



# League Rules

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## **Mid Ulster Football League Rules**

**0)** The Mid Ulster Football League is an Amateur competition as ratified by its members. Any payment, by whoever, in breach of this rule will cause the subject club to be expelled from the League. Any personnel, player or otherwise, involved in such breach will be suspended for 2 years from membership, playing or otherwise, of any Club affiliated to the League. Matters relating to this shall be reported to the Irish Football Association.

**1)** This amalgamation of Clubs shall be called the Mid-Ulster Football League.

**2a)** The Annual General meeting shall be held not later than the 30th June each year. Each Team shall be entitled to have 2 representatives attending. The representatives attending this meeting shall appoint for the season, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer who shall be deemed Hon Officials. The positions of Hon Gen. Secretary; Hon Registration Secretary; Hon Fixtures Secretary; Hon Referees Appointments Officer(s) shall be appointed by the Management Committee. The Hon Officials shall have a vote. The Chairman, in the case of a tie, is entitled to a casting vote. The Hon. Officials shall be ex-officio members of any Sub- Committee.

**b)** The business of the league shall be conducted by a Management Committee elected annually at the AGM. Where possible thereafter, members can be co-opted. The Management Committee may appoint from within its members any number of sub-committees-the subcommittee shall be responsible to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall be made up as follows. Office bearers and 2 representatives from each Division of the League - Six to form a quorum.

**3a)** Applications for membership of the league shall be made on the forms provided. All Clubs must have in place Public Liability Insurance as pre-requisite of membership. This will be taken out by the League and Clubs will be required to subscribe to the said policy. Clubs who choose to take out their own policy must be able to prove the existence of such a policy on demand from the Management Committee.

**b)** No applications for membership shall be accepted after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**c)** Clubs currently in membership must pay all fees, including Insurance Premiums by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**d)** All Subscriptions and guarantee fees will be determined annually.

**e)** Applications from new Clubs must be accompanied by all relevant League and guarantee fees. Failure to provide such fees will render any such application invalid. In the event of any such application being unsuccessful, all monies will be returned.

**f)** Any Clubs with fees/Insurance Premiums outstanding after August 1st may be suspended from all matches under the jurisdiction of this League until all monies owing have been paid in full. Any scheduled MUFL fixtures unplayed under this rule will be subject to the default procedure.

**g)** Any Club remaining suspended after 12.00 noon on the Thursday prior to a Saturday fixture or 48 hours prior to the Kick-off of a midweek fixture will forfeit the points or Cup-Tie to their opponents.

**h)** The Management Committee reserve the right to fine any Club deemed to be in contravention of League Rules.

**j)** The minimum fine will be determined annually.

**k)** Any Club fined under (h) above, will be notified in writing of:-

- i) The nature of the Rule contravened.
- ii) The amount of the fine.
- iii) The due date by which the fine must be paid.

NB. No Club will be given less than 7 days in which to pay any fine imposed by this League.

**l)** The Management Committee reserve the right to increase the fine for any Clubs who contravene the same Rule on more than one occasion during anyone season.

**m)** Clubs who fail to pay fines by the due date will be suspended in accordance with (g) above.

**4a)** The Clubs comprising the League will be divided in Divisions and number as the Management Committee decide. At the end of the Competition, the Club attaining the highest number of points shall be declared the Champion Club of that Division. In the case of a Club having played in the League during the current season failing to fulfil its fixtures due to resignation, suspension or dismissal, all record of matches played will be deleted from the current seasons' record of the League. At the end of the season for the purposes of relegation, such Clubs will be considered as bottom Club of their section, but will not exist in the next lower section in the ensuing season.

In the case of a Club having failed to play any matches in the League during the current season either through resignation, suspension or dismissal, it will be considered for the purposes of Promotion and Relegation that such Clubs have not existed in the League during the current season.

Should two or more Clubs be equal on points, goal difference will be used to determine their finishing position. If the Clubs are still equal on goal difference, then the goals scored for shall be used to determine finishing position. Should Clubs still be equal, then they must "play-off" on a ground decided by the Management Committee to decide the winner. The proceeds of such a game to be divided between the two competing Clubs and the League in the following proportions.50% (net) to the League and 25% (net) to each of the Clubs.

**b)** All issues regarding promotion and Relegation will be determined annually by the Management Committee

NB. As a guideline, the Management will look to promote 2 teams from each Division per season.

**c)** A Club wishing to resign from the League at the end of the season must do so, in writing, on or before the date of the AGM. Otherwise, it will be deemed a member of the League for the ensuing season. In the event of this Rule not being complied with, the guarantee fee will be forfeited.

**d)** Cups and Trophies are the property of the League. A Club declared Champions of its Division or a Domestic Cup winner shall receive a Cup or Trophy which must be returned in good condition when requested by the League but not later than 1st April of the following season.

A Club returning a Cup or Trophy in a damaged condition shall be liable to furnish the full cost of repair and / or replacement of the Cup or Trophy to the League. No repair shall be effected by any Club. A Club will be fined £50 if it fails to return a Cup or Trophy in a sound condition by the due date.

**5)** The Management shall have the power to fine, suspend or expel any Club, any member Committee of a Club, or any player of a Club whose conduct shall be deemed or in connection objectionable with any match or fixture.

Complaints under this rule must be received by the League Secretary per Special Delivery bearing postmark within 4 days of the cause (Sundays not included) and enclosing a deposit to be fixed annually which shall be forfeited in all cases where the complaint has not been sustained. An exact copy of the complaint must also be sent, at the same time, by Special Delivery service to the Secretary of the Club concerned. The Management Committee shall have the power to deal with offending Club or Clubs, Player or Players, Official or Officials as they may think fit, and to deal with any other matter not provided for in these Rules.

**6a)** All communications must be addressed to the Secretary at his address who shall conduct the correspondence of the competition.

**b)** Clubs must answer correspondence when required to do so. The Management Committee reserves the right to fine any Club who fail to answer Correspondence when directed so to do.

**c)** All Monies owing to the League must be paid to the Treasurer. A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Mid-Ulster Football League and all funds shall be lodged to the credit of this account. Cheques to be signed by the Chairman and the Hon. Treasurer

**7a)** All matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Irish Football Association (IFA) and subject to the Laws of the Game. All players shall register with member Clubs via the IFA Game Management System (GMS)

**b)** The Mid Ulster Football League retain the right to determine all policies regarding Domestic registration and transfer procedures providing such procedures do not break the IFA's One Player One Club (OPOC)/CRS regulations.

**c)** All registrations and transfers shall be administered by Clubs using the IFA GMS. All mandatory fields of registration/transfer must be completed in full. For registrations, it is recommended that a signed form should be logged onto a players profile before a registration is confirmed. The player shall only be considered registered or transferred upon completion of the online procedure. Any player who is under the age of 18 on the date of registration must have parental or guardian consent as per the GMS. All transfers must be completed in accordance with the GMS.

**d)** The Registration Secretary shall report to the Management Committee any case where a registration is submitted for a player already registered on the system and the Committee shall have the right to investigate and take whatever action they deem necessary in each individual case. The Management Committee shall have powers to instruct the Registration Secretary to review registration(s). Any registration which has not been completed correctly shall be reported to the Management Committee. Any Club found to have falsified a registration or transfer will be fined up to a maximum of £250

**e)** No Club shall be allowed to register a player after the 31st March in each season.

**f)** A Players registration may be transferred on a permanent basis in strict accordance with the OPOC/CRS regulations as stated. No permanent internal transfers shall be permitted after December 31st. External Clubs who have teams in the Reserve Championship shall be exempt from this Rule. All Clubs will be permitted incoming transfers from external sources up to and including March 31.

**g)** The Mid Ulster Football League will charge an administration fee for all Domestic transfers. The Management Committee shall determine the amount of such fee annually. Where domestic transfers have taken place, Clubs will be invoiced on a monthly basis for the number of transfers completed. Clubs who fail to pay the invoiced amount in full within 7 days will be fined the amount of the invoice. The Registration Secretary will declare ALL transfers on the League's website.

**h)** From Mid Ulster Division 1 (including Reserve section) downwards, no player shall be eligible, who, during the current season has played more than 6 matches in the Irish League Premier Division.

**i)** No Player shall play for more than one Club in the same Cup competition in the same season annually

**j)** Notwithstanding other rules, should the Management Committee have any doubt at any time, and whether arising out of a Protest, Appeal, Claim or Otherwise, as to the eligibility of any player having taken part in any match or matches under the jurisdiction of the League, they shall have the power to call upon such Player and/or Club to which he belongs, or for which he played, to prove that he is/was qualified to participate in said match or matches in accordance with League rules. Failing satisfactory proof, the Management Committee shall have the power to deal with the matter as they deem appropriate

**k)** A Team found guilty of playing a player whilst under suspension will be reported to the Irish Football Association Disciplinary Committee.

**l)** Any dispute regarding the registration of a Player will be dealt with initially by The Management Committee who may refer the matter to the Irish Football Association Registration Sub Committee.

**Note:** It shall be the ultimate responsibility of clubs playing in any match under the jurisdiction of the Mid Ulster Football League to ensure that its players are eligible to play in such a match. A player not registered with the League who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Clubs should refer in all cases to the IFA Player Registration Regulations

**8)** A Club may, at its discretion, nominate up to 5 Substitute players, of which any 3 may be used in any time in any match, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. Only 3 substitutions by each side will be permitted in any match and the substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game.

**9a)** Any team playing an ineligible player or players in any Domestic League fixture or Cup tie (whether through non-registration or otherwise) will be fined a minimum of £50 for each ineligible player and a 3-0 win awarded to their opponents. In the case of a protest being upheld against a Club which has won a match by any violation of Rule, points so won will be deducted from them and will be awarded to their opponents.

In respect of domestic Cup matches, the Management Committee shall have the powers to re-instate a defeated team provided that the following round of the competition has not commenced In respect of domestic Cup matches, the Management Committee shall have the powers to re-instate a defeated team provided that the following round of the competition has not commenced.

In the case of a protest being upheld against a Club which has won a Cup Tie by any violation of Rule that Club shall be expelled from the competition and any successful appellants shall be re-instated. Protests under this Rule, giving particulars of protest must be received by the League Secretary bearing Post Mark within 2 days (Sundays not included) from date of the match enclosing a deposit of £30 which shall be forfeited in the event of protest not being sustained.

A copy of the protest must be sent to the Club protested against at the same time. All protest and copies under this Rule must be sent by Special Delivery. Post Office Registration receipts shall be conclusive evidence as to time of posting.

**b)** In accordance with a determination by the Irish Football Association, the Management Committee shall have the right to investigate the subject and content of any protest or complaint whether or not the said protest or complaint is deemed in order and shall take any action they deem necessary in each individual case.

**10a)** Objections as to ground, goal posts or ball must be lodged by the Captain with the Referee, in writing before the game is started and the Referee shall have the power to have such objections made right before the game starts.

**b)** Protests must be received by Special Delivery service, bearing Post Mark within 2 days (Sundays not included) enclosing a deposit of £30- such fee will be forfeited in all cases where the protest has not been sustained. A copy of the protest must be sent to the Club protested against, at the same time by Special Delivery service.

**11a)** The Fixtures Secretary or any appointed assistant will be responsible for arranging all matches - League and Cup - that come within the jurisdiction of this League. Clubs must play fixtures as directed and may not amend, alter or postpone any matches without prior agreement from the Fixtures Secretary or any appointed assistant. No fixture may be arranged, altered or amended, later than 12.00 noon on the Thursday prior to a Saturday fixture or 48 hours prior to a midweek fixture without prior agreement between both Clubs and the Fixtures Secretary or any appointed assistant.

In the event of any Club attempting to amend or alter fixtures as above, the Fixtures Secretary or any appointed assistant shall make a decision by which both Clubs shall abide. Clubs must play fixtures on these dates arranged by the League except the ground be covered with snow or declared unplayable by the Referee or is taken by Senior or Parent Associations. A Referee shall inspect the ground prior to the kick-off and shall immediately give his decision as to fitness of ground for play. Where a Referee's inspection is taking place, Clubs must notify their opponents of the correct time of the proposed inspection and must invite their opponents to attend. No Intermediate fixture or any match scheduled on any Private Ground shall be postponed unless a Referee's inspection has taken place except the ground is covered with snow as indicated above.

In case of ground or grounds being covered with snow the League Officials shall have the power to postpone such fixtures provided that sufficient proof is put before them that the ground is snow-bound.

Clubs must play on all available Saturdays except in the case of exceptional circumstances when the permission of the Fixtures Secretary must be obtained.

Teams wishing to apply for a free date must do so in writing at least 2 weeks in advance signifying same to the League Secretary and the sanction of Committee or Emergency Committee obtained. Teams will be permitted 1 free date per season per team. In the event of a Club's First team being granted a Free day, that Club's Reserve team must be stood down on the same day.



**b) (i)** If for any reason a match has been terminated by a Referee, due to circumstances over which neither competing team has control, the result at the termination of play shall stand provided that the duration of the match has not been less than an hour.

ii) In cases where either or both teams are deemed to have been responsible for the abandonment of any match, the outcome of the match shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision. Under the circumstances of an abandoned match under section (ii) above, the Committee shall have the powers to : -

- a) Order that the match should be replayed
- b) Order that the match be declared void and not be replayed
- c) Order that the score at the time of the abandonment should stand as the Official result
- d) Order that a 3-0 score -line be awarded to any team where their opponents are deemed to be guilty of causing said match to be abandoned.

**c) (i)** Clubs drawn first in any tie shall be deemed to be the home team and shall have choice of ground subject to item (iii) below. Clubs drawn second in any tie shall be deemed to be the away team.

ii) In the event of a tie not taking place on the original scheduled date for whatever reason, it shall be re-arranged at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary.

iii) In the event of any tie not taking place on a second occasion for whatever reason, it shall be re-arranged at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary on the ground of the away team and if not played on the date scheduled shall be re-arranged on the ground of the away team on a second occasion.

iv) In the event of the tie not taking place on a second occasion at the ground of the away team, the tie will revert from the following re-scheduled match to alternate weeks at the home and away grounds.

v) All Cup matches will be scheduled to be played as two equal periods of 45 minutes. In the event of any Cup match being terminated by the Referee, Rule 11 (a) or (b) above will apply.

**d)** Clubs must not arrange fixtures on the date on which Representative matches or the Semi-Final or Final ties are to be played except by express permission from the League.

**12)** Should a team not turn up in reasonable time or fail to fulfil their fixture as arranged by the League, they will be dealt with by the Management Committee as per Appendix (a)

A team who have, subject to the implementation of the default procedure, failed to fulfil a League fixture for a second time in the current season will be expelled from the League and their record expunged. For purposes of this Rule, domestic Cup fixtures will not count towards the accumulation of defaults.

Reasonable time shall be understood to mean that the Kick-Off should not be delayed for more than 20 minutes after the Official time for starting.

**13a)** Each team in the League shall register its colours with the Secretary. No two Clubs shall play in the same colour. In the event of two teams having the same, the away team must change their colours.

A Goalkeeper must wear a shirt or jersey of a distinctive colour from that of his own team and also his opponents.

**b)** All Shirts must be clearly numbered and all Players and Substitutes shall wear the numbered shirt that corresponds with their name on the Comet Games Management system/ Match Card.

**c)** Clubs must append the full names (Surnames and Given names) of Players on the Comet Games Management System/Match Card. Where necessary, further initials must be used to identify Players with the same names.

**14a)** The home Club shall pay the Affiliated Referee his fee and travelling expenses as agreed by the League annually. Where no play is possible owing to cases over which neither Club has control, the Referee, if present, shall be only entitled to half his match fee and travelling expenses.

**b)** Instructions following a postponement

In the event that a fixture has been postponed, either by a Match official or the local Authority the home team shall be responsible for:-

- a) Notifying the visiting team
- b) Notifying the appropriate Referees' appointments Official
- c) Notifying the League Fixtures' Secretary

In the event that the match Referee and/or the visiting team attend a ground where the fixture has been previously postponed, the home team shall be liable for all reasonable expenses and may further be dealt with by the Management Committee.

**15a)** Teams must submit their match day line ups on the Comet Games Management system at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Teams who fail to submit line ups before the required time will be fined £10 for each separate occasion. The match Referee will not permit the match to commence unless both teams have confirmed their line ups. Teams who cause a kick-off to be delayed by late confirmation of line-ups will be fined £25 for a first occasion with a review of the fine for any second or subsequent occasion.

In the event that a Club official is deemed guilty of falsifying a match day line up on the Comet Games Management system, the Management Committee will report the matter to the Irish Football Association.

In the event that the Games Management system is unavailable on match days, The Referee will require teams to complete Match cards as per the clauses listed below, subject to confirmation from the League Secretary.

Match cards are the property of the Mid Ulster Football League and must be returned to any appointed addressee when completed.

**b)** Prior to the commencement of the match, both teams must be afforded the opportunity to view their opponents' team sheet. Failure to do so shall be reported in the first instance to any Official Referee who shall note this fact on the Match card.

**c)** In all cases, where Teams have been denied the opportunity to view their opponents' team sheet, they should report this fact, in writing, to the Hon. Secretary within three (3) days - Sundays not included.

**d)** Teams reported under (c) and (d) above will be dealt with by the Management Committee.

**e)** Any team making a spurious complaint under (c) and (d) above shall be deemed guilty of Misconduct and dealt with accordingly.

**f)** All match cards shall be handed to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match and kept in his possession for the duration of the match.

**g)** In the event of the official Referee failing to appear, the Home team shall ensure that the completed match card is forwarded to the appointed addressee within 72 hours of the completion of the match (Sundays not included). Competing teams must agree the final score of the match with the Referee before leaving the ground. The Referee must append the final score on the match card in the presence of both teams.

**h)** The match card must not be altered, amended defaced or falsified in any way. Any Club found guilty of altering, amending, defacing or falsifying any match card, once completed, will be charged with misconduct and dealt with by the Management Committee.

**i)** The home team shall be responsible for overseeing that all sections of the match card are completed.

**j)** The Management Committee reserve the right to fine any Team who fail to comply with any sections of this Rule.

**16)** In the case of reserve teams, no Club shall be allowed to play more than 4 recognised senior team Players in any one match and only applicable to Reserve Championship teams when their senior team do not have a match on the same day. A recognised senior team Player is one who has taken part in more than 6 games in a more senior team during the current season. A senior team shall also refer to a team competing outside the jurisdiction of this League at a greater or equal standing.

Where Clubs play a recognised senior team Player or Players in the reserve team, Clubs must denote this by placing a circle around the number of the Player or Players concerned on the Match Card.

**17a)** A minimum of 8 member Clubs may sign a requisition calling on the Hon. Secretary to hold a Special General meeting within 28 days. On receiving such a requisition, the Hon. Secretary shall notify, in writing, all Member Clubs of the agenda for such a meeting.

**b)** The agenda for any Special meeting shall accompany any such requisition

- c)** No items, saving those on the specified agenda shall be discussed at the Special General Meeting.
- d)** All proposals for Rule Changes from Member Clubs shall be made in writing and forwarded to the Hon. Secretary.
- e)** No changes of Rules shall be made unless at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for such a purpose.
- f)** Proposals for changes to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting must be placed, in writing, with the Hon. Secretary before April 3rd each year.
- g)** The Management Committee shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting which must be convened as in (a) (b) and (c) above.
- h)** The Management Committee may collectively put forward proposals to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for such a purpose.
- i)** The Hon. Secretary will be responsible for circulating a copy of all proposed changes to Rules at least 7 days before the date of any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
- j)** A three quarters majority of those Clubs present and voting is required before any proposed changes to Rules can be implemented.

**18a)** For all Matches under the jurisdiction of this League, (League and Cup), the Home Team shall be responsible for notifying results (telephone or e-mail) to their appointed Divisional Representative

- b)** Results should be notified no later than the times indicated below
- c)** Where Clubs/Teams are playing in matches outside the jurisdiction of this League (Friendly matches excepted) then Divisional Representatives must be notified whether your team are home or away.
- d)** In the event of 2 Clubs from this League competing against each other in match outside the jurisdiction of this League, then the Home Team shall be responsible for notifying the result.
- e)** In the event of your appointed Divisional Representative being non contactable the result should be notified to either the Hon. Secretary or an alternative Divisional Representative.
- f)** Clubs/Teams failing to notify the result by the required time will be fined.

Latest time for Notifying Results

All matches involving Intermediate Clubs-Immediately after the fixture has finished. All other Clubs/Teams - No later than 6.30 on the Saturday or 6.00pm the day following a midweek fixture.

NB. Clubs should notify the Press of their Results. The details for such will be given to Clubs on an annual basis.

**19a)** The Management Committee will meet with the Clubs on a regular basis for the imparting of up to date information and distribution of Fixtures. Unless otherwise notified, these meetings (hereinafter known as League Meetings) will take place on the last Monday of the Month at a venue to be determined by the Management Committee.

**b)** In the event of a meeting called on any other day than determined in (a) above, all Clubs should receive at least 14 days' notice of the change of date.

**c)** All Clubs must attend League meetings and must sign the attendance registers provided by the League. Clubs who fail to sign the Attendance Registers will be deemed to be absent and dealt with accordingly.

**d)** At the Commencement of the next Management Committee subsequent to any League meeting, the names of all Clubs who have failed to sign the attendance registers will be read to the Committee. The Committee shall fine all Clubs deemed absent from any League meeting.

**e)** The Management Committee shall have the right to fine a Club deemed to be absent from League meetings on more than One occasion throughout the course of any one season under League Rule 3(k).

**f)** The Management Committee shall have the right to charge any Club with misconduct should the said Club fail to attend League meetings on 3 consecutive occasions during the course of any one season.

**g)** Any Club dealt with under (f) above will be required to be interviewed by the Management Committee as to its suitability to continue in membership of the League for any ensuing season.

**20a)** In the event of the non-appearance of an Official Referee or injury to an Official Referee which prevents them from continuing, unless an individual can be agreed by both teams, the competing teams must toss a coin and the team winning the toss shall have choice of Referee.

**b)** Once chosen, the individual concerned should officiate for the duration of the entire fixture unless injury prevents them from doing so. In the event of such injury, the Club who initially won the toss of coin shall continue to have choice of Referee.

**c)** The person chosen to Officiate under (a) and (b) above shall have full powers under the Laws of the Game as distributed annually by the Irish Football Association.

**d)** No team should seek to impose a match official upon their opponents. Any Club found to have attempted to act in this manner will be charged with misconduct and dealt with by the Management Committee.

**21)** The above Rules cover League and Cup Competitions.

**Chairman**

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**Appendix A**

(Appertaining to Rule 12)

The Secretary  
XXX FC  
Date

Re: YYY FC v XXX FC  
Date and competition as described

Dear Secretary

Your Club is charged with failing to fulfil the above fixture. Consequently you are required to choose one of the two options available as listed below. Please indicate your choice by placing an X against either option A or B.

**Option A**

Our Club accept the charge and do not require a personal hearing with the Management Committee. We understand that the above named fixture will be awarded to our opponents and that we will be fined as follows:

Intermediate fixtures £110  
Junior Divisions 1-3/Reserve Championship £90  
Reserve Football £80

Where the default is deemed to affect League standings the Committee shall have powers to deduct further points from the defaulting team.

**Option B**

Our Club wish to challenge the charge and request a personal hearing with the Management Committee to outline extenuating circumstances. We understand that if the charge is proven we will forfeit the above named fixture to our opponents and our Club will be fined £xx.

WE ENCLOSE A DEPOSIT OF £20 WHICH SHALL BE FORFEITED IN THE EVENT OF THE CHARGE BEING SUSTAINED.

Should your Club accept option B, you will receive at least 7 days written notice of the date of any interview

Please note that your Club are required to respond to this correspondence by return, indicating which option you are accepting.  
Should your Club fail to return this correspondence within 7 days; the League will assume that you accept the charge as per option A.

Please note also that shortage of players will not normally be regarded as extenuating circumstances.

Yours in Sport  
Stephen Magill  
Hon Sec  
Mid Ulster Football League