



**CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION  
BYELAW 3  
2022  
Updated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

## **BYELAW 3**

### **3.1 COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

- 3.1.1 Each member club and affiliated association shall furnish the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association with all the information requested on the competition entry and membership form, which shall be in his/her hands by 31st December annually.
- 3.1.2 Failure to submit any Competition Entry and Membership Renewal Form by the stipulated date may result in Non-Inclusion in the draw for the Association Competitions, against which decision there shall be no right of appeal.
- 3.1.3 The other cup competitions organised by the Camanachd Association shall be conducted under the same rule conditions as that of the Camanachd Cup competition except those applying to the apportionment of proceeds and the eligibility of entry, as detailed in BYELAW 3. The Board, via the CEO, reserves the right to allocate clubs not participating in league competitions to cup competitions as appropriate. All trophies to be suitably engraved by a silversmith appointed and paid by the Company.
- 3.1.4 Failure to comply with any requirements made by the Association in relation to the organisation or promotion of any competition or competitions, other than as provided for in these Byelaws, shall be considered by the CEO, and may result in the offending club or clubs being referred to the Behaviour in Sport Committee, as provided for in the Association's Rules for Disciplinary Procedures.
- 3.1.5 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 recharged 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 CEO may take possession of a trophy at any time for any purpose.
- 3.1.6 All trophies shall be suitably engraved with the name of the winners by a person appointed by the Board. The cost of this will be met by the Association.
- 3.1.7 The Camanachd Association shall each year produce a fixtures calendar for all competitions as outlined in Byelaw 3. This fixtures calendar shall be made public to all Members by the 31st of January each year.
- a) The CA will endeavour to provide a Club with a minimum of 14 days' notice if a fixture is to be scheduled for a gap week or changed from Home to Away.
  - b) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or other person with delegated authority, reserves the right in all circumstances to amend or change a scheduled fixture by giving the affected Clubs a minimum of 7 days' notice. A fixture may be changed at shorter notice only with the agreement of both participating Clubs.

- c) The above shall not apply during the six days immediately prior to a scheduled fixture as detailed in Byelaw **3.2**.
- d) When both Clubs agree and when confirmation is given by the CEO or other delegated authority a match can be brought forward by up to five days or delayed by up to six days from the date of a scheduled Saturday fixture. Agreement will be granted only when there are no impending disciplinary issues and will be at the sole discretion of the CEO or other delegated authority.

### **3.2 POSTPONEMENT OF A SCHEDULED MATCH**

A scheduled fixture will only be postponed if:

- 3.2.1 One of the competing teams requests a postponement due to the death of an **active** player or coach, **either** because they have died in the days just prior to a match, **or** if their funeral service will take place on the day of a match. For the avoidance of doubt an '**active player or coach**' refers to a player or coach actively involved with the club during the current season.

If club members wished to attend a Saturday funeral of someone other than an active player or coach then the match start time can be altered at the discretion of the CEO or delegated substitute.

**In exceptional circumstances clubs may contact the CEO or delegated substitute in writing to request special dispensation.**

#### NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURE

Notification of a request for a postponement due to the death must be received by the CEO or delegated substitute as soon as is reasonably possible, who will then inform the opposing Club and match officials.

- 3.2.2 The pitch of the home Club is declared **unplayable** and they are unable to provide a suitable alternative, and/or the fixture cannot be reversed to the opposition's pitch, and/or the CEO or delegated substitute is unable to select a suitable available pitch.

#### NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURE

Clubs are required to monitor the condition of their pitch during the days prior to a scheduled fixture and liaise accordingly with the CA, their opposition and the appointed match officials.

If the home Club becomes aware that the scheduled pitch is unlikely to be playable, notification must be given to the CEO or delegated substitute at the earliest opportunity. The home Club should propose an alternative pitch for approval by the CEO or delegated substitute. Following approval, the home Club should notify the opposition and appointed match officials at the earliest opportunity.

Thereafter, if there is concern that both the scheduled pitch and the alternative pitch might be unplayable, the home Club should notify the CEO or delegated substitute immediately it becomes known, but not later than **36 hours** prior to the scheduled throw-up. The CEO or delegated substitute may instruct a referee or other

competent person to inspect the pitch in the company of an official of the home Club. The decision of the referee or other competent person will be final.

Should the scheduled and alternative pitch of the home Club be declared unplayable, the CEO or delegated substitute will, at the earliest opportunity, confirm to the participating Clubs and appointed match officials if the fixture is to be reversed with the match played at the opposition's pitch, or if the match is to be played at an available pitch selected by the CA. Confirmation can be given at any time up to the point where it would no longer be reasonable for the teams to reach the pitch one hour before the scheduled throw-up time.

Fixture reversal will not be applied in North & South Division 2 without the agreement of the participating Clubs. In all other league and cup competitions Fixture reversal will not be applied if the scheduled and alternative pitches become unplayable within 24 hours of the scheduled throw-up and the distance to the opposition's pitch exceeds 100 road miles.

*[Guidance Note: The above obliges Clubs to make arrangements for travel at short notice when it can be reasonably foreseen that the scheduled pitch might be unplayable. Further guidance is contained in the Club Fixture Handbook issued to Clubs prior to the start of each season. Not planning accordingly may result in a Club's failure to play a scheduled fixture, as detailed in Byelaw **3.5**]*

- 3.2.3 If a cup tie is cancelled, due to an unplayable pitch, and the visiting Club has travelled to the match after being advised that the pitch was playable, the rescheduled fixture will be transferred to the home pitch of the away team who will then take on the responsibilities of the home team.
- 3.2.4 The home club shall be liable for any expenses incurred by the opposition and/or match officials as a result of any failure by the former to give the required notice detailed in 3.2.2 above.

### **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 rescheduled. However, if both teams wish that the score of the match at the time of abandonment should stand, they must request that the Referee intimate same to the CEO who, having examined the details of the Referee's Report and having consulted with the President, will make the final decision.  
Should the teams fail to agree that the score of the match at the time of abandonment should stand the Referee will intimate this along with his/her detailed

Report to the CEO, who, having consulted with the President, will make the final decision

3.3.4 If the appointed Referee is unable to start a match or becomes unable to officiate during the course of the match then the match will be abandoned, unless:

- a) A reserve Referee has been appointed to the match in advance,  
or
- b) The CA (CEO or delegated substitute) is able to appoint a suitable alternative Referee to the match who will enable the match to start within 30 minutes of the scheduled throw-up time or recommence within 30 minutes following any stoppage during the course of the match.

3.3.5 When a match has been abandoned, the CEO shall check the register of players suspended via disciplinary procedures. Should a player's suspension from competition be affected then the CEO shall inform the player and his/her club accordingly (see Rules for Disciplinary Procedures). For the avoidance of doubt the procedure regarding any yellow cards and/or red cards shown during an abandoned match will be the same as if the match had been completed.

3.3.6 If a match is abandoned for behavioural or misconduct reasons, the circumstances shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee, or if the circumstances suggest, to the Behaviour in Sport Committee, as provided for in the Association's Rules for Disciplinary Procedures.

3.3.7 If a cup tie is abandoned, due to an unplayable pitch, the rescheduled fixture will be transferred to the home pitch of the away team who will then take on the responsibilities of the home team.

### **3.4 RE-SCHEDULED CUP MATCH**

3.4.1 Re-scheduling of cup 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 Failure to play a scheduled League fixture, other than by reason of postponement due to pitch conditions as provided for in Byelaw 3.2.2, in the Premiership, National Division, North Area Division 1 and South Area Division 1, shall result in a penalty of two points being deducted from the offending team's league points total. The match will be rescheduled as per the COO's instructions. Any subsequent failure in the same season shall have the same consequence plus a fine of £100 on the club failing, which shall increase by £10 on each subsequent failure.
- 3.5.2 Failure to play a scheduled fixture in North or South Division 2, other than by reason of postponement as provided for in **3.2**, shall result in the match being declared won by the team not responsible for the failure and that team shall have two points added to its total league points. In addition, the offending team shall be penalised by the deduction of one point from its total league points.

A team failing to fulfil three matches in a season shall result in that team being fined the sum of £100, which shall increase by £10 on each subsequent failure.

Where a league comprises seven teams or less, Clubs in that league can request a match be rescheduled. This request must be made in writing to the CA and include the written agreement of the opposition.

- 3.5.3 Failure to pay any fine imposed shall result in referral to the Behaviour in Sport Committee for consideration of any additional sanction.
- 3.5.4 If a club withdraws from the League without fulfilling their fixtures the points and goals scored and conceded from their fulfilled fixtures shall be removed from the league.

### **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 Membership number 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 CEO which may result in the game being awarded to the opposing team. After each game the referee shall forward the team lines to the appointed keeper of the player register within five days of the playing thereof.
- 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 and shall be fined the sum of £150.
- 3.6.3 Any club which includes on their team lines a player or players who wear(s) a Non-Compliant Helmet and has not signed a Helmet Liability Waiver Form, having breached Byelaw 1.4.7 shall be fined the sum of £50.

### **3.7 TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

- 3.7.1 Any player who plays in a cup 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/she so plays for another club, there is a correctly completed Transfer of Player Form agreeing to the proposed transfer, held by the CEO. The CEO 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 CEO 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 his/her new club after the earlier of:  
a) The new club having completed 80% of their league programme or  
b) 1<sup>st</sup> August.
- 3.7.6 A player may play for any team between 1st November and 1st March 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 the Rules for Disciplinary Procedures. An appeal, in accordance with the provisions in the Rules for Disciplinary Procedures, 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 CEO. 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/her present club, shall carry that nomination with him/her 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/herself from any specific competition, or competitions, through playing a prescribed number of games in named competitions, shall carry that with him/her to the receiving club.
- 3.7.13 It shall be the responsibility of the receiving club to ascertain his/her 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 Schools' Camanachd Association.
- 3.7.15 Copies of Transfer of Player Form may be had from the CEO 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 and shall be fined the sum of £150.

### **3.8 CUP COMPETITIONS**

#### **3.8.1 Semi-Finals**

Semi-final ties, with the exception of the Camanachd Association Challenge Cup, the Macaulay Cup, the Balliemore Cup & the Sutherland Cup will be played at the pitch of one of the two competing teams (to be decided by the toss of a coin once the teams are known, which can be conducted by telephone conference provided a third party is present at the location where the coin is being tossed).

In the event of the pitch being unplayable the tie will be switched to the home venue of the second named club in accordance with Byelaw 3.2.2, or to a neutral venue agreed and proposed by the competing clubs and which is acceptable to the CEO or delegated substitute. All costs relating to these ties, including those of the match officials, must be met by the two competing teams with the first named club responsible for payment on the day of the match.

The Camanachd Association Challenge Cup semi-finals shall be played on a neutral pitch chosen by the Association. All costs relating to these semi-finals must be met equally by the two competing teams, including those of the match officials, with the first named club responsible for ensuring payment is made on the day.

#### **3.8.2 Replays, Extra Time and Penalty Play-Offs.**

In all cup competitions 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.

### **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 Office Bearer or Committee Member shall inform the referee and an Office Bearer or Committee Member 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 CEO within 48 hours of the end of the match (Sunday excluded). This should be accompanied by a protest fee of £50 (fifty pounds) that shall be returned should the protest be upheld. An e-mail intimation of the protest will be accepted, provided the protest fee is lodged within the timescale. The CEO 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 pitch, 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 by an Office Bearer or Committee Member of the club.
- 3.9.3 Any protest made shall be dealt with by the Behaviour in Sport Committee in accordance with the Rules for Disciplinary Procedures. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

### **3.10 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CUP AND LEAGUE COMPETITIONS AND RULES FOR PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IN LEAGUE COMPETITION**

NB: All references to 'North' shall refer to those clubs whose geographical base lies above a line drawn on a map of Scotland, running from Onich to Stonehaven. All references to 'South' shall refer to those clubs whose geographical base lies below this line.

#### **3.10.1 National Cup Competitions**

##### **a) The Camanachd Association Challenge Trophy**

The competition shall be open to teams in the Premiership, National Division, North Division One and South Division One, with the exception of reserve teams playing in North Division One or South Division One.

The teams from National Division, North Division One and South Division One shall compete against each other in preliminary rounds and the first round of the competition to give a total of six teams from these divisions going forward to the second round. Premiership Teams will enter the draw at the second round.

The Competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout.

##### **b) The Balliemore Cup**

The competition shall be open to a club's first team that competes in the National Division, North Division One, or South Division One.

The Competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout.

##### **c) The Sir William Sutherland Cup**

The competition shall be open to all teams playing in North Division Two and South Division Two and any reserve teams playing in North Division One or South Division One. A member club not currently competing in league competition is also eligible to enter this competition.

Each two team club shall submit a list of ten recognised First Team Players (The Player Pool) who will not be eligible to play in any league or cup competition for a reserve team.

These names must be in the hands of the CEO one week before the commencement of the competition each year.

The CEO will consider written applications for alteration to the list at any time up until 7 days before a match is due to be played. The CEO shall have the authority at any time to request substitution of any players not playing on a regular basis. No amendment to the Player Pool shall be permitted after 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Failure to submit a team pool by the stipulated date shall result in the club being automatically fined a sum of £20.

In addition, a player is ineligible to play in the Sir William Sutherland Cup Competition if he/she has played five or more first team matches. A player under the age of 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout.

#### **d) The Macaulay Cup**

The Macaulay Association will invite 8 South teams and 8 North teams to participate in the Macaulay Cup. The teams shall be picked from the Premier League, the National League, South Div 1 and North Div 1 excluding reserve teams. Teams shall compete on a South and North area basis up to and including the semi-finals. The final will be played in Oban and shall be contested between the winners of the South and North semi-finals. Consideration will be given to teams gaining promotion to the Premier League over teams being relegated from the Premier League and consideration may also be taken of teams standings at the end of the current season and depending on cup tournaments being available to teams. Other competition details shall be as agreed from time to time by the Macaulay Association in consultation with the Camanachd Association.

### **3.10.2 Area Cup Competition**

#### **a) Glasgow Celtic Society Cup**

The competition shall be open to all South clubs playing in the Premiership, National Division and South Division One, with the exception of reserve teams playing in South Division One.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season

### **b) The MacTavish Cup**

The competition shall be open to all North clubs playing in the Premiership, National Division, and North Division One with the exception of reserve teams playing in North Division One.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season

### **c) Bullough Cup**

The competition shall be open to all reserve/reserve standard teams playing in South Division Two and any reserve team playing in South Division One. A member club not currently competing in league competition is also eligible to enter this competition.

Players ineligible to play shall be those named on players pools and those who have played 5 first team matches. A player under the age of 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season.

### **d) Strathdearn Cup**

The competition shall be open to all reserve/reserve standard teams playing in North Division Two and any reserve team playing in North Division One. A member club not currently competing in league competition is also eligible to enter this competition.

Players ineligible to play shall be those named on players pools and those who have played 5 first team matches. A player under the age of 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

The competition shall be conducted on the basis of an open draw throughout, with draws for all the rounds up to the final being made prior to the start of the season.

## **3.10.3 National and Area Leagues**

The National Leagues comprise the Premiership and National Division.

For Premiership, National Division and Area Leagues North 1 and South 1. The rules applying to promotion and relegation will change for Season 2022 so that goal difference will not apply in the situation where one or more teams finishing equal on points has/have been awarded one or more 2-0 wins through a Covid related postponement. In such a situation a play-off match shall take place as per Byelaw 3.10.3d.

### **a) Premiership**

The league shall comprise of ten teams. Each team shall play the others twice in a season, one game 'at home' and the other 'away'.

The rules applying to promotion and relegation will be that:

1. The team with most points at the end of the season, or the better goal difference if two or more teams are equal on points or having scored the greatest number of goals if goal difference is equal shall be the Premiership Champions.
2. The two teams with the least points at the end of the season, or the poorer goal difference if teams are equal on points, or the least number of goals scored if goal difference is equal, shall be relegated to the National Division. If three or more teams are equal on points, goal difference and goals scored in the head to head result will determine the outcome.

#### **b) National Division**

The league shall comprise of eight teams or as may be decided by the Board. Each team shall play the others twice in a season, one game 'at home' and the other 'away'.

Reserve teams are not eligible to play in the National Division.

The rules applying to promotion and relegation will be that:

1. The team with most points at the end of the season, or the better goal difference if two or more teams are equal on points or having scored the greatest number of goals if goal difference is equal shall be the National Division Champions and be promoted to the Premiership.
2. The team finishing with the second highest number of points or the better goal difference if two or more teams are equal on points or having scored the greater number of goals if goal difference is equal shall be promoted to the Premiership.
3. The team with the least points at the end of the season, or the poorer goal difference if teams are equal on points, or the least number of goals scored if goal difference is equal, shall be relegated to the relevant North or South Area Division One. If two or more teams are equal on points, goal difference and goals scored, a play-off match between those teams shall take place. This 'play-off match shall take place at a neutral venue and shall be played to a finish, i.e. extra-time and a penalty play-off being utilised if necessary.
4. Should both North Division One and South Division One be won by Reserve Teams the highest placed eligible teams in both divisions will be invited to apply for promotion. If one club accepts the invitation they shall be promoted. If the invitation is declined by both eligible teams then there will be no promotion to or relegation from the National League.

#### **c) North & South Area Division 1**

North Division One shall comprise ten teams, or as may be decided by the Board. South Division One shall comprise eight teams, or as may be decided by the Board. Each team shall play the others twice in a season, one game 'at home' and the other 'away'.

The rules applying to promotion and relegation will be that:

1. The team with most points at the end of the season, or the better goal difference if two or more teams are equal on points, or having scored the greatest number of goals if goal difference is equal in each division shall be the champion of that league.
2. The league champions of North and South Division One shall meet in a play-off match to decide which team will be promoted to National Division in the following season. This 'play-off match shall take place at a neutral venue and shall be played to a finish, i.e. extra-time and a penalty play-off being utilised if necessary. If a Reserve Team wins their League, there will be no "Play-Off" as the Reserve Team is not eligible for promotion to the National Division. If both North Division One and South Division One are won by Reserve Teams, there will be no promotion to the National Division.
3. If a Reserve Team wins their League, they will not be eligible for promotion to the National Division. If both North Division One and South Division One are won by Reserve Teams the highest placed eligible team in each respective league will be invited to be promoted. If one club accepts the invitation they shall be promoted. If both clubs accept the invitation to be promoted, they shall meet in a play-off match to decide which team will be promoted to the National Division in the following season. This 'play-off match shall take place at the conclusion of the leagues at a neutral venue and shall be played to a finish, i.e. extra-time and a penalty playoff being utilised if necessary.
4. The team with least points at the end of the season, or the poorer goal difference if two or more teams are equal on points or the least number of goals scored, in each league shall be eligible for relegation to the relevant North or South Division Two.
5. Relegation shall be dependent upon a team being eligible for promotion from Division Two. If the team winning Division Two is not eligible for promotion, there will be no relegation from Division One at the end of that season.

#### **d) North & South Area Division 2**

North Area Division Two shall comprise ten teams, or as may be decided by the Board dependant on circumstances. South Area Division Two shall comprise eight teams, or as may be decided by the Board dependant on circumstances. Each team shall play the others twice in a season, one game 'at home' and the other 'away'.

The rules applying to promotion will be that:

1. The team with most points at the end of the season shall be the champion of the league.

2. If two teams are equal on points at the top of the league at the end of the season, they shall compete against each other in a play-off match to decide who shall be champion. This 'play-off match shall take place a neutral venue and shall be played to a finish, i.e. extra-time and a penalty play-off being utilised if necessary.
3. Except as provided for below, the league champions shall be promoted to their area league Division One in the following season.

#### **e) Reserve teams eligibility**

1. Reserve teams are eligible for promotion to their respective Area League Division One. A reserve team cannot, in any circumstances, be promoted to the Premiership or National Division. A reserve team cannot in any circumstances play in the same league or cup competition as their first team.
2. A player is ineligible to play in league matches for their clubs reserve team if they have played 75% or more of the clubs scheduled first team League Matches. A player under the age of 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of competition will be exempt from this rule.

#### **f) Conflicts in Matters of Relegation**

It is the case that in all matters of relegation, a club's first and reserve teams cannot compete in the same league.

If the team being relegated is a club's first team and the club's reserve team is currently a member of the league that the first team is being relegated into, the reserve team will drop into a lower area league.

If the first team is due to be relegated to the lowest division available in the area and their reserve team already competes in it, the CEO will refer the case to the Association Board of Directors for a ruling permitting the first team to remain in the division from which they are due to be relegated. In these circumstances the Board shall also decide on whether or not a team not finishing bottom of the league will be relegated from the division. This process shall also rule on the eligibility of the team due to be promoted from the lowest division being permitted to do so. The Board's decision shall be final.

#### **g) Relegation Requests**

Teams are required to participate at the correct level in league & cup competitions. Should a Club request their team to participate at a lower level, the CA shall be minded to refuse such a request.

- i) In exceptional circumstances, the CA may agree to a Club's request for their team to play in a lower league. In these circumstances that team will forfeit 20% of available league points (rounded up to the nearest whole number) and may also face restriction on entry into the cup competitions associated with that league.

- ii) In the event of competition restructuring, the position of teams playing in the newly formed leagues shall be determined by their final league position (following promotion/relegation) at the end of the playing season immediately prior to the new structure coming into place.

