p> <p>b) If any of the five (5) 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, three (3) 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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: New rule to cover the replacement of players on the team sheet.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>14.1. The duration of each match, unless otherwise mutually arranged, shall be 90 minutes.</p> | <p>14.1. The duration of each match unless otherwise mutually agreed, shall be 90 minutes.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Wording is not required.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>14.4 The match result must be recorded on the IFA Comet software or emailed to the Secretary of the Association directly after the conclusion of the game but not later than 90 minutes following the conclusion of the game or a £10 fine will be issued.</p> | <p>14.4 The match result must be recorded on the IFA Comet software or and emailed to the Secretary Competitions Manager of the Association directly after the conclusion of the game by the winning Club but not later than 90 minutes following the conclusion of the game or a £10 fine will be issued.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Amended Secretary to Competition Manager. Additional wording to make it clear that the responsibility of submitting the match result is by the winning Club.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>17.1 If a match has been stopped by the Referee before the completion of the time specified in the Rules, for any reason stated in Law 5 (Laws of the Game) or in the event of a player receiving a serious injury, the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall have power, either to order the match to be replayed in full, or allow the result of the match at the time of such stoppage to stand.</p> | <p>17.1 If a match has been stopped by the Match Referee before the completion of the time specified in the Rules, for any reason stated in Law 5 (Laws of the Game) or in the event of a player receiving a serious injury, the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall have power, either to order the match to be replayed in full, or allow the result of the match at the time of such stoppage to stand.</p> |
| <p>Rationale: Added word 'Match' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule.</p> | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| <p>17.2. If a match has been stopped by the Referee before the completion of the time specified in the Rules, and based on the evidence provided, the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee finds that a Club was responsible for the abandonment then the committee will decide the appropriate outcome of such fixture which may include exclusion from the competition for a period not exceeding 3 years.</p> | <p>17.2. If a match has been stopped by the Match Referee before the completion of the time specified in the Rules, and based on the evidence provided, the County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee finds that a Club was responsible for the abandonment then the committee will decide the appropriate outcome of such fixture which may include exclusion from the competition for a period not exceeding 3 years.</p> |

Rationale: Added word 'Match' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule.

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 18.2 The County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall appoint the Referee who shall have power to dispense with the services of the Assistant Referees in case he finds one or other giving decisions at variance with the facts. | 18.2 The County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee shall appoint the Official Referee who shall have power to dispense with the services of the Assistant Referees in case he finds one or other giving decisions at variance with the facts. |
| Rationale: Added word 'Official' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 18.3 In all but the Semi-Final and Final Ties, the Club on whose ground the match is played shall pay the Referee's fee and travel expenses. | 18.3 In all but the Semi-Final and Final Ties, the Club on whose ground the match is played shall pay the Official Referee's fee and travel expenses. |
| Rationale: Added word 'Official' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 18.4 The Referee appointed by the Association shall not be a member of either of the competing Clubs and in the Semi-Final and Final neither of the Assistant Referees shall be members of the competing Clubs. | 18.4 The Official Referee appointed by the Association shall not be a member of either of the competing Clubs and in the Semi-Final and Final neither of the Assistant Referees shall be members of the competing Clubs. |
| Rationale: Added word 'Official' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 18.7 The Referee must use a whistle. | 18.7The Match Referee must use a whistle. |
| Rationale: Added word 'Match' Referee to align with definitions in subsequent rule. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 18.9 If an Official Referee fails to arrive, the game will be played on the following Saturday. | 18.9 If an Official Referee fails to arrive and both clubs can provide a Club Referee, then the clubs must either agree mutually, or toss a coin for the choice of Match Referee, and the match in such circumstances will be considered a fixture the game will be played on the following Saturday. |
| Rationale: Additional wording to allow for Club Referees to officiate in the absence of the Official Referee. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| | <p>18.10. If only one club can provide a Club Referee and both teams are in agreement, then he will be deemed the Match Referee, and the match will be considered a fixture.</p> <p>18.11. In the event of the Referee sustaining an injury and is unable to carry on rules 18.9,18.10 will apply</p> <p>18.12. Where an Official Referee fails to arrive for a fixture or sustains an injury and is unable to carry on and neither Club can provide a Club Referee, then the game will be played on the following Saturday.</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>Official Referee – A Referee who has been appointed by The County Antrim Junior Challenge Shield Committee to take control of a game and who is entitled to a match fee.</p> <p>Club Referee – A Referee who is a member of a club and has successfully completed a Referees course and who is affiliated to the Irish Football Association with access to the Comet Football Management System.</p> |

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| | Match Referee – Either an Official Referee or Club Referee who takes charge of a game. |
| Rationale: New wording to facilitate ‘Club’ Referees. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 19.3. Protests and appeals are only in order if submitted by the registered Secretary. | 19.3. Protests and appeals are only in order if submitted by the registered Secretary or responsible Official of the Club. |
| Rationale: Additional wording to clarify that a protest can be submitted by more than just the Secretary. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 19.6. The deposit will be returned by the Secretary of the Association only if the protest or appeal has been upheld, or if the protest be not lodged according to Rule, or is not discussed by the Committee. | 19.6 The deposit will be returned by the Secretary of the Association only if the protest or appeal has been upheld, or if the protest is be not lodged according to Rule, or is not discussed by the Committee. |
| Rationale: Removed ‘Secretary’ and tweaked grammar. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| | 19.7 * The proof of posting of such special delivery letter shall be the postmark on the certificate of posting. |
| Rationale: New wording/rule to provide additional clarity. | |

| Current Rule | Proposed New Rule |
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| 21.1 Medals or other mementoes will be presented to the winners and runners-up in the Competition each season. | 21.1 Medals or other mementoes will be presented to the winners and runners-up in the Competition each season. For the avoidance of any doubt this shall include the 16 players, Manager and Secretary of each club. |

Rationale: Additional wording to provide clarity.