



**BYELAWS OF
THE WOMEN'S CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION
2026**

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BYELAW 1

RULES OF PLAY AND PLAYING SEASON

1.1 The Field of Play

The Field of Play shall be as shown in the accompanying plan.

1.1.1 Dimensions

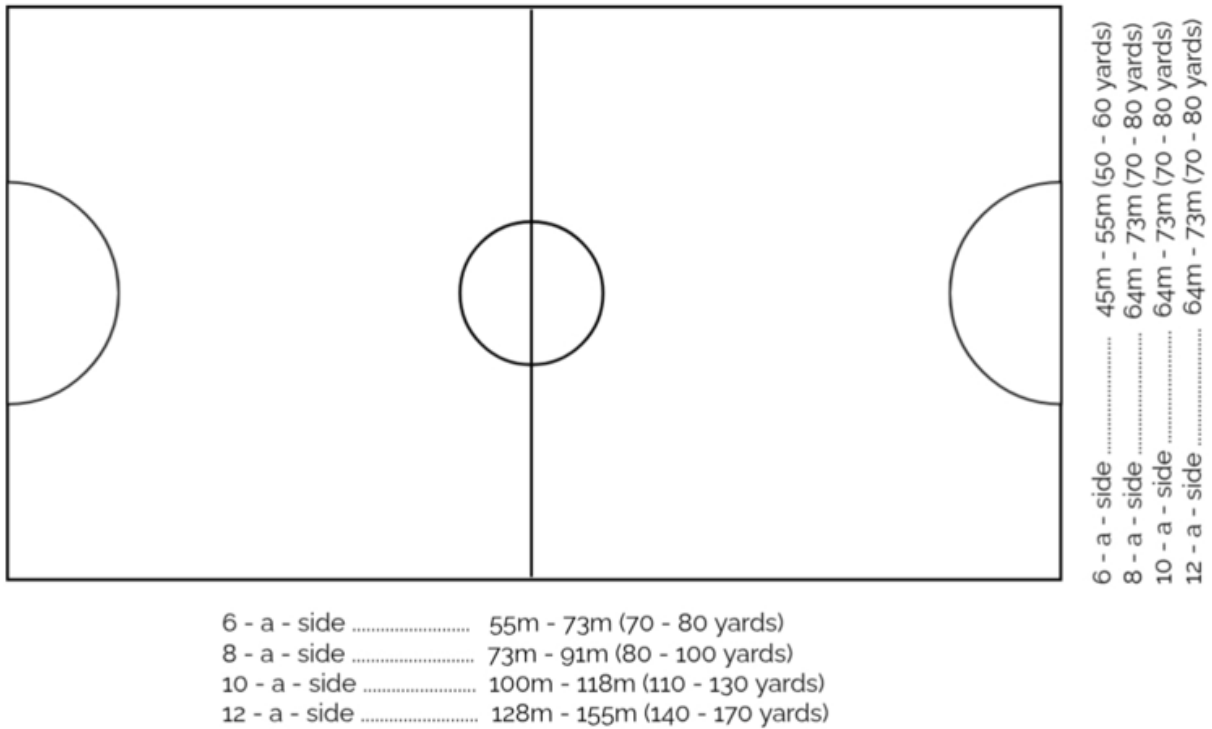
The Field of Play for 12-a-side shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 155metres (170yards) nor less than 128m (140yards) and its breadth not more than 73 metres (80 yards) nor less than 64 metres (70 yards).

The Field of Play for 10-a-side shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 118 metres (130 yards) nor less than 100m (110 yards) and its breadth not more than 73 metres (80 yards) nor less than 64 metres (70 yards).

The Field of Play for outdoor 8-a-side shall be rectangular, its length being not more than **91 metres (100 yards) nor less than 73 metres (80 yards)** and its breadth not more than 73 metres (80 yards) nor less than 64 metres (70 yards).

The Field of Play for outdoor 6-a-side shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 73 metres (80 yards) nor less than 55 metres (70 yards) and its breadth not more than 55 metres (60 yards) nor less than 45 metres (50 yards).

Pitch Dimensions



The Camanachd Association recommends a smaller playing area for age group shinty or 6 a side shinty.

1.1.2 Marking

The Field of Play shall be marked with distinctive lines, the longer boundary lines being called the side-lines and the shorter the bye-lines.

1.1.3 The lines across the goals joining the goalposts shall be called the goal-lines.

1.1.4 A flag on a post not less than 3 feet 6 inches (1 metre) high and having a non-pointed top shall be placed at each corner.

1.1.5 The Centre of the Field shall be indicated by a suitable mark and a circle of 5 metres (5 yards) radius marked round it.

1.1.6 Eight Metre Area (Eight Yard Area) – In front of each goal a line shall be drawn, 3.66 metres (12 feet) long, parallel to and 8 metres (8 yards) from the goal-line. This line shall be continued each way to meet the bye-line by quarter circles, having the inside of the goalposts as centres. The space enclosed by this line, and the bye-line, shall be known as the Eight Metre Area (Eight Yard Area).

1.1.7 Corner Area - from each corner flag-post a quarter circle, having a radius of 2 metres (2 yards) shall be draw inside The Field of Play.

- 1.1.8 Penalty Spot – At each end of The Field of Play, a suitable mark shall be made in from of the goal, 14 metres (15 yards) from the mid-point of the goal-line. These shall be the Penalty-hit marks. A semi-circle of 5 metres (5 yards) radius shall be drawn behind each penalty-hit mark.
- 1.1.9 The Goals – The goals shall be placed on the centre of each bye-line and shall consist of two upright posts, equidistant from the corner flags and 3.66 metres (12 feet) apart (inside measurement), joined by a horizontal cross-bar, the lower edge of which shall be 2.44 metres (8 feet) from the ground. The width and depth of the uprights and the cross-bar shall not be more than 10 cm (4 inches) and not less than 7.5 cm (3 inches).
- 1.1.10 The goals shall be provided with nets attached to the uprights and the cross-bar, and fixed square with the goals at a distance of not less than 3 feet (1 metre) behind the goal-line and the cross -bar.
- 1.1.11 All lines should be a minimum of 4 cm (1 inch) and a maximum of 7.5 cm (3 inches).
- 1.1.12 The Field of Play shall be fenced off at a distance of not less than 2 metres (6 feet) outside the bye-lines and side-lines.
- 1.1.13 Where it is not possible to protect the whole of The Field of Play with a fence, both goals must be protected in the rear by a fence of wood, wire or rope over a minimum distance of 15 feet (5 metres) from either side of the goalposts and not less than 2 metres (5 feet) from either side of the goalposts and not less than 2 metres (6 feet) from the parallel to the bye-line. Only the goal-judges shall be permitted within 2 metres (6 feet) of the bye-line during play.
- 1.1.14 The cross-bars and uprights must be made of wood or metal or plastic and shall be painted white. They may be square, rectangular in shape, and no bar, strut or board, except at the top, shall connect the uprights and the posts supporting the goal-nets.
- 1.2 Number of Players
- 1.2.1 In the Premier league a match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 10 players, one of whom should be the Goal keeper or 8 players in the National, the North & South leagues ,the Single team cup and the MOWI Challenge Cup,, 1 of whom should be the Goal-keeper. **By mutual agreement and at 1st point of communication of the fixture** 12 aside may be played in Premier, 10 aside in National and 6 aside in North and South leagues.
- 1.2.1b All players in the adult game must be aged 16 at the time of registering for the season in question. A club can field a player under this age on the condition that a Parent/Guardian Consent Form is completed and countersigned by a Club Representative confirming that the player is ready to compete in the adult game. The minimum age for participation of the adult game is 13 years of age.

- 1.2.2 All Divisions play using rolling substitutions, up to a maximum of 4 per team in all leagues during a match. Players should inform the referee of any substitutions made. All substitutions must be made from the point where the team is based at the side of the pitch. The player being substituted must leave the field of play before the substitute goes on to take her place.

1.2.3 Punishment

If, without the Referee being notified, a player or a named substitute, changes places with the goal-keeper during the game, or at any interval during the game in which extra time is played, and then handles the ball within the Ten Yard Area (Nine Metre Area), a penalty shall be awarded.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.2.4 A competitive match shall not be considered valid if there are fewer than 8 players in either team in a 10-a-side match or 6 in an 8-a-side match
- 1.2.5 Names of substitutes must be included in the Team Lines, any 4 of whom shall be eligible to play.
- 1.2.6 A substitute may only be permitted to enter the field of Play at the mid-point of either side line once the player they are replacing has left the field of play. A substitute shall be deemed to be a player and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Referee whether called up to play or not.

1.3 The Ball

- 1.3.1 The ball shall be spherical – the interior shall be cork and worsted or other approved material and the outer cover shall be of leather or other approved material. The circumference of the ball shall be not more than 20 cm and not less than 19 cm. the weight of the ball, at the start of the game, shall be not more than 85g nor less than 70g. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorised by the referee.

1.4 Players' Equipment

- 1.4.1 Teams shall play in distinguishing colours and goal keepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from outfield players and the referee. Goal keepers and outfield players' jerseys shall be numbered to correspond with the team lines.
- 1.4.2 A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player, nor shall a player use a weapon which is in a condition which is dangerous to another player.

1.4.3 Boots must conform to the following standard:

- a) Studs must be of solid construction and made of leather, rubber, plastic, aluminium or similar material. Where studs have a metal seat for screw type studs, the metal seat shall not be visible.
- b) Studs with a metal tip are permissible provided they do not have a pointed tip, and there are no sharp or ragged edges which could be dangerous to other players. Studs moulded to the boot are permissible.

1.4.4 Helmets must be worn in line with Camanachd Association guidelines.

1.4.5 The Caman must conform to the following standard:

- a) The head of the caman must not be of a size larger than can pass through a ring of diameter of 2.5 inches.
- b) No plates, screws or metal in any form shall be attached to or form part of the caman.
- c) No equipment should be used in any competition run under the auspices of the Camanachd Association unless first approved by the Board of the Company. No liability shall be attached to the Camanachd Association on equipment so approved.

Decisions of Interpretation

1.4.6 A player whose caman is broken during a game may play the ball before obtaining a replacement caman, providing the broken caman is not in a condition which is dangerous to himself or another player. A player changing his caman must do so at the side-lines

1.4.7 Shin Guards must be worn in all training, games and competitions. These must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and must be secured in place. Coaches should encourage shinty players to wear shin guards which protect both shins and ankles.

1.5 Referees

1.5.1 It is the responsibility of the home club to appoint a referee to officiate in each game. The referee must have attended a recognised CA training course and if he/she is a member of the home team's club, the home team must ensure the away team are in agreement with the choice of referee at least 24 hours before the fixture throw up time. The referee's authority and the exercise of the powers granted to him/her by the Rule of Play commence as soon as he/she enters the field of play. His/her power of penalising shall extend to offences committed when play has been temporarily suspended, or when the ball is out of play. His/her decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the results of the game are concerned.

1.5.2 He/she shall:

- a) Enforce the Rules of Play
- b) Refrain from penalising in cases where he/she is satisfied that, by doing so, he/she would be giving an an advantage to the offending team
- c) Keep a record of the game; act as timekeeper and allow the full or agreed time, adding thereto all time lost through accident or any other cause.
- d) Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Rules and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he/she deems such a stoppage necessary. He/she shall stop the game and call the two captains into the centre circle, informing them of his/her decision and the reasons for abandoning the game. In such a case he/she shall submit a detailed report which should be in the WCA Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match.
- e) From the time he/she enters the field of play, caution any player guilty of misconduct, unsporting behaviour or the use of foul or abusive language and, if she persists, suspend her from further participation in the game; send off the field of play any player who, without any previous caution, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play. In such cases the referee shall send the name of the offender to the WCA Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match, in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary Procedures.
- f) Allow no person other than the players, goal-judges and linesmen to enter the field of play without his/her permission.
- g) Stop the game if, in his/her opinion, a player has been seriously injured, have the player removed as soon as possible from the field of play, and immediately resume the game. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.
- h) Signal for recommencement of the game after all stoppages.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.5.3 The referee shall report to the appropriate authority misconduct or any misdemeanour on the part of the spectators, club office bearers, goal judges, team officials, players, named substitutes, or other persons, which takes place either on the field of play or in its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the match in question so that appropriate action can be taken by the authority concerned.

Where this offence is by a player, named substitute or a team official a "Misconduct Report" must be completed and forwarded to the Camanachd Association Office within 5days of the game. If the offence is committed by someone other than a player named in the team lines for that game a "Special Report" must be completed and forwarded to the Camanachd Association Office.

For the purposes of this byelaw, a “Team Official” shall be defined as a team manager, coach, assistant coach, physio, trainer, club office bearer or any other club related persons who may from time to time make up the touchline support.

- 1.5.4 In no case shall the referee consider the intervention of a goal judge if he/she, him/herself, has seen the incident and, from their position on the field, is better able to judge.
- 1.5.5 The referee can only reverse his/her decision so long as the game has not been restarted.
- 1.5.6 If the Referee has decided to apply the advantage clause and to let the game proceed he/she cannot revoke his/her decision if the presumed advantage is not realised, even though he/she has not, by any gesture, indicated his/her decision. This does not exempt the offending player from being dealt with by the Referee.
- 1.5.7 The Referee shall not allow any person to enter the field until play has stopped, and only then if he/she has given them a signal to do so. This applies to club trainers, etc.
- 1.5.8 In the case of serious injury, the Referee should exercise extreme care before removing the injured player from the field and, if possible, seek the opinion of any qualified medical person in attendance.

1.6 Goal Judges

- 1.6.1 Two Goal Judges shall be appointed ideally 1 from each club or if this is not possible, at the referee’s discretion, whose duty (subject to the decision of the Referee) shall be to indicate:
 - a) When a goal is scored.
 - b) When the ball is out of play over the bye-line and whether a bye-hit or a corner should be awarded.
 - c) When an attacking player is off-side.
- 1.6.2 They shall assist the Referee to control the game in accordance with the Rules. In the event of undue interference or improper conduct by a Goal Judge, the Referee shall dispense with his/her services and arrange for a substitute to be appointed. (The matter shall be reported by the Referee to the appropriate authority.)

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.6.3 Goal Judges, where neutral, shall draw the Referee's attention to any breach of the Rules of Play of which they become aware if they consider that the Referee may not have seen it; but the Referee shall always be the judge of the decision to be taken. Goal Judges shall not change ends at half-time.

1.7 Linesmen

- 1.7.1 Four Linesmen shall be appointed where available for cup final games, whose duty (subject to the decision of the Referee) shall be to indicate when the ball is out of play, over the side-lines, and which side is entitled to the hit-in.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.7.2 Linesmen shall not change over at half-time.

1.8 Duration of League Games

1.8 Duration of League Games

1.8.1 The duration of the game shall be two equal periods of 40 minutes for Premier and National leagues and 35 minutes for North /South leagues subject to the following:

- a) Allowance shall be made in each period for time lost due to injury.
- b) Time shall be extended to permit a penalty-hit being taken at or after expiration of the normal period in each half.
- c) The half-time interval shall not be of more than ten minutes duration.
- d) The ball must be in play when each half is terminated.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.8.2 The duration of the game may be less than 80 minutes in Premier and National leagues and 70 minutes in North/South 1, if a shorter period is mutually agreed upon and, it is permissible under the Rules of the Competition. The agreed time shall be divided into two equal periods.

1.9 Start of Play - The Throw-Up

- 1.9.1 Throw up times are to be arranged by the home team between 1-3pm unless mutually agreed by both teams. Saturday games can be arranged between 12-4pm, unless mutually agreed by both teams. In the case of the start time being delayed by the away team being late, the waiting time is 30 minutes after which the home team can take the points unless there are exceptional circumstances. In the case of exceptional circumstances, or travel delay then the away team would be expected to get in touch with the home team by phone before the throw up time.

- 1.9.2 At the beginning of the game, choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- 1.9.3 The Referee having blown his whistle, shall start the game by throwing up the ball to a minimum height of 12 feet (4 metres) between two opposing players standing at the centre spot, at least 3 feet (1 metre) apart, with their camans crossed above head level. The players shall not shift their stance until the ball is struck in the air or touches the ground. No other player shall be within 5 yards (5 metres) of the centre spot until the ball has been played. A goal scored direct from a throw-up shall count.
- 1.9.4 After a goal has been scored the game shall be restarted in like manner.
- 1.9.5 After half-time (when restarting after half-time) ends shall be changed and the game restarted in like manner.
- 1.9.6 After any temporary suspension (when restarting after a temporary suspension from any cause not mentioned in these Rules of Play, provided immediately prior to the suspension the ball has not passed out of the field of play) the Referee shall throw the ball up at the place where it was when play was suspended.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.9.7 If the ball, when thrown up by the Referee, strikes one or both of the camans, it shall again be thrown up to the required height by the Referee.
- 1.9.8 If the two centre players are one left-handed and the other right-handed, each shall have choice of her side in the throwing up for one half of the match.
- 1.9.9 If one player should use her caman to hold her opponent's caman and prevent her opponent playing the ball, or shift her stance, she shall be penalised by the award of a free-hit to her opponent.
- 1.9.10 If the ball is within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) when play is temporarily suspended, the Referee shall restart the game with a throw-up outside the area at the spot nearest to where it was when play was suspended.

1.10 Method of Scoring

- 1.10.1 A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line and under the cross-bar, except when resulting directly from a free-hit or when it has been kicked, carried or propelled by hand or arm by a player of the attacking side.

1.10.2 The team scoring the greatest number of goals during a game shall be the winner; if no goals, or an equal number of goals, are scored, the game shall be termed a "draw".

Decisions of Interpretation

1.10.3 Rule 1.10.2 defines the only method according to which a match is won or drawn; no variations whatsoever can be authorised. A goal cannot be allowed if the ball has been prevented by some outside agency from passing over the goal-line. If this happens in the normal course of play, other than at the taking of a penalty-hit, the game must be stopped and restarted by the Referee throwing up the ball outside the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) at a point nearest to where the interference took place.

1.11 Ball In and Out of Play

1.11.1 The ball is in play at all times from the start of the match to the finish including:

- a) If it rebounds from a goalpost, cross-bar or corner flag-post into the field of play.
- b) If it rebounds off the Referee.
- c) In the event of a supposed infringement of the Rules of Play, until a decision is given.

1.11.2 The ball is out of play:

- a) When it has wholly crossed the goal-line, bye-line or side-line, whether on the ground or in the air.
- b) When the game has been stopped by the Referee

1.12 Fouls and Misconduct

1.12.1 A player who intentionally commits any of the following offences:

- a) Kicks the ball;
- b) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- c) Jumps at an opponent;
- d) Charges an opponent from behind;
- e) Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;
- f) Uses her caman in a violent or dangerous manner;
- g) Pushes an opponent;
- h) Trips an opponent, i.e. throwing or attempting to throw her by use of the legs or caman;
- i) Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent with her hand, arm or caman;
- j) Strikes or impedes an opponent's caman, except to "block", "hook" or "cleek" a caman which is within striking distance of the ball;
- k) Throws her caman;
- l) Attempts to participate in the game without her caman in her hand;
- m) Holds an opponent or an opponent's caman;

- n) Obstructs an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;
- o) Handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with her hand or arm;

Note: The goalkeeper is permitted to stop and slap the ball with her open hand within the Eight Metre Area (Eight Yard Area).

- p) Heads the ball; Shall be penalised by the award of a free-hit to be taken by the opposing side at the place where the offence occurred.

Decisions of Interpretation

1.12.2 Should a player of the defending side commit one of the afore-mentioned offences within the Eight Metre Area (Eight Yard Area) she shall be penalised by the award of a penalty hit.

1.12.3 A penalty-hit can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play, at the time an offence is committed within the Eight Metre Area (Eight Yard Area).

1.12.4 A player may stop the ball with one foot provided that it is at rest on the ground at the moment of contact

1.12.5 A player may stop the ball with both feet while she is moving provided that both heels are together at the moment of contact. If both feet are off the ground at the moment of contact, the Referee shall be the sole judge of whether or not the player intentionally kicked the ball.

1.12.6 A player is allowed to play an opponent's caman with her own caman to "block", "hook" or "cleek" a caman which is within striking distance of the ball. "Cleeking" a caman from below is permitted but lifting an opponent's caman excessively to the risk of injury is foul play. Similarly knocking aside an opponent's club in the air before the arrival of the ball is foul play. Hacking down onto an opponent's caman is not permitted under any circumstances.

1.12.7 If, in the opinion of the Referee, a player deliberately hits the ball out of play to waste time the Referee shall caution the player for unsporting conduct and award a free hit.

1.12.8 Hitting the ball with one hand on the caman is not a foul, unless, in the opinion of the referee, the caman is being swung in a dangerous manner.

1.12.9 Hitting the ball while lying on the ground is not a foul, unless in the opinion of the referee the player endangering herself when attempting to play the ball or she is swinging her caman in a dangerous and reckless manner while still lying on the ground

1.13 Cautionable Offences

1.13.1 A player shall be cautioned if:

- a) She is guilty of reckless or dangerous swinging of the caman;
- b) She is guilty of obstruction or charging an opponent in a violent manner involving dangerous bodily contact;
- c) She is guilty of adopting a threatening or aggressive attitude;
- d) She is guilty of feigning injury;
- e) She is guilty of deliberately tripping an opponent;
- f) She is guilty of deliberate handball
- g) She is guilty of undermining the authority of the Referee through dissension by word or action
- h) She is guilty of persistent infringement the rules of play after a verbal warning to include any of the following: Fouls as defined in byelaw 1.12 (Fouls and Misconduct) and to include shirt pulling, time wasting and encroaching
- i) She is guilty of swearing and foul language (including self-frustration directed at oneself) after a verbal warning;
- j) She is guilty of deliberately preventing a clear goal scoring opportunity through foul play

Decisions of interpretation for byelaw 1.13 h:

A warning for persistent fouling shall be issued after a minimum of three fouls has been committed by an individual player. The warning must be specific to the player and it must be made clear that a caution will follow if the player continues to foul. It is NOT appropriate to issue a general warning to players such as “the next man in the defence who fouls will receive a caution”. The same procedure will apply if a further caution is to be issued to an individual player for persistent fouling.

Decision of interpretation for byelaw 1.13 i:

The guidelines which have been in place since 2016 require that should a player be heard to swear by the referee or use other foul language then the player shall be warned if he repeats the offence a caution will be issued. Should the player continue to swear after receiving a caution then a second caution shall result in the player being dismissed.

If the swearing is aggressive or abusive or directed specifically at the referee or a goal judge, then there are grounds for immediate dismissal of the offending player from the field of play as defined in byelaw 1.14b.

Decisions of interpretation for byelaw 1.13 j:

The referee is required to judge whether the foul play was deliberate AND that a clear goal scoring opportunity existed. Otherwise only a free-hit should be awarded to the attacking team.

1.14 Sending off Offences

A player shall be sent off the field of play if he/she is guilty of:

- a) Violent Conduct
- b) Abusive or Offensive Language
- c) Spitting at an opponent or an official
- d) Being guilty of a second cautionable offence having received a caution

1.15 Off-Side

1.15.1 An attacking player shall be off-side if she is within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) when the ball enters that area either on the ground or in the air.

Note: Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) includes the goal area between the goal line and the nets.

Punishment

For an infringement of this rule a free-hit shall be taken by a player of the defending side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Decisions of Interpretation

1.15.3 A player is considered to be off-side if any part of her body or stick is within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) before the ball enters that area. A player who steps over the bye-line to avoid being off-side shall not be allowed to enter the field of play while the ball is within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) .

1.16 Bye-hit

1.16.1 When the whole of the ball passes over the bye-line, either in the air or on the ground, having been last played by one of the attacking side, it shall be hit direct into play from a point within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area).

1.16.2 The striker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player. No player shall be within 5 metres (5 yards) of the striker when the hit is being taken.

1.16.3 A goal from such a hit shall count.

1.16.4 Punishment

If a player taking a bye-hit plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player a free-hit shall be awarded to the opposing team, or, if the infringement occurred inside the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area), a penalty-hit shall be awarded to the opposing team.

1.17 Corner-hit

1.17.1 When the whole ball passes over the bye-line, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall take a corner-hit from the quarter circle at the nearest corner flag-post, which must not be removed. A goal may be scored direct from a corner-hit.

1.17.2 No player shall be within 5 metres (5 yards) of the striker when the hit is being taken. The striker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player.

1.17.3 Punishment

If a player taking a corner-hit plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player, a free-hit shall be awarded to the opposing side.

1.18 Hit-in

1.18.1 When the whole ball passes over the side-line, whether in the air or on the ground, it shall be hit into play, by an overhead hit, by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it.

1.18.2 In taking the hit the player shall stand outside the side-line, facing the field of play, with both feet on the ground and in a position square to the side-line. The caman shall be withdrawn directly overhead. and at the time of contact both the ball and the caman shall be directly overhead. If the player taking the hit misses the ball entirely the opposing team shall be awarded the hit-in. The striker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player. No player shall be within 5 metres (5 yards) of the striker when the hit is being taken.

1.18.3 A goal may be scored direct from a hit in.

1.18.4 Punishment

If the ball is hit-in improperly the hit-in shall be taken by a player of the opposing side/

1.18.5 If a player taking a hit-in plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player, a free-hit shall be awarded to the opposing team.

1.19 Free-hit

1.19.1 A free-hit is awarded for any infringement of the Rules, except by a defending player within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) and shall be taken by the opposing side, from the place where the offence. occurred.

- 1.19.2 The ball must be struck by the club, or scooped, and it shall not be deemed in play until it has travelled the distance of its own circumference.
- 1.19.3 No player shall be within 5 metres (5 yards) of the striker while the hit is being taken. The striker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player. A goal from such a hit shall NOT count.
- 1.19.4 Punishment
If a player taking a free-hit plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player, a free-hit shall be awarded to the opposing team.

Decisions of Interpretation

- 1.19.5 The Referee has the discretionary power to refrain from awarding a free-hit if, in his/her opinion, it will benefit the offender.
- 1.19.6 If any player stands within 5 metres (5 yards) of the striker when the hit is being taken, the Referee has the discretionary power to order the hit to be retaken.

1.20 Penalty-hit

- 1.20.1 A penalty-hit is awarded for any infringement of the Rules by a defending player within the Eight Metre (Eight Yard Area) and shall be taken by the opposing side from the penalty spot. When the hit is being taken, all players, with the exception of the player taking the hit and the defending goal-keeper, shall be within the field of play but outside the 5 metre (5 yard) semi-circle behind the penalty spot.
- 1.20.2 The defending goal-keeper must stand, without moving her feet, on her own goal-line until the hit is taken.
- 1.20.3 If the ball on being struck does not reach the goal-line or bye-line, the hit shall be held to be a bye.
- 1.20.4 The player taking the hit shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player. If necessary, time of play shall be extended at half-time or at full-time to allow a penalty-hit to be taken.
- 1.20.5 A goal from such a hit shall count.

Punishment for any infringement of this Rule:

- 1.20.6 By the defending team, the hit shall be retaken if a goal has not resulted.

1.20.7 By the attacking team other than the player taking the hit, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and the hit retaken.

1.20.8 By the player taking the hit, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the defending side shall take a free-hit at the place where the infringement occurred.

Decisions of Interpretation

1.20.9 If a retake has been awarded a change of penalty taker is permissible.

1.20.10 Rules for Penalty Play-Off When it is necessary to decide a tie after extra time, the following rules shall operate for a penalty play-off:

- a) At the end of extra time, the referee should call both captains together and ask for the names of penalty takers.
- b) A team shall nominate five penalty takers.
- c) A team may not change the nominations after they have been made. d) The referee will decide by the toss of a coin which team will strike first. Each team will then take five penalties alternately.
- e) If no decision is made after five penalties each, a sudden-death play-off will take place with each team taking it in turn to hit one penalty shot in the same player sequence until one team has scored more goals than the other after an equal number of shots.
- f) All players not involved in the play-off will be ordered to the side-line at the centre of the field.
- g) Any players taking part in the play-off, but not in the striking side should be in the centre circle with a goal judge.
- h) Only players on the field at the end of play will take part in the play-off.

1.21 Playing Season

The playing season for the Women's Camanachd Association Competition shall be from 20th February to 30th October, annually. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, games must be played out with these dates to conclude leagues. These dates can only be expressly altered by a General Meeting in terms of Article 4.2

BYELAW 2

RULES OF VALERIE FRASER CAMANACHD CUP COMPETITION, CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION, PREMIER LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION & SINGLE TEAM CUP COMPETITION

2.1 The rules of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Competition and Challenge Cup

Competition will form the principles of all cup competitions organised by the Women's Camanachd Association except where otherwise stated.

2.1a) The Single Team Cup Competition shall follow the principles of all cup competitions organised by the Women's Camanachd Association except where otherwise stated

2.1b) The Premier League Cup Competition shall follow the principles of all cup competitions organised by the Women's Camanachd Association except where otherwise stated

- 2.2 The Trophy shall be called the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, or Challenge Cup, Single Team Cup or Premier League Cup or as otherwise agreed by the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The Committee shall have the option to add the name of a sponsor to the trophy title.
- 2.3 The competitions shall be played annually. All clubs are eligible to enter as defined in Byelaw 3.10.
- 2.4 The Competition shall be conducted according to the Rules of Play and the Memorandum and Articles of the Association, other than any exceptions specified In Byelaw 2 and Byelaw 3.
- 2.5 The competition shall proceed as arranged by the WCA Committee.
- 2.6 The draw shall take place at a Committee Meeting or otherwise directed by the Committee. The clubs first drawn in the ballot shall have the choice of ground, but the Fixtures Secretary shall have the power to have the game played at a neutral venue after a first postponement.
- 2.7 The Final tie shall be played in a venue and on a date fixed by the Committee who shall have the power to change the date and venue should circumstances so require.
- 2.8 The Fixtures Secretary shall intimate to each of the clubs, the name of the club it is drawn against, the date when the tie is to be played with consideration taken to the clubs that don't play home fixtures on a Sunday and the throw up time. Clubs may mutually agree to change the throw up time only with the approval of the Fixtures Secretary or a committee member who may be delegated responsibility by the Fixtures Secretary.
- 2.9 Any club under suspension or intending to withdraw from the competition must give notice to the Fixtures Secretary of the opposing club and the WCA Fixtures Secretary at least four days before the date fixed for playing or they may be reported to the WCA

Committee, who shall have power either to compel such offending club to pay expenses incurred by their opponents, or take such action as he/she thinks necessary. First Team Cup Entries are a priority and withdrawal from Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup will result in automatic withdrawal from Challenge Cup.

- 2.10 Teams must play in distinguishable colours. In the event of two opposing teams having similar colours, the home team shall make the change. In the Final, Semi-Finals and matches played on neutral ground both teams shall change their colours.
- 2.11 On points of fact connected with play going on, the decision of the Referee shall be final. On questions of interpretation of the Rules of the Game, a team aggrieved may lodge a protest at the end of the match, in accordance with Byelaw 3.9. But the referee's decision must be acted upon the field although under protest.
- 2.12 The Referee shall have full power to decide before or during any stage of the match whether or not it should be continued in view of the weather, state of the ground or any other circumstance.
- 2.13 At the conclusion of a game any club wishing to lodge a protest over an ineligible player must intimate to the Referee through a Club Official, their intent and the terms of the protest. Then, within seven days, the detailed terms of the protest must be conveyed, in writing, to the Fixtures Secretary, the Referee and the opposing Club.
- 2.14 The winners of the Final tie shall receive the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and 16 gold medals or badges, the runners-up 16 silver medals or badges, Premier League Cup ; 18 gold and 18 silver medals, Single Team Cup & Challenge Cup; 14 gold and 14 silver medals. It is the responsibility of the winning club to ensure the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, Premier League Cup, Single Team cup or Challenge Cup shall be suitably engraved with the name of the winners. The cost of this will be met by the winning club. In all Women's Camanachd Association Cup Competitions appropriate medals shall be presented to the coach of the winners and runners up.
- 2.15 The Association shall maintain the trophy in good order. The cost of repair of any damage or replacement due to loss caused whilst the trophy is in the possession of a member club shall be re-charged to the club. The trophy shall be in the possession of a member club from the moment that it is handed to the captain of the winning club following the final tie. The trophy shall be deemed to be in the possession of the club

until such time as it is returned to the Association, or as provided for in the following paragraph. The WCA may take possession of the trophy at any time for any purpose.

- 2.16 The other cup competitions organised by the Women's Camanachd Association shall be conducted under the same Rule Conditions as that of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup competition. The Committee, via the Fixtures Secretary, reserves the right to allocate clubs not participating in league competitions to cup competitions as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the winning club to ensure any trophies are suitably engraved with the name of the winners. The cost of this will be met by the winning club.
- 2.16.1 Failure to comply with any requirements made by the WCA in relation to the organisation or promotion of any competition or competitions shall be considered by the Committee and may result in the offending club or clubs being referred to the Behaviour in Sport Committee, as provided for on Byelaw 7.4.

BYELAW 3

COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

- 3.1.1 Each member club and affiliated association shall furnish the Fixtures Secretary of the Association with all the information requested on the competition entry and membership form, which shall be in his/her hands by 6th December annually.
- 3.1.2 Failure to submit any League or Competition Entry by the stipulated date may result in Non Inclusion in the draw for the Company Competitions, against which decision there shall be no right of appeal.
- 3.1.3 The Association shall maintain all trophies in good order. The cost of repair of any damage caused whilst a trophy is in the possession of a member club shall be re-charged to that club. A trophy shall be in the possession of a member club from the moment that it is handed to the captain of the winning club. It shall remain in the possession of the club until such time as it is returned to the Association.
The Fixtures Secretary may take possession of a trophy at any time for any purpose.
- 3.1.4 It is the responsibility of the winning club to ensure any trophies are be suitably engraved with the name of the winners. The cost of this will be met by the winning club.
- 3.2 Postponement of a scheduled match**
- 3.2.1 No scheduled match shall be postponed unless:

The scheduled pitch is unplayable due to weather; or
One of the competing teams suffers the death of a person closely connected with the club; or The postponement is mutually agreed between both clubs and must be approved by the WCA after a letter in writing by both clubs and a suitable date set and agreed by the WCA prior to the original fixture. A postponement of this nature can only happen once in a season.

- 3.2.2 Immediately it is known that a pitch is unplayable the home club will notify the Fixtures Secretary, and where possible, the fixture should be transferred to the opponents' pitch.
- 3.2.3 When there is doubt 24 hours before the time set for the match that the pitch might be unplayable, the home club will then inform the Fixtures Secretary of the situation.
- 3.2.4 The Fixtures Secretary will monitor the position, consider the possible transfer of the game and may direct a referee, or other competent person, to inspect the ground in company with an official of the clubs if convenient. In such a case the decision of the referee or other competent person will be final
- 3.2.5 Where the pitch is under public ownership, the appropriate authority official may declare the pitch unplayable. In the cases where an Authority owned pitch is declared playable by an Authority official, the referee shall have the final decision. When doubt as to the playability of a pitch occurs within 24 hours of the time set for the start of a game, the club will immediately inform the Fixtures Secretary who will act in the best interests as indicated above and as regards postponements/rescheduling/re-allocation of referees. The home club shall be liable for any expenses incurred by their opponents and/or the referee as a result of any failure by the former to give notice as indicated above. The Association shall be liable for the referee's expenses when called for pitch inspection.

3.3 Abandonment of a match

- 3.3.1 The referee may decide, for whatever reason, that it is not in the interests of the sport, or those participating or attending as spectators, for the game to be played to a conclusion. He/she therefore has the authority to abandon the match before it is completed.
- 3.3.2 If a match is abandoned, the referee will make a full report to the Association, explaining the circumstances that led to the abandonment of the match.
- 3.3.3 In the normal course of events, any abandoned match will be re-scheduled. However, there are circumstances in which it may be decided that the score at the time of the match being abandoned should stand as the result. The final decision as to whether the

result should stand will be made by the Fixtures Secretary after consultation with the President. No such decision shall be made without seeking and considering the views of both teams involved in the match.

3.3.4 An example of the circumstances referred to in 3.3.3 is: If a match is abandoned after two thirds of the scheduled time (i.e. 46 minutes of a 70 minute match and 53minutes of a 80minute game) the referee shall inform the Association of this view via his report, the Fixtures Secretary will confirm the result as standing

3.3.5 When a match has been abandoned, the Fixtures Secretary shall check the register of players suspended via disciplinary procedures. Should a player's suspension from competition be affected (see Byelaw 7.2.13), then the Fixtures Secretary shall inform the player and his club accordingly.

3.3.6 If a match is abandoned for behavioural or misconduct reasons, the circumstances shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee (see Byelaw 7.2.2).

3.4 Re-scheduled match

3.4.1 Re-scheduling of knock-out competition matches shall be as per Byelaw 3.8. Such a decision will be taken and intimated to both clubs at an appropriate time prior to the match and shall be final.

3.5 Failure to play scheduled matches

3.5.1 Premier and National 1: Failure to play a scheduled league match unless it is an agreed postponement will result in the team cancelling being deducted 1 point. First team fixtures would take priority over second team fixtures. If both teams mutually agree to postpone a match they must seek approval of the WCA in writing outlining the reason for postponement & confirmation both clubs are in an agreement prior to the original fixture, as per 3.2.1 this can only happen once in a season. This must be done before officially postponing the game. If the match is not played on or before this date, no points will be awarded to either team and the match will be scratched. In the event of any problems regarding the rearrangement of fixtures, contact the Fixtures Secretary immediately.

3.5.2 North and South league : Failure to play a scheduled league match unless it is an agreed postponement will result in two points being awarded to the opposing team. If both teams mutually agree to postpone a match they can only do so providing they organise a mutually agreeable date agreed by the WCA in writing via the Fixtures Secretary. This must be done before officially postponing the game. If the match is not played on or before this date, no points will be awarded to either team and the match will be scratched. In the event of

any problems regarding the rearrangement of fixtures, contact the Fixtures Secretary immediately.

3.5.3 Failure to play a scheduled Cup Competition fixture shall result in the forfeiture of that match to the match opponents, first team fixtures are prioritised and forfeit of second team fixture would be applied to ensure the first team fixture is given as much opportunity to go ahead, in addition to any sanctions the WCA Committee thinks necessary (see Byelaw 2.9)”

3.5.4 Teams in Premier, National North and South Leagues are permitted to concede 2 games, upon communication of a 3rd, the team will be withdrawn from the league with immediate effect and all points associated with this team prior to this shall be adjusted accordingly.

3.6 Team lines

3.6.1 A game shall not start before the referee is provided with legible team lines showing the full name, playing numbers and registration numbers of all players and substitutes listed for that particular game.

Should delay in receipt of such team lines prevent completion of the game the referee shall report the circumstances to the Fixtures Secretary which may result in the game being awarded to the opposing team. After each game it the responsibility of both clubs to send photographs of team lines to the fixture secretary.

3.6.2 Should any club include on their team lines a player or players not eligible to play for that club, or not eligible to play in a specific grade for that club, it shall automatically forfeit the game/points to their opponents.

3.7 Transfer of players

3.7.1 Any player who plays in a knockout competition in a specific season shall not play for any other club in that competition in that season.

3.7.2 A player may transfer and play for another club in that season, provided that, before he so plays for another club, there is a correctly completed Transfer of Player Form agreeing to the proposed transfer, held by the Fixtures Secretary. The Fixtures Secretary shall maintain the register of players.

3.7.3 It shall be the responsibility of the club to which the player wishes to transfer to ensure that such a Form has been fully and correctly completed and forwarded to the Fixtures Secretary and an acknowledgement received, before permitting such a player to play competitively for that club.

3.7.4 It shall be the responsibility of the club from which the player wishes to transfer to return the transfer form, fully and correctly completed within fourteen days of receiving it from the club to which the player wishes to transfer.

- 3.7.5 A player may transfer, but not play for her new club after 1st August or after her new club have completed 80% of their league programme, whichever is the greater in any one season.
- 3.7.6 A player may play for any team between 1st November and 20th February and in any 6-a-side tournaments out with league and cup games (Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, Single Team Cup, Premier League Cup and the Challenge Cup) in each year without transferring. In any competition running over the specified end of season date the conditions of paragraph 3.7.1 above shall apply.
- 3.7.7 Any player having transferred to and played for a second club in a specific season, and any club having permitted such a player to so play, in contravention of the above requirements, shall be the subject of a referral to the Behaviour in Sport Committee.
- 3.7.8 The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall, if they find the case established, impose penalties as set out in Byelaw 8.4.14. An appeal, in terms of Byelaw 7.5.9 will be competent.
- 3.7.9 The Club from which a player wishes to transfer may refuse to agree to such a request to transfer. Any player or club, wishing to appeal as a result of such refusal, may do so in writing to the Fixtures Secretary. Any such appeal shall be heard by the Behaviour in Sport Committee as soon as possible, and, in any event, within fourteen days of receipt. Notice of appeal shall not allow any change in circumstances.
- 3.7.10 In hearing such appeal the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall hear any evidence they consider relevant. The result of an appeal shall be notified to the player and clubs concerned, in writing. The decision of the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall be final when sitting to consider such cases.
- 3.7.11 Any player appearing on a nominated pool submitted by his present club, shall carry that nomination with him to the receiving club thereby increasing the nominated pool of that club for the remainder of a specific season.
- 3.7.12 The present club will not be required to nominate another player to maintain required numbers. It shall be the responsibility of the receiving club to ascertain the player's status in this respect. Similarly, a player who has debarred himself from any specific competition, or competitions, through playing a prescribed number of games in named

competitions, shall carry that with him to the receiving club.

- 3.7.13 It shall be the responsibility of the receiving club to ascertain his status. The conditions and rules as set out above, pertaining to the submission of the form, shall apply also to these requirements.
- 3.7.14 The foregoing requirements shall not apply to those playing in the University Leagues.
- 3.7.15 Copies of Transfer of Player Form may be had from the Fixtures Secretary on request.
- 3.7.16 Should any club include on their team lines a player or players not eligible to play for that club, or not eligible to play in a specific grade for that club, shall automatically forfeit the game/points to their opponents.

3.8 Cup competitions – Replays, Extra Time and Penalty Play-Offs.

- 3.8.1 In the case of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, Single Team cup, Premier League cup and the Challenge Cup, the following applies in the Case of drawn matches:
- 3.8.2 When the first match results in a draw, extra-time will be played (10 minutes each way for the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup & Premier league cup and 10 minutes each way for the Challenge Cup & single Team cup) and a penalty play-off will take place if necessary. Each team taking 5 penalties.
- 3.8.3 In semi-finals, if the teams are drawn after normal duration extra time will be played (10 minutes each way for the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup & Premier League cup and 10 minutes each way for the Challenge Cup & Single team cup) and a penalty play-off will take place if necessary. Each team taking 5 penalties.
- 3.8.4 In the final if the teams are drawn after normal duration extra time will be played (10 minutes each way for the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup & Premier League and 10 minutes each way for the Challenge Cup & Single team cup) and a penalty play-off

will take place if necessary. Each team taking 5 penalties.

- 3.8.5 Semi-finals shall be played on neutral grounds, or otherwise decided by the Fixtures Secretary, to be fixed when the competing clubs are known.
- 3.8.6 In all WCA cup competition games, a winner shall be decided in the first game. No replays will take place. When a match results in a draw at full time, extra time will be played and a penalty play-off will take place if necessary. Each team taking 5 penalties.

3.9 Protests

- 3.9.1 If a club team wishes to lodge a protest about events immediately before, during or after a match, an accredited official shall inform the referee and an official of the opposing team within 30 minutes of the end of the match and shall, at the same time, inform them of the grounds of protest. The team making the protest shall be required to confirm it in writing to the Fixtures Secretary within 48 hours of the end of the match. An e-mail intimation of the protest will be accepted. The Fixtures Secretary will confirm receipt of the protest to both clubs and the match officials and the nature of the protest.
- 3.9.2 Any objection to the ground, goal posts, the laying out of the field of play, other appurtenances of the game, or relating to the officials in charge of the game, must be intimated to the referee before the start of the match.
- 3.9.3 Any protest made shall be dealt with by the Behaviour in Sport Committee in accordance with Byelaw 7.4. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

3.10 Eligibility criteria for league and cup competitions

3.10.1 National Leagues

The National Leagues comprise of a Premier, National, North and South League .

Premier shall comprise of 10 a-side teams, adhering to Byelaw 1.2.1b For clubs with more than 1 team, a minimum of 9 players shall be named to play in the Premier league and are not eligible to play or be substitute for any other team the club may have.

National shall comprise of 8-a-side teams, adhering to Byelaw 1.2.1b. Where a club has a team in National and North/South league a minimum of 7 players shall be named to play in National and are not eligible to play or be substitute for their North / South league team, the following players are not eligible to play in North/ South

League

- Any named first team player - Any player who was selected for the Senior International or Senior Area Representative Squads in the last playing season, the named players shall be checked and authorised by the WCA following Draft Nominations from Clubs taking previous seasons team lines, goal scoring leagues, representative nominations and WCA player of year nominations in to consideration

The winner of each league shall be the team with the most points when all games have been played.

In the event of a draw, goal difference does NOT apply therefore a play-off under normal league rules at a neutral ground shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary.

There is NO compulsory promotion/ relegation from the leagues (in 2026).

3.10.2 National Cup Competitions

a) The Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

The Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup - The competition shall be open to all teams. Teams will be 10 a-side with 4 rolling substitutes. The competition shall be conducted on the basis of a seeded draw for the 1st round only. After the 1st round it shall be conducted as an open draw throughout. The seedings will be decided by the final league positions from the previous year, with the highest-placed teams in the Premier League gaining a seeded position. Games will last 40 minutes each way. In the result of a draw, 10 minutes each way of extra time will be played. If the match is still tied, penalties will be taken as per Byelaw 1.20.10. If a club has entered one team in each cup, once a player has been listed on the team lines in a Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Quarter Final game they are ineligible to play any further part in the Challenge Cup ie they are cup tied.

b) The Challenge Cup

The competition shall be open to National and North / South League teams only. Teams will be 8 a-side with 4 rolling substitutes.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of a North and South area draw for the 1st round only. After the 1st round it shall be conducted as an open draw throughout. Games will last 40 minutes each way. In the result of a draw, 10 minutes each way of extra time will be played. If the match is still tied, penalties will be taken as per Byelaw 1.20.10.

If a club has entered one team in each cup, players are ineligible to play in the Challenge Cup if they have previously to that game been listed on the team

lines for the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup during the same season. Until players have been listed on VF team lines of a completed game they are still eligible to play in the Challenge Cup.

Where a club has more than 1 league team, players who have been selected for the international squad are not eligible to play in the Challenge Cup during the following season.

c) **The Single Team Cup** The competition shall be open to all single team clubs. Teams will be 8 a-side with 4 rolling substitutes. The competition shall be conducted as an open draw throughout. Games will last 40 minutes each way. In the result of a draw, 10 minutes each way of extra time will be played. If the match is still tied, penalties will be taken as per Byelaw 1.20.10.

d) **The Premier League Cup**

The competition shall be open to non single team clubs. Teams will be 12 a-side with 4 rolling substitutes. The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout. Games will last 40 minutes each way. In the result of a draw, 10 minutes each way of extra time will be played. If the match is still tied, penalties will be taken as per Byelaw 1.20.10.

3.11 International Cup Competitions

a) **The Shinty/Camogie International**

Squad selection is open to all registered players who meet at least one of the following criteria;

- the player must be ^oborn in Scotland
- the player must have been resident in Scotland for a minimum of 3 years
- the player must have either 1 or both parents who are Scottish

BYELAW 4

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR BOARD MEMBERS, CLUB OFFICIALS, COACHES, PLAYERS, REFEREES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

4.1 The principles of partnership in shinty

- 4.1.1 Shinty is essentially a player's game. However, in order that the game is well organised, played safely and in congenial surroundings, everyone involved has a key role to play; player, referee, coach/teacher, organiser, parent, volunteer and supporter.
- 4.1.2 Those involved, or becoming involved, in Shinty will gain greater enjoyment, excitement and satisfaction from that involvement if they respect and apply the spirit and ethos of these CODES.

- 4.1.3 They apply to all levels of the game and acknowledge the core values of respect for self, others and the laws of the game. The positive input of volunteers enriches and strengthens the sport.
- 4.1.4 Especially when involved with children and young people these CODES can help Shinty remain the great family sporting activity that it is.
- 4.1.5 Agree issues relating to Duty of Care (e.g. responsibility for travelling to and from games).
- 4.1.6 Encourage parents to support all Shinty activities reminding them that they are an integral part of the school/club community.
- 4.1.7 Ensure that parents understand that the “win at all costs” ethos is not acceptable in Shinty and is counter productive to the individual development of any player.
- 4.1.8 Inform everyone about specialist equipment required (e.g. helmets) and where it can be purchased.
- 4.1.9 Ensure everyone is aware of what is acceptable touchline behaviour.
- 4.1.10 Gain agreement and permission for all matters involving children.
- 4.1.11 Ensure that parents have realistic aspirations for their child and are aware of his/her strengths and weaknesses.

4.2 Code for coaches

- 4.2.1 Coaches should develop and maintain a positive involvement with the Camanachd Association Coach Development Programme.
- 4.2.2 Make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound coaching principles and, for those working with children and young people, the principles of growth and development of young people.
- 4.2.3 Coaches must be registered with the Association. This registration creates a commitment on the part of the coach to adhere to and be subject to the Association’s Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures.
- 4.2.4 Remember that all players need a coach they can respect – be generous with praise

when it is deserved and set a good example.

- 4.2.5 Be pragmatic with demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- 4.2.6 Remember that children and young people have other interests and demands on their time and should be encouraged to enjoy those other activities.
- 4.2.7 Teach players that the laws of the sport are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- 4.2.8 Ensure that all players participate – average and below average participants need and deserve fair time and attention. Some players play for fun.
- 4.2.9 Promote respect for opponents, match officials, opposing coaches and spectators.
- 4.2.10 Seek and follow medical advice as to when an injured player is ready to participate again.
- 4.2.11 Never criticise match officials during or after the match in front of players or spectators – always thank officials and if they have made any decisions, which require clarification, discuss that privately with them afterwards.
- 4.2.12 Encourage young people to develop an ethos of fair play.
- 4.2.13 Insist on fair and disciplined play – do not tolerate foul play, cheating, violence or bad language. They are disruptive to the game.

4.3 Code for players

- 4.3.1 Be positive; always try to make the game better for yourself and your team.
- 4.3.2 Abide by the laws of the game. Respecting decisions of match officials. The abuse of match officials is unacceptable.
- 4.3.3 Control your temper – use of foul language brings the game into disrepute.
- 4.3.4 Be a good sport – respect all good performance, whether by your team or by the opposition.
- 4.3.5 The aim of playing is to have fun, improve your skills and do your best. 4.3.6 At the end of play, thank your opponents and the match officials for their involvement.
- 4.3.7 Win with humility – Lose with dignity.

4.4 Code for parents

- 4.4.1 Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate.
- 4.4.2 Never ridicule or shout at children for making a mistake or losing.
- 4.4.3 Encourage all children to play by the laws of the game.
- 4.4.4 Teach young people that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each contest is accepted without undue disappointment.
- 4.4.5 Turn defeat into victory by helping young people to develop a positive work ethic for self and team improvement.
- 4.4.6 Remember that young people learn from good examples.
- 4.4.7 Respect the role of match officials, before, during and after the game.
- 4.4.8 Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all levels of the game.
- 4.4.9 Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.
- 4.4.10 Be aware of the Camanachd Association Child Protection Policy.

4.5 Code for spectators

- 4.5.1 Help the players to enjoy themselves, by lending positive support.
- 4.5.2 The abuse of players, coaches or officials is unacceptable. Be positive and support our team.
- 4.5.3 Acknowledge and respect good performance by both teams.
- 4.5.4 Spectators should not enter the playing enclosure. The running of the game is the remit of the match officials.
- 4.5.5 Remember that the players are playing for FUN. The game they play belongs to them. They are not professionals or international gladiators.

4.6 Code for Referees

- 4.6.1 Make a personal commitment to keep abreast of refereeing principles.
- 4.6.2 Apply the rules in a manner that discourages violent play and promotes sportsmanship and fair play.
- 4.6.3 Be fully aware of the context of the game you are refereeing, e.g. age group.
- 4.6.4 Ensure that the spirit of the game is not lost. Your control of the game is a significant factor influencing whether the participants and the spectators enjoy their day out.
- 4.6.5 Remember that the players are there for FUN. You can make a positive contribution to their enjoyment.
- 4.6.6 Help clubs ensure that these CODES are being applied.
- 4.6.7 When refereeing young players, constructive coaching can be as useful as good refereeing.

4.7 Duty of care

- 4.7.1 The working relationship is between the sports officials who provide the opportunity to play and the players, both young and old, who take up that opportunity and participate. This relationship is one of mutual responsibility across the agencies involved.
- 4.7.2 Adults must appreciate the effect that their behaviour has on the actions and reactions of young people. The more exciting and passionate the circumstance, the more important is the example set by the Adults.
- 4.7.3 **The Club:**
 - 4.7.4 The Club must take all reasonable measures to ensure that all adults are suitable for the tasks they perform in the provision of Shinty for young people. See: Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
 - 4.7.5 The Participants:
 - (a) Everyone involved should be aware of these CODES and work to make them effective.
 - (b) Out with the playing of the game adults should be aware of the safety and

wellbeing of the young people in their charge, and should set an appropriate example.

- (c) All players should recognise the responsibility they carry for their own well being, and that of other participants, before, during and after the Game.

4.7.6 During the game:

- (a) The control of what happens on the field of play is the sole responsibility of the match officials and the players involved.
- (b) People on the touchline should not interfere with the playing of the game or enter the playing field unless asked to do so by the referee, e.g. to attend an injured player.

4.7.7 Exceptional Circumstances:

- (a) Should circumstances arise where the Laws of the Game are flaunted to the extent that control of the situation has moved beyond the match officials and the players, the adults in charge can assume that the game has ceased and a common law situation has arisen. In such circumstances the adults are advised not to become involved in the situation and to remove the players from the scene to a place of safety.
- (b) Such a situation should never arise if the ethos of these CODES is adhered to.

BYELAW 5 CHILD PROTECTION & PROCEEDURES

Any concerns you have regarding child protection should be passed onto the local CA Development officer and the WCA President immediately who will act as a link with the CA child protection coordinator.

5.1 Child protection policy and procedures

- 5.1.1 (a) The Camanachd Association accepts that it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from abuse. All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and discrimination and to be treated equally regardless of age, gender, racial origin, culture, religious belief, language, disability or sexual identity.
- (b) Child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation and it is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to take.

- 5.1.2 Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. Some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with children in order to harm them. Everyone working in shinty – in a paid or voluntary capacity, together with those working in affiliated associations – has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and preventing their abuse.
- 5.1.3 A coach, instructor, teacher or volunteer may have regular contact with children and be an important link in identifying cases where a child needs protection. When establishing guidelines to protect children, it is important to recognise that the organisation has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure it provides the highest possible standard of care.
- 5.1.4 The Camanachd Association recognises that it has a responsibility to:
- (a) Safeguard and promote the interests and well-being of children with whom it is working;
 - (b) Take all reasonable practical steps to protect them from harm, discrimination, coercion, degrading treatment; and
 - (c) Respect their rights, wishes and feelings. Child protection policies and procedures can:
 - (d) Offer safeguards to the children with whom we work, and to our members of staff, volunteers and those in affiliated organisations.
 - (e) Help maintain high standards of professionalism and practice within the Camanachd Association and affiliated organisations.
- 5.1.5 To help prevent abuse of children, all individuals, clubs and affiliated associations are held, by virtue of their membership of the Association, to have committed themselves to the implementation of this policy. It is the responsibility of club officials to ensure that everyone involved in the care of children is aware of and has access to, this policy and accompanying procedures and guidance that the Association will publish, and knows what to do if there are concerns about abuse.

5.2 Principles

- 5.2.1 This policy and accompanying procedures and guidance, are based on the following principles:
- (a) The child's welfare is paramount.
 - (b) All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
 - (c) All suspicious and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously; and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

- (d) Anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purpose of this document.

5.2.2 Working in partnership with children and their parents/carers is essential for the protection of the children. The Camanachd Association recognises the statutory responsibility of the social services department to ensure the welfare of children and is committed to working together with the local agencies and Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and to complying with their procedures.

5.3 The rights of the young shinty player

5.3.1 The right to enjoy themselves both in practice and in competition with a variety of activities which are both fun and instructional.

5.3.2 The right to play like a child and not to be treated like an adult, either on or off the playing field.

5.3.3 The right to take part in competitions with rules adapted to their level of ability at each stage of their psychomotor development.

5.3.4 The right to play in conditions of the greatest possible safety.

5.3.5 The right to participate in all aspects of the game.

5.3.6 The right to be trained by experienced and qualified coaches.

5.3.7 The right to be able to gain experience for themselves, by resolving themselves the problems which arise both in practice and in official competition.

5.3.8 The right to be treated with dignity both by their coach and their opponents and team mates.

5.3.9 The right to play with children their own age who have similar chances of winning.

5.3.10 The right not to be a champion.

5.4 Procedures and Guidance

5.4.1 The Camanachd Association shall publish child protection procedures and guidance and shall ensure implementation by organising appropriate training programmes and adopting good child protection management practices.

5.5 Review

- 5.5.1 This policy and accompanying procedures and guidance will be regularly monitored and reviewed:
- (a) In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or any changes within the Camanachd Association.
 - (b) Following any issues of concerns raised about the protection of children within the game of shinty.
 - (c) In all other circumstances, at least annually.
- 5.5.2 This monitoring and review process will be carried out by the ACPC in collaboration with the CCPCs, who will put forward recommendations for development to the Association.

BYELAW 6

ANTI DOPING POLICY

- 6.1 The Association is opposed to the use of prohibited drugs in the game and will undertake whatever steps are necessary to ensure its members do not partake of any of the banned substances listed in the International Olympic Committees Medical Commission or the World Anti-Doping Agency (the WADA). To this end, participants in the game may be subject to random testing.
- 6.2 The procedure shall have the power to carry out drug testing of those participating in competition games governed by the Association.
- 6.3 The method of testing will be by way of urine samples. While every effort will be made to maintain the participant's privacy, the urine sample is required to be taken under supervision.
- 6.4 The banned use of drugs in sport are identified as being under four categories: Stimulants, e.g. Amphetamines Narcotic analgesics (pain killers) e.g. morphine Anabolic steroids to increase muscle and aggression Tranquillisers and relaxants, e.g. beta-blockers and alcohol
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the participants to check with their doctor if any medication being taken is likely to contain a banned substance. Doctors are normally able to prescribe adequate medication not including prohibited drugs.
- 6.6 Any participant must, if required by an official designated for the purpose of drug control, submit to a drugs test. Failure to do so will be taken as if a positive result had been obtained and will be dealt with accordingly.
- 6.7 Similarly, any Club member or Official, who in any way obstructs the procedure regarding the drugs testing, shall result in that club being suspended from participation in the particular competition for a period of one year.

- 6.8 Should any participant be found to have provided a urine sample which, on analysis, is found to contain a prohibited drug he/she will be immediately:
- (a) be notified in writing to that effect.
 - (b) be suspended from any further participation in the game until a full investigation has been carried out by the Board. The participants and his/her club representative shall be given the opportunity to be heard at any such investigation.
- 6.9 Should the finding of the investigation be that the participant has partaken of prohibited drugs other than as properly prescribed, that participant shall, forthwith, be suspended sine die. There shall be the right of appeal after one year to a Special General Meeting, who shall have the power to amend the suspension if considered appropriate. The appeal procedure shall be as detailed in Byelaw 8.3.

BYELAW 7

DISCIPLINARY RULES

- 7.1.1 The WCA will record, monitor and impose sanctions regarding red or yellow cards awarded to a player. However, in the event of match suspensions or exceptional cases of misconduct, the Disciplinary Committee shall be informed.
- 7.1.2 The Board of the Camanachd Association shall appoint two Committees to deal with all matters relating to discipline within shinty. An appeals process, as set out in 7.5 below, shall also exist.
- 7.1.3 A Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all matters referred by a Referee, the WCA or referred by the System of Standard Disciplinary Procedures set out in 7.3 below. The code governing the functioning of the Disciplinary Committee is set in out in 7.2 below.
- 7.1.4 A Behaviour in Sport Committee shall deal with all other allegations of Misconduct as set out in Byelaw 7.4.4. The code governing the functioning of the Behaviour in Sport Committee is set out in 7.4 below.

7.2 The disciplinary Committee

- 7.2.1 The Camanachd Association Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter the “Disciplinary Committee”) shall be appointed by the Board. The Disciplinary Committee will normally have ten members. Active players and Referees will not be eligible for appointment. Membership of the Committee shall be reviewed by the Board annually

and the Board may request nominations for membership of the Committee from voting members of the company. The Board may direct a member of the Committee to stand down if, in the view of the Board, it is in the best interests of the sport.

7.2.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall

- (a) deal with all matters of misconduct on the field of play, or abandonment (see Byelaw 3.3) of a game for behavioural or misconduct reasons, or the suspension of any player or players from further participation in a game, that have been reported by the Referee or referred by the system of standard disciplinary procedures set out in below and
- (b) deal with allegations or complaints of assault, abuse, intimidation or attempts to influence a match official, or officials, or any member of the Board, or any Association committee(s) involved in the administration of the Sport, that may be brought to its attention by a Referee

7.2.3 In relation to b) above, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee may decide, that the whole case, or part of it pertaining to non-players, would be more appropriately dealt with by the Behaviour in Sport Committee. In such an event, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall direct the Chief Executive Officer (hereinafter the “CEO”) to refer the matter to that Committee to be dealt with in accordance with 7.4 below.

7.2.4 In relation to matters appropriately referred to it, as per 7.2.2 above, the Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction over all players participating in all competitive and non competitive matches organised by the Association and played under Camanachd Association Rules of Play and also over all Member Clubs, their elected members or officials, Affiliated Associations and individual registered members. They will also deal with such matters relating to Camanachd Association players in Shinty/Hurling matches.

7.2.5 The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all cases reported to it by referees concerning automatic suspensions through penalty points totting up. It shall also deal with any allegation or complaint made through a Referees Special Report [see

7.3.1.b)iii and 7.3.1.c)].

The Referee’s Special Report must be in the hands of the CEO within five days of the incident or subject matter arising. Failure to deliver a Referee’s Special Report within the stipulated time frame shall render the Special Report null and void.

7.2.6 Any Referee’s Special Report shall contain full details of the offenders cautioned or sent off and of the incidents which necessitated such action as well as the incident that merited the Special Report. A copy of the Special Report will be sent by the CEO to both the complainant and the alleged offender concerned as soon as possible and will be posted not later than one week before the hearing. Any statements submitted to the

CEO prior to the one week notice period for the meeting shall be circulated among all parties concerned. All those who submit statements prior to the one week notice period have a right to be heard at the hearing.

- 7.2.7 The CEO shall be responsible for the arrangements for any hearing and shall ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the rules of natural justice as set out in the Sport England booklet entitled “Getting it Right” and any subsequent, relevant documents. Notwithstanding the final sentence in 7.2.6, the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to consider verbal or written evidence from whatsoever source they may decide. They may also consider supplementary evidence from whatever source or in whatever form they may decide.
- 7.2.8 Having considered the evidence the Disciplinary Committee may deal with the player(s), Club(s), Associations or individuals concerned in any one or more of the following terms: no action, letter of warning, a caution, a suspension, a fine, requiring a replay of a game at a newly selected venue, awarding of a match to an opposing club, deduction of points, disqualification of club(s) from a specific competition(s), or a suspended sentence. Penalties that may be imposed on an individual also include suspension from any participation in the sport for a prescribed period, or from a specific function in the Sport. In the case of a player, penalty points, as per 7.3 below, may be imposed.
- 7.2.9 The Disciplinary Committee shall meet in the last week of each calendar month if required to do so and on any other date agreed by the Committee. The CEO shall arrange the time and place after consultation with the Chairperson.
- 7.2.10 Five members present will constitute a quorum of the Committee. If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a date within the following fourteen days, provided there are no changes to the Agenda, at the same time and place, when the Committee members present will constitute a quorum. Each Committee member has one vote. The Chairperson of the Committee will have a casting vote, in addition to his or her deliberative vote at any meeting, in the case of equality.
- 7.2.11 When hearing a case against a player(s), club(s), association, referee(s) or individual the Disciplinary Committee may not take into consideration the offender’s previous

disciplinary record.

- 7.2.12 When considering the sanction to be bestowed upon an offender once the Disciplinary Committee has found against them, the Disciplinary Committee may then take into consideration the offender's previous disciplinary record.
- 7.2.13 When an offender is suspended the period of suspension shall extend to cover a competitive match or matches yet to be played by his club or shall extend over a period of time. Any suspension will not be effective during the Association's close season unless so specified by the Disciplinary Committee. A scheduled match that does not start (postponed) will not count towards the completion of such a period of suspension. A scheduled match that does start but is then stopped for whatever reason (abandoned) shall count towards the completion of such a period of suspension, only if it is subsequently decided that the result at the time of the abandonment should stand (see Byelaw 3.3.5)
- 7.2.14 If a club forfeit a competitive match or is ordered to forfeit such a match by the Board or the Disciplinary Committee, the match shall be considered as played and shall count as a match in the period of suspension of any player belonging to the club gaining the match forfeit. The Disciplinary Committee will receive confirmation of such forfeiture so that the match may be thus considered part of a suspension.
- 7.2.15 A player under suspension is debarred from any other active part on the field of play or activities related to his club's/team(s) participation in competition, as defined within section 7.3 below, during the period of suspension.
- 7.2.16 When an offender is suspended for a period of more than one year or sine die, he or his club may at the end of one year appeal to Disciplinary Committee who shall have the power to reduce the penalty imposed.
- 7.2.17 All findings will be communicated immediately in writing to the Secretary of the Club(s) involved, the CEO, and any referee involved. In cases of particular necessity, this does not preclude implementation of the findings on verbal intimation of same to the secretary of the Club(s) concerned, with written confirmation following as indicated above.

7.3 Standard disciplinary procedures

The following disciplinary procedures for dealing with reports by match officials relating to incidents and acts of misconduct occurring in a match, shall apply to all shinty which is played under the jurisdiction of the Association, involving a full or associate member club or association that play in competitions which involve a full, associate member club or association and which are included in the Association's register of competitions.

7.3.1 Reporting of offences by match officials

a) Caution Offences

i Referees will administer cautions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

ii Referees must submit report forms to the Women's Association, stating details of the offence and the penalty points to be recorded against the player, such report forms to be in the Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match.

Thereafter, the Women's Camanachd Association will distribute individual copies to the club concerned.

b) Sending Off Offences

i Referees will administer sending-off in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

ii Referees must submit report forms to the Women's Association, stating details of the offence and the number of penalty points to be recorded against the player, such report forms to be in the Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match. In the case of a player who is sent off for being guilty of a second cautionable offence after having received a caution, the referee must report the two offences which resulted in the player's dismissal, together with the combined total of penalty points.

Thereafter the Women's Camanachd Association will distribute individual copies to the clubs concerned.

iii If a referee, or upon the advice of his assistant officials, considers that a player's sending off is of such a serious nature that it may warrant consideration by the Disciplinary Committee as an exceptional case of misconduct, he/she shall submit, in addition to the report form, a letter fully detailing the incident along with his/her recommendation that the Disciplinary Committee may wish to meet to consider the matter.

c) Incidents Occurring Before, During and After a Match

- i Referees must submit to the Association, a detailed report on any incident which occurs before, during or after a match. Such report to be in the Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match.
- ii Where the incident involves a player and an offence is committed by a player, the referee is to indicate in the report whether or not he considers the offence to be the one which would fall within the list of offences detailed in the Schedule of Penalty Points and, if so, to indicate the number of penalty points which should be recorded against the player.
- iii All incidents, other than offences committed by a player before, during or after a match must be reported by the referee on the match report form, such report form to be in the Fixtures Secretary's hands not later than the fifth day following the match.

7.3.2 Recording of Offences by the Women's Camanachd Association and Sanctions For League, Cup and Representative Competitions

- a) THE WCA DOES NOT OPERATE A PENALTY POINTS PROCEDURE BUT A CARD SYSTEM AS FOLLOWS:

Discipline

Any player being booked during a match should be noted by the referee on the match report and the Fixtures Secretary informed ASAP. Sanctions for cards are as follows:

- i 1 yellow card = warning
- ii 2 yellow cards = 1 match suspension (every 2 yellow cards equate to one red card)
- iii 1 red card = 1 match suspension
- iv 2 red cards = 2 match suspension etc

Cards will operate under at totting up procedure for that season but will not be carried forward to the next season. However, any unfulfilled match suspensions will be carried forward into the next season. A match suspension will take effect immediately and can only be served when a players team actually play a match, walkovers, scratch matches or postponements do not count as suspended matches. Match suspensions only apply to the competitive section in which they were given. These competitive sections are as follows – Sixes Competitions, University Leagues, International Matches, VFCC & National Leagues, Intermediate Leagues and Men's Leagues

A player who persistently offends will be referred to the CA disciplinary Committee.
Caution Offences

The Camanachd Association will confirm to the player, through her club, the card recorded against her for the offence and her cumulative match play sanctions.

Sending-off Offences

- i The Association will confirm to the player, through her club, the card recorded

- against her for the offence and her cumulative match play sanctions.
- Ii If the referee has reported that a player's sending off is of such serious nature that it may warrant consideration by the Disciplinary Committee as an exceptional case of misconduct, the Association will confirm to the player, through his club, that a report is being referred to the committee. A copy of the referee's report will be issued to the club, and the player through his club, and his response to the report will be requested, to be received within seven days of such request.

Incidents occurring Before, During and after a Match

- i Where the incident involves a player, and an offence is committed by a player, and the referee has indicated whether a yellow or red card should be recorded against the player, the Association will confirm to the player, through her club, the sanctions imposed against that player using the card discipline system (Byelaw 7.3.2a)
- ii Incidents involving offences committed by players which are reported by the referee and are not considered to fall within the card discipline system, will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.
- iii The Disciplinary Committee will deal with all other incidents involving players.

7.3.3 Punishments – Representative Competitions

- i Any player ordered off or receiving 3 cautions in two seasons will automatically appear before the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will have discretion on what sentence to impose but will take into account a player's suspension record for that season. Any sentence imposed will be served in Representative Competitions.
- ii Representative Shinty is defined as all representative competitions at under 14, under 16, under 18 the Under 21 Area Competition, Marine Harvest and the Shinty/Hurling Internationals. Any caution received or sending off in any one of the above should be counted as been received in them all and consequent punishments should be served in any of them.

7.3.4 Punishments – League, Cup and All Other Competitions

This will include six- a-side competitions, festivals outside the Marine Harvest, organised friendly games and any other not directly under the auspices of the Camanachd Association. A player receiving three cautions in one season or an ordering off in any of the games in this category will automatically appear before the Disciplinary Committee. The suspension imposed will apply to this category of game.

7.3.5 Persons called to appear before the Disciplinary Committee in exceptional cases

- a) The Association will confirm, by Recorded Delivery letter to the person at her previously notified home address, and to her club, that she is being called to appear before the committee.

She will be advised:

- i that the committee is minded to treat her case as an exceptional case;
- ii of the reason why the committee is minded;
- iii that any, or other additional penalties may be imposed by the committee; iv of the date, time and place of the committee meeting;
- v that she has the right to appear and make representations and
- vi that she has the right to be accompanied by an agreed representative of her club. A copy of the reports submitted in connection with the case will be issued to the person
- b) at her previously notified home address, and to her club, and the person will be given the opportunity to respond with the comments prior to the meeting and in any case within seven days of the date of notification.
- c) In the event of a person failing to attend the meeting, her case may be dealt with in her absence.
- d) The Disciplinary Committee may require the referee or any other match official to attend the meeting.
- e) The decision of the committee will be intimated to the player at the meeting and it will be confirmed by the Association, by recorded delivery letter, to the player at her previously notified address, and to her club.

7.4 The Behaviour in Sport Committee

- 7.4.1 If a club wishes to make a protest regarding a fixture they have played it will be considered by the WCA. If the protest is not straightforward according to current Byelaws, the committee has the power to refer the matter to the Camanachd Association Behaviour in Sport Committee.
- 7.4.2 The Camanachd Association Behaviour in Sport Committee (hereinafter the “Behaviour in Sport Committee”) shall be appointed by the Board of the Company. The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall have three members. Those appointed by the Board shall be, or shall become, individuals members of the Company. Membership shall be reviewed annually by the Board. From amongst their number, the members of the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall appoint a Chairperson.
- 7.4.3 All three members of the Behaviour in Sport Committee must be present to constitute a quorum of the Committee. If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a date within the following fourteen days. Each Committee member has one vote. The Chairperson of the Committee will have a casting vote, in addition to his or her deliberative vote at any meeting, in the case of equality.

- 7.4.4 If an appointed Behaviour in Sport Committee member is temporarily unable to fulfil his duties as a member of the Committee, The President of the Camanachd Association shall co-opt another person to join the Committee for one or more meetings. If an appointed member resigns or is directed to step down by the Board, then another person will be appointed by the Board.
- 7.4.5 The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall deal with any alleged Misconduct as defined in Article 13 of the company's Articles of Association or a complaint made under the terms of ByeLaws 2.11 (Interpretations of the Rules of the Game), 3.7.7 (Transfer of Player), and 3.9 (Protests), other than in relation to employees of the company or its members, whose cases will be dealt with by the employer under relevant employment legislation and codes.
- 7.4.6 The Camanachd Association encourages all member Clubs and Affiliated Associations to have grievance and disciplinary procedures in place and recognises that many allegations of misconduct relating to a player or member of a Member Club or Affiliated Association may be appropriately dealt with by that body under its own procedures.
- 7.4.7 In relation to matters appropriately referred to it, the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall have jurisdiction over all players, members of Member Clubs, Member Clubs, Affiliated Associations, individual registered members, Referees and other match officials and members of the Board of the company.
- 7.4.8 It shall be competent for the company to receive allegations or complaints that a Member Club or Affiliated Association has failed to properly implement its own disciplinary procedures. In such a case the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall be empowered to adjudicate on both the allegation or complaint that may have been inappropriately dealt with by the Member Club or Affiliated Association and with the alleged failure of that body to properly implement its own procedures.
- 7.4.9 The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall deal with all cases reported to it by any Member Club, Affiliated Association or registered individual, or the Disciplinary Committee as per 7.2.3 above. An allegation or complaint must be made in writing to the Fixtures Secretary setting out the incident or subject matter of the complaint including reference to evidence and witnesses. An allegation or complaint should contain as full and detailed an account of events as is possible.
- 7.4.10 The members of the Behaviour in Sport Committee, upon receiving a copy of the written allegation or complaint shall have authority to dismiss it as frivolous or inconsequential. Such a decision shall be conveyed in writing to the party making the allegation or complaint. An appeal against such a decision, as per 7.5.9, will be competent. In such a case, the Board of Directors, sitting as the Appeals Panel shall make a decision as per paragraph 7.5.15.

- 7.4.11 An allegation or complaint made in accordance with paragraph 7.4.8 is not debarred by any time limit. In considering the matter, the Behaviour in Sport Committee will note the time between the alleged misconduct and the making of the allegation or complaint and shall assess its relevance. The Committee will have sole rights to decide whether the allegation or complaint should be dismissed on the basis of a time delay.
- 7.4.12 Other than as provided within this section, a copy of the allegation or complaint will be sent by the Fixtures Secretary to both the complainant and the alleged offender concerned as soon as possible and will be posted not later than one week before the hearing. When any of the following circumstances apply, a full copy of the allegation or complaint will not be sent out. Instead an appropriate summary of the complaint will be prepared by the Fixtures Secretary, in conjunction with the Association's legal adviser and/or Child Protection Co-ordinator. The circumstances referred to are:
- a) If the allegation or complaint is concerned with a possible breach of the Association's Child & Vulnerable Adult Policy or Procedures;
 - b) If the matter is the subject of an ongoing investigation by police and or social work services;
 - c) If the allegation or complaint is in the form of a statement from a child or vulnerable adult, or contains references to a statement that a child or vulnerable adult has made.
- 7.4.12 The Fixtures Secretary shall be responsible for the arrangements for any hearing and shall ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the rules of natural justice as set out in the sportengland booklet entitled "Getting it Right" and any subsequent, relevant documents. The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall be entitled to hear or see evidence from whatsoever source they may decide. They may also consider supplementary evidence from whatever source or in whatever form they may decide.
- 7.4.13 In all cases where the subject matter relates to the company's child and vulnerable adults protection policy and procedures, the company's Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Co ordinator shall attend a meeting of the Behaviour in Sport Committee in an advisory capacity to the members of the Committee. He shall be entitled to present evidence, ask questions, provide analysis, offer advice and be as involved in the process as the Behaviour in Sport Committee may decide. He shall not have a vote in either deciding whether a case is established or in deciding any sanction to be imposed.
- 7.4.14 Having considered the evidence the Behaviour in Sport Committee may deal with the player(s), Club(s), Associations or individuals concerned in any one or more of the following terms: no action, letter of warning, a caution, a suspension, a fine, disqualification of club(s) from a specific competition(s), suspension or

disqualification from a specific function in the sport, disqualification from membership of the Camanachd Association, or a suspended sentence. In dealing with any protest made under Byelaw 3.9, the Committee is empowered to order that the match be replayed.

- 7.4.15 The Behaviour in Sport Committee shall meet as required. The Fixtures Secretary shall arrange the time and place after consultation with the members of the Behaviour in Sport Committee.
- 7.4.16 When hearing a case, the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall not take into consideration the offender's previous disciplinary record. When considering the sanction to be bestowed if the allegation or complaint is found established, the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall then take into consideration the offender's previous disciplinary record
- 7.4.17 When a person, Member Club or Affiliated Association is suspended or disqualified, the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall specify for what period of time this is to apply. This shall be expressed in days, weeks, months, years, a combination of these, or sine die.
- 7.4.18 A person, Member Club or Affiliated Association under suspension or disqualified is debarred from any involvement in the sport of shinty during the period of suspension or disqualification, or from a specific function in the sport as may be determined by the Behaviour in Sport Committee.
- 7.4.19 When a suspension or disqualification is for a period of more than one year or sine die, the suspended or disqualified party may at the end of one year appeal to the Board of the company who shall have the power to reduce the penalty imposed.
- 7.4.20 All findings will be communicated immediately in writing to the party against whom the allegation or complaint was made and, in the case of an individual, to the member Club and/or Affiliated Association with which he is connected and to the Board of the company. This does not preclude implementation of the findings on verbal intimation of same to the parties involved, with written confirmation following as indicated above.
- 7.4.21 All decisions of the Behaviour in Sport Committee shall have immediate effect. Other than as provided for in the following sentence, should an appeal be lodged against a decision of the Behaviour in Sport Committee, the decision of the Committee shall be suspended from the time of receipt of the written appeal until the conclusion of the meeting that hears the appeal. A decision reached by the Behaviour in Sport Committee in respect of an allegation or complaint related to the company's child and vulnerable adult protection policy and procedures shall not be suspended pending the hearing of any appeal that may be lodged.

7.5 Appeals against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee or in relation to Competition Rules

- 7.5.1 An Appeals Panel will be appointed by the Board. The Panel shall sit as required to deal with appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee. This panel will also deal with any grievance related to the operational decisions made by the Chief Executive Officer, Competitions Director or any Competitions Committee in relation to the application of competition rules.
- 7.5.2 No appeal is competent against a decision of a Referee on an incident on the field of play. For the avoidance of doubt, any automatic suspension imposed through the Standard Disciplinary Procedures must be served in any event.
- 7.5.3 When a player, Member Club, Affiliated Association or registered individual member;
- a) Is aggrieved by the process of how a decision was reached, or
 - b) is aggrieved by the sanction imposed in addition to any automatic suspension, or
 - c) feels that compelling new evidence has become available that could have significantly altered the decision reached, then such a person or body may appeal by lodging a written appeal with the Fixtures Secretary within seven days of the intimation of the findings by the Disciplinary Committee. This should be accompanied by an appeal fee of £ 50 (fifty pounds) that shall be returned should the appeal be successful, and should state the subject matter of the appeal and outlining the circumstance appealed against.
- 7.5.4 On timeous receipt of such an appeal, the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange a meeting of the Appeals Panel as soon as possible but in any event within fourteen days of receipt, to consider the appeal and decide the outcome.
- 7.5.5 Unless the Appeals Panel is satisfied that additional evidence was clearly unable to be presented at the disciplinary hearing, it shall confine its considerations to the due process followed by the Disciplinary Committee as against the procedures set out in the Memorandum, Articles and Byelaws of the company. Notwithstanding this, the Appeals Panel will consider a case for a disproportionately harsh sanction imposed upon player(s), club(s), association, referee(s) or individual(s).
- 7.5.6 The Appeals Panel may
- a) endorse or quash the original decision on grounds of procedural irregularity.
 - b) endorse or quash or impose a different sanction should they feel that the initial sanction was inappropriate.
 - c) suspend the sanction imposed upon an offender and order the Disciplinary Committee to re-examine a case in the exceptional situation where additional evidence has come to light that the Appeals Panel believes could have

significantly influenced the decision reached by the relevant Committee in the first hearing.

- 7.5.7 Any decision taken shall have immediate effect and shall be confirmed to the appellant as soon as possible in writing. Such a decision shall be final and binding on the party concerned.

7.6 Appeals against a decision of the Behaviour in Sport Committee

- 7.6.1 A quorum of Board of Directors of the Company shall constitute the Appeals Panel in such cases.
- 7.6.2 When a Member Club, Affiliated Association or registered individual member;
- a) is aggrieved by the process of how a decision was reached, or
 - b) is aggrieved by the sanction, or
 - c) feels that compelling new evidence has become available that could have significantly altered the decision reached, then such a person or body may appeal by lodging a written appeal with the Fixtures Secretary within seven days of the intimation of the findings by the Behaviour in Sport Committee. This should be accompanied by an appeal fee of £ 50 (fifty pounds) that shall be returned should the appeal be successful, and should state the subject matter of the appeal and outlining the circumstance appealed against. There is no appeal against a decision made in relation to a protest under ByeLaw 3.9.
- 7.6.3 On timeous receipt of such an appeal, the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange a meeting of the Appeals Panel as soon as possible but in any event within fourteen days of receipt, to consider the appeal and decide the outcome.
- 7.6.4 If the appeal is in relation to a hearing attended by a Director in his capacity as the company's Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Co-ordinator, then he shall not be entitled to take his place as a member of the Board at the Appeals Hearing. He may be called upon by the Board to attend to provide advice, guidance and assistance in its consideration of the appeal.
- 7.6.5 If the appeal is in relation to a hearing that considered the conduct of a member of the Board, then that Board member shall not be entitled sit as a member of the Appeals Panel at the appeal hearing.
- 7.6.6 Unless the Appeals Panel is satisfied that additional evidence was clearly unable to be presented at the disciplinary hearing, it shall confine its considerations to the due process followed by the Behaviour in Sport Committee as against the procedures set out in the Memorandum, Articles and Byelaws of the company. Notwithstanding this, the Appeals Panel will consider a case for a disproportionately harsh sanction.

- 7.6.7 The Appeals Panel may
- a) endorse or quash the original decision on grounds of procedural irregularity,
 - b) endorse or quash or impose a different sanction should they feel that the initial sanction was inappropriate.
- 7.6.8 If the appeal is against a decision made in terms of 7.4.9 above, the options available to the Appeals Panel are:
- a) endorse the decision of the Behaviour in Sport Committee,
 - b) direct the Behaviour in Sport Committee to convene to hear the evidence in the case and make a finding in the case.
- 7.6.9 Any decision taken shall have immediate effect and shall be confirmed to the appellant as soon as possible in writing. Such a decision shall be final and binding on the party concerned.