



**RULES AND
REGULATIONS
FOOTBALL**

DCL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOOTBALL

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Article 1

Organisation of the Deaf Champions League Competition

Definition of a “Season” - Used to help with inviting Clubs to Deaf Champions League

1.01 DCL will use a “season” from **1 September to 31 August**, to help with inviting clubs to the DCL competitions. Each federation that holds a national competition during this season can be invited to the next DCL competition that is held following the 31 August.

E.g. If a Federation has their national League or Cup competition(s) during 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019, then DCL invites the clubs to the 2020 competition. If the national League or Cup is played or completed after 31 August 2018, the clubs from that Federation are invited to the following years DCL competition in 2021.

Committees and Bodies

1.02 The following Committees and Bodies are set up for matters related to the Deaf Champions League (DCL) competition:

- a) The Organising Committee supports the DCL in an advisory capacity on all competition related matter.
- b) The Referees Committee deals with all refereeing related matters.
- c) The Control and Disciplinary Body deal with matters concerning control and discipline in accordance with the DCL’s Disciplinary Regulations.
- d) The Appeals Body deals with appeals lodged against decisions of the Control and Disciplinary Body/Protest Committee.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee and Clubs

1.03 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf.

1.04 The Organising Committee is responsible for order and security before, during and after the matches. The Organising Committee may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined.

1.05 Each club and Organising Committee shall, irrespective of DCL’s insurance, arrange their own insurance coverage with reputable insurers at their own cost, in relation to any and all risks, according to the following principles;

- a) Each club shall arrange and maintain insurance coverage to fully cover all of its risks in connection with its participation in the competition.
- b) The Organising Committee shall arrange and maintain insurance coverage to fully cover all of its risks in connection with the staging and organisation of the final match.

1.06 The clubs undertake that their team will arrive at the host venue by the evening before the DCL competition starts.

1.07 Members of the Organising Committee at each DCL competition must not be an official or player of a participating club during the competition.

Cup and medals

- 1.08 A trophy is presented to the winning club.
- 1.09 Thirty (30) medals are presented to the winning club, the runners-up club, and the third-placed club. Additional medals may not be produced.
- 1.10 Each club that completes in the DCL competition will be awarded a commemorative diploma/plaque.

Match dates

- 1.11 All match dates are binding on all concerned. The following principles apply to this competition:
 - a) DCL matches are played on the dates set by the DCL and Organising Committee.
 - b) It must not conflict with other deaf sporting activities wherever possible. (e.g. European Football Championships; European Futsal Championships; Deaflympics; World Deaf Football Championships; World Deaf Futsal Championships; etc.).

Final decision on Competition Schedule/Rules

- 1.12 DCL and the Organising Committee (OC) shall publish before the competition starts their final decisions on any parts of the Rules and Regulations that have not been declared within this document, for example;
 - a) The duration (playing time) of the matches throughout the competition.
 - b) The duration of extra time per half for the Final match.
 - c) The competition format, including the number of clubs.

Article 2.

Entries for the Deaf Champions League Competition

Number of qualifying Clubs for entry to Deaf Champions League

- 2.01 Qualifiers for the DCL comes from the results of the domestic Deaf League or Cup competitions affiliated to their National Deaf Football League (If a country has Cup and League, then the champions from the domestic League has priority to go to DCL). Each Federation are to send to DCL the complete details of any national competition(s) held within their country. i.e. placement, teams, players lists, etc. The details must be sent to DCL before 31th August, at the latest, following the end of the season.

(Season = 1 September to 31 August).

- 2.02 A DCL Coefficient will be used to determine the countries and clubs ranking based on the previous 5 seasons of DCL football competitions. The maximum number of teams invited to the DCL football competition held once a year shall be; Men/Under-21: 16 teams, and Women: 16 teams.

Each country must have a minimum of 2 Men / 2 Under 21s / 2 Women clubs participating in their national football league or cup competition.

DCL qualifiers are invited with their Federation's approval on the following basis:

- The previous season's Title-holder (1 club)
- The host club (1 club – See 'Title-holder and Host Club' rule).
- 2 clubs from each of the **top 3 countries** using the DCL Coefficient (a total of 6 clubs).
- 1 club from each country going down the DCL Coefficient after the top 3 countries.

If a country has no national competition, then the next country on the DCL Coefficient is invited to submit a club. It is possible for a country to be represented by 4 clubs, e.g. Host club, Title-holder and 2 clubs as their country may be in the top 3 of the DCL Coefficient.

A maximum of 4 clubs from a country is permitted in the DCL competition.

Title-holder and Host Club

2.03 The DCL title-holder is guaranteed a place in the Group Stage even if it does not qualify for the competition through its domestic cup or league championship.

2.04 The Host Club shall have the right to participate in the competition. The club shall be actively registered for the previous and current seasons.

A Federation may have the option of nominating a club from their country for the DCL competition if the Host Club does not have a team. This club must have qualified in the top four of the domestic league or cup championship, and can be admitted to the competition.

Admission criteria

2.05 To be eligible to participate in the competition, a club must fulfil the following criteria:

- a) It must have qualified for the competition on sporting merit.
- b) It must be registered under its National Deaf Sports Federation or its associated sports organisation, which is affiliated to EDSO.
- c) It must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to respect the statutes, regulations and decisions of DCL.
- d) It must fill in the official entry form, which must reach the DCL by deadline together with all documents, which the DCL deem necessary for ascertaining compliance with the administration criteria.

Admission procedures

2.06 Clubs which fulfil the admission criteria are informed of their admission to the competition by the DCL.

2.07 A club which does not accept an invitation to the competition shall be replaced by the next best-place club in the top domestic league or cup championship of the same national association/federation, provided it fulfils the admission criteria. Only the top four teams in the top domestic league or cup championship will be considered for admission. If DCL are unable to complete the required number of teams for the competition using Rule 2.02, other teams that have qualified in the top four of the domestic league or cup championship, can be admitted to the competition.

The DCL Coefficient is used to assist with inviting further clubs. After going through the DCL

Coefficient, DCL will return to the top of the ranking to invite further clubs.

- 2.08 The DCL may carry out spots checks and/or investigations with clubs at any time after they have been admitted to the competition to ensure that the admission criteria continue to be met for as long as they remain in the competition. If the spot check and/or investigation reveal that admission criteria were not fulfilled at the time a club entered the competition or are no longer being met during the competition, the club concerned is liable to disciplinary measures in accordance with the DCL's Disciplinary Regulations.
- 2.09 The clubs must pay the entry fee and a deposit by the date set by the DCL. When DCL sends out the official invitations to the clubs to play in the DCL, they will be informed of the date when the entry fee and deposit must be paid by. If entry fee and deposit is not paid by the set date, then DCL can admit an alternative club into the competition.
- 2.10 Prior to the start of the DCL competition, the license for each player (individual) to be paid to DCL shall be 5€ and for each official the fee shall be 5€. The fees shall be paid before being allowed to participate.

Duties of the Clubs

- 2.11 On entering the DCL competition, participating clubs agree:
- a) To pay the entry fee and deposit decided between the DCL, this is to be debited directly to DCL.
 - b) To pay the license fees by cash and any outstanding fees/fines prior to starting the DCL competition.
 - c) To comply with the current Football *Laws of the Game*.
 - d) To provide appropriate medical information on any of their players to assist with any possible emergencies.
 - e) To field their strongest team throughout the competition.
 - f) To make every reasonable effort to attend the award ceremony at the end of the competition.
 - g) Not to represent DCL without DCL prior written approval.
- 2.12 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:
- a) The name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
 - b) It is registered with their national Association/Federation and used in national competitions.

Eligibility of players

- 2.13 Each club shall take the following provisions into account when selecting its squad:
- a) All the players must show passports or ID for verification of their names.
 - b) All the players shall be eligible for selection for the club in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the EDSO Constitution.
 - c) To play for the club, all players shall be registered with their National Deaf Sports Federation or its associated sports organisation, which is affiliated to EDSO, as of 1st January for each year.
 - d) No player shall be eligible to play for two or more football clubs at the same time in any one season.
 - e) A player from outside Europe (e.g. a person with a passport from Africa, Asia, etc.) is eligible to play for a European club in the DCL competition. If the player has a European

working/residence permit for the country that they are currently living in then this player will not be counted as a 'Non-European' player. A 'Non-European' player is classified as someone who does not have a European passport and does not have a European working/residence permit. **See Rule 4.14 – Match Team Sheet.**

2.14 There is no age limited in the **Men and Women DCL competitions.**

For the **Under 21 DCL competition**, the players **must not be age 21 before the first of January of the year that the DCL competition is being held in.**

(e.g. If the DCL Under 21 competition is being held during the year 2019, the player must not be age 21 before 1st January 2019, and so on for each year, 2020/1st January 2020, etc.).

For any player under the age of 16, the club must provide parental authorisation. The player's parental authorisation must be sent by the Club to the DCL at least 4 weeks before the start of the DCL competition.

2.15 Each club must submit their list of players and a maximum of 7 club officials and 1 interpreter, but a minimum of 1 non-playing club official, to the DCL at least 6 weeks before the competition starts. The list of players and officials must provide the full name, date of birth and any medical conditions, which the DCL and OC need to be aware of (for example, diabetes, allergies, etc.). This is important in case of emergencies during the competition and possible communication difficulties.

Once the club has registered their **final** list of players (i.e. maximum of 23 players, 7 days before the competition), they can make a maximum of 3 changes to list of players and officials, on grounds of ill health/injuries, before the competition starts. Such changes must be supported with evidence (e.g. doctor note) and no fine will be imposed. The changes must be made from the original players list (up to 30 players) submitted 6 weeks before the competition. Changes to the list of officials may be made without any fine being imposed.

Each Club may only be permitted to have maximum **five** 'Non-European' players within their final list of players but can use **three** 'Non-European' players in their match sheet for each match (see rule 4.14).

If the club has no more players to select from their original players list and the club wants a new player to replace the player who is ill/injured, then this is a 'New Players List' and a fine of 100€ is to be imposed.

If the club does not send the list of players on time before the DCL competition, the following fines are to be imposed by DCL:

- | | |
|---|------|
| a) Less than 6 weeks before the DCL Competition | 40€ |
| b) Less than 4 weeks before the DCL Competition | 100€ |
| c) Less than 2 weeks before the DCL Competition | 150€ |

DCL have discretion as to implementing/forfeiting the fine on receipt of a written request from the club with appropriate reason(s) given as to why the club has submitted their Players List late.

2.16 Once the club has registered their list of players, the club can make up to a maximum of 3 additional changes to the list of players before the competition starts, with the approval of their national federation. If additions are made less than 6 weeks before the DCL competition, a fine will be imposed as stated in Rule 2.15 (i.e. treated as if a new Team Players List and late). Officials may be added without any fine being imposed, subject to the maximum of 7 officials on the Players List.

- 2.17 Once the club has registered their **final** list of players and officials (2 weeks before the competition), then the club can **remove** players and officials before the competition starts with supporting evidence, e.g. proof of injury or ill health with a note from a doctor. No fine or registration fee will be imposed if appropriate evidence is given, but the minimum number of players and officials registration fees must be paid.
- 2.18 Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match with three points awarded to the opposing team if a Group Stage match and a score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. A fine of 100€ will be imposed on the offending club for playing an ineligible player.

Deafness

- 2.19 Only Deaf and hard of hearing players can compete in the DCL competitions.
- 2.20 National Deaf Sports Federation is responsible for providing the ICSD ID Number of each player, who is in the team's list to DCL, according to ICSD Audiology Regulation: <http://www.deaflympics.com/audiogramform.php>

If a club is participating in the DCL competition for the first time and does not have all the players' audiograms, then the club can arrange for obtaining the audiograms after the competition, but this must be done within 3 months from the end of the competition. The sanctions for failing to obtain all the audiograms will be decided by DCL.

- 2.21 Participant's deafness is defined as a hearing loss of at least 55 dB per tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969 Standard).
- 2.22 It is strictly forbidden for a player to use any kind of hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the match. Teams which field a player wearing an amplification device will have that player suspended for a minimum of 1 match in the competition. The CDB will review the case and decide if the suspension is to be increased. During the match, the guilty player will be dismissed from the Field of Play (i.e. red card) and cannot be replaced during the match. A fine of 100€ will be imposed on the offending club and the match result shall stand.

For any matters not provided for in the Rules 2.19 to 2.22, and any additional incidents involving these Rules shall be dealt with by the DCL by referring to the EDSO and/or ICSD Regulations.

Players' registration and numbers

- 2.23 For the registration of players in the DCL Football **Men and Women competitions**, each team must have a **minimum of 16 players**.

For the **DCL Under 21 competitions**, each team must have a **minimum of 14 players**.

The maximum number of players per team is 23. Each club can submit a maximum of 30 players on their Players List, but the Players List **must be reduced to only 23 players at least 2 weeks** before the competition starts. A fine of 50€ will be imposed by DCL on the offending club if they fail to confirm their **final** list of 23 players.

- 2.24 From the first match of the competition, all registered players must wear set numbers between 1 and 99. The number 1 shirt shall be for the goalkeeper. No number may be used by more than one player and no player may use more than one number in the course of the competition.

Article 3.

Venues

Venue inspections

- 3.01 The DCL may carry out pitch inspections at any time before and during the competition to check whether the required structural criteria have been and are still met. Any issues are to be referred to the DCL Technical Director, who will decide on appropriate measures in accordance with the *Laws of the Game issued by IFAB*.

Alternative venues

- 3.02 If, at any time during the competition, the DCL deems that, for whatever reason, some venues may not be fit for staging a match, the DCL may consult with the Organising Committee (OC) and clubs concerned, and ask the OC to propose an alternative venue, in accordance with the requirements of DCL. Should such the OC not be able to propose an acceptable alternative venue within the deadline set by the DCL; the DCL will select an alternative venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the match with the relevant OC and local authorities. In both cases, the costs of staging the match are borne by OC. DCL will take a final decision on the match venue in due time.

The pitches

- 3.03 The OC shall undertake to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the pitches are playable.
- 3.04 The use of artificial turf can be used within the DCL's competitions except for the Final which must be played on natural turf. Any use of artificial turf must comply with the FIFA's recommended standard in the Laws of the Game.
- 3.05 The pitch shall comply with the current FIFA *Laws of the Game*, including the markings of Technical Areas.
- 3.06 The pitch dimensions acceptable for the DCL competitions are:
- Length (touch line) – Minimum: 100 meters. Maximum: 110 meters.
 - Width (goal line) – Minimum: 64 meters. Maximum: 75 meters.
- 3.07 DCL cannot be held responsible for any damage to third parties resulting from the use of artificial turf.
- 3.08 The OC shall arrange for the use of floodlights at the venues. At least one pitch must have floodlight facilities available for use. The minimum average lux reading of the floodlights is to 120.

Scoreboard and display boards

- 3.09 The OC shall as a minimum arrange for manual match recording displays (showing teams and goals scored) to be used at the venue(s) during the DCL competition. Electronic scoreboards would be the preferred option for DCL competitions.
- 3.10 Panels or electronic display boards shall be used during the matches to indicate:
- a) The substitution of players.
 - b) The number of minutes that will be played for 'stoppage time' at the end of each half of the match.

The display boards must be numbered on both sides for clarity.

Article 4.

Competition System and Regulations

The format of the Competition

- 4.01 The DCL competition shall be played in two stages – Group Stage and Cup (knock-out) System. The clubs entered for the competition shall be divided into groups with seeding applied and by drawing lots in public. The draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals shall also be conducted in public before the start of the competition.
- 4.02 The format of the competition may be changed during the competition only for exceptional reasons, which is determined by the DCL and the OC.

Group Stages

- 4.03 The Group Stage will be competed in League format. The number of leagues is decided by the DCL and the OC.

Quarter-finals

- 4.04 The eight winners of the Group Stage contests the quarter-finals. The quarter-finals are played under a Cup (knock-out) System. The team which scores the greater of one match qualifies for the semi-final. If the result ends in a draw, extra time will not be played. The winners shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark.

Semi-finals

- 4.05 The four winners of the quarter-finals contest the semi-finals. The semi-finals are played under the Cup (knock out) System. The team which scores the greater of one match qualifies for the final. If the result ends in a draw, extra time will not be played. The winners shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark.

Final

- 4.06 The final is played as one single match. If the result ends in a draw, extra time of two periods shall be played. If one of the teams scores more than the other after completing extra time, that team shall be declared the winners. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winners shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark.

Play-off matches

- 4.07 The DCL may arrange within the competition for clubs to have further matches when eliminated from the Group Stage, Quarter-finals and Semi-finals. The extra matches may be arranged to decide on the rankings of the clubs within the competition, e.g. 3rd/4th place, 5th to 8th place, 9th to 12th place, 13th to 16th place, etc. These matches will be played as one single match under a Cup (knock-out) System. If the result ends in a draw, extra time will not be played. The winners shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark.

Ranking of Clubs in the Group Stage

- 4.08 After each match played within the Group Stage, the points awarded shall be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 point for a defeat.
- 4.09 The ranking in each Group will be determined as follows:
- a) The greatest number of points in the Group.
- 4.10 If two or more teams are still equal, the following criteria will be used to determine the ranking within the Group:
- a) The greatest number of points in the Group between the teams concerned.
 - b) The goal difference in the Group between the teams concerned.
 - c) The greatest number of goals scored in the group between the teams concerned.
 - d) The goal difference in all the Group matches.
 - e) The greatest numbers of goals scored in all the Group matches.
 - f) The Fair Play record: lower number of points obtained based on yellow and red cards in all group matches.
 - Yellow card = minus 1 point
 - Double yellow cards = red card = minus 3 points
 - Red card = minus 4 points
 - Yellow and Red Card in a match = minus 5 points
 - Official removed from Technical Area = minus 5 points.
 - g) The drawing of lots by the Deaf Champions League.

Laws of the Game

- 4.11 Matches are played in conformity with the current *Laws of the Game* issued by the IFAB (International Football Association Board).
- 4.12 Any disagreement in the interpretation of the current *Laws of the Game*, then the English version is the authoritative text.

Match sheets

- 4.13 Before the match, each team must hand in a completed match sheet. The match sheet must be properly completed in BLOCK CAPITALS, and signed by an official.
- 4.14 Each Club may only be permitted to have **three 'Non-European' players** within their team sheet per match (i.e. within the 11 players and 7 substitutes for their match). 'Non-European' players for DCL competitions, means players who do not have European passports and do not have European working/residence permits. (See Rule 2.13 e).
- 4.15 The 11 first-named players must commence the match. Up to seven other players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the player's shirt must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain, with an armband, must be identified.
- 4.16 Both clubs must hand their match sheet to the Referee at least 45 minutes before kick-off.
- 4.17 The Referees Liaison Officer may ask to see the personal identity card/passports of the players whose names are listed on the match sheet. Each player participating in a DCL competition match must be in possession of a player's registration licence issued by his national Association/Federation or an official personal identity card/passport, containing his photograph and date of birth.

- 4.18 If the match sheet is not completed and returned on time a fine of 10€ will be imposed by DCL.
- 4.19 If there are fewer than seven (7) players in one of the teams, the match will be abandoned. In this case, the Protest Committee decides on the consequences.

Match balls

- 4.20 For all matches, the balls must comply with the current FIFA *Laws of the Game*, which are selected and supplied by the OC.
- 4.21 Three match balls must be made available to the Referee for each match.

Players' equipment

- 4.22 The players must comply with the current *Laws of the Game* for equipment (shirts, shorts, socks, shin guards, footwear, **no jewellery**, taping of socks, etc.). The Referee decision is final if decides that the player does not comply with Law 4.
- 4.23 Each goalkeeper shall wear colours that are different from the other players for both teams and the referees.
- 4.24 The home team should always wear their official first-choice kit announced to the DCL on the entry form, unless the team concerned agree otherwise in due time, in which case, details should be submitted to the DCL in writing. If the referee decides on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, the **“away”** team must make a change for reason of practicality. The change can be a combination of first-choice kit and reserve kit.
- 4.25 For the final, both teams may wear their first-choice kit. However, if there is a clash, the team designated as the **“away”** team must wear alternative colours. The change can be a combination of first-choice and reserve kit. If a clash still exists and the Referee is unable to get the two teams to agree, the DCL will decide on the colours.

Technical Area and substitution of players

- 4.26 Only seven (7) team officials, one of whom must be a team First Aider/Physio, and seven substitute players can sit on the substitutes' bench within the Technical Area, i.e. a total of 14 persons. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.
- 4.27 Only one team official may remain standing in the Technical Area to give instructions to their players.
- 4.28 The substitution of four (4) players per team is permitted during the match (including extra time if played). All substitutions must be made as per the current *Laws of the Game*. Any of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted (i.e. comes off the pitch) can take no further part in the match.
- 4.29 All the substitutes must wear a warm-up bib during the matches. When a substitute comes onto the pitch, they must hand the bib to the player that they are replacing, who must then wear the bib when in the Technical Area. The bibs must be in colours not clashing with the two team's shirt colours during the match.
- 4.30 Up to three substitutes per team can warm up at the same time outside the Technical Area. Bibs must be worn when warming up.

Duration of the matches, half-time interval and extra time

- 4.31 The duration of the matches is determined by the DCL and the OC for all matches played in the DCL competition.
- 4.32 The duration of the matches may be different in the Group Stage and Cup (knock-out) System (e.g. quarter-final, semi-final, finals, etc.). The maximum duration of each half of the match is 45 minutes.
- 4.33 The half-time interval period is determined by the DCL and OC, up to a maximum of 15 minutes, for all matches played in the DCL competition. The Referee may decide to make the half time interval longer but only with the agreement of the OC for exceptional reasons.
- 4.34 The duration of the extra time for Cup (knock-out) System matches is determined by the DCL and OC. The maximum duration of each half of the extra time played is 15 minutes.

Kicks from the penalty mark

- 4.35 For matches played under the Cup (knock-out) System after the Group Stage, kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the current *Laws of the Game* issued by the IFAB.
- 4.36 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks from the penalty mark.
- 4.37 To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the Referee is assisted by the Assistant Referees (and Fourth Official if appointed), who also note down the numbers of players on each team who take kicks from the penalty mark.

Match Officials (Referees)

- 4.38 The match officials must arrange to arrive at the venue 1 hour before the start of the competition, or their appointed match if at a later kick-off time.
- 4.39 Each Referee shall use a flag as an aid of communication with the players during the match. The Referee shall use a white flag provided by the OC. Other colours maybe used as long as not the same as the Assistant Referees' flags.
- 4.40 If the Referee is unable to carry out their duties before or during the match as a result of injury (or otherwise), then the senior Assistant Referee will step up. The Referees Liaison Officer (RLO) will find a replacement from the list of match officials at the competition to act as an Assistant Referee.
- 4.41 If one of the Assistant Referees is unable to carry out their duties before or during the match as a result of injury (or otherwise), then the RLO will find a replacement from the list of match officials at the competition to act as an Assistant Referee.
- 4.42 In matches where a Fourth Official has been appointed: if one of the Referees is unable to carry out their duties before or during the match as a result of injury (or otherwise), then the Fourth Official shall replace that injured Referee. The RLO will find a replacement from the list of match officials at the competition to act as Fourth Official.
- 4.43 During the competition, the match officials are taken care of by a RLO, who is an official representative on the Referees Committee for the competition.
- 4.44 The DCL and OC in consultation with the Referees Committee decides on the number match officials (Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official) to be appointed to each match during

the competition for the Group Stage, Quarter-finals and Play-off matches.

- 4.45 For the Semi-finals, 3rd/4th Play-off match and Final, 4 match officials (Referee, 2 Assistant Referees and Fourth Official) shall be appointed for each match.
- 4.46 The Referees Committee shall make the match official appointments in consultation with DCL.

Match Report Forms

- 4.47 After each match, the Referee shall complete a Match Report Form and pass to the Referees Liaison Officer immediately. The Match Report Form shall include:
- a) The goals scored during the match.
 - b) Any cautions, sending offs during the match.
 - c) Any misconduct /unsporting behaviour of players, officials, supporters.
 - d) Any other incidents.

Article 5.

Disciplinary Matters

Deaf Champions League's Disciplinary Regulations

- 5.01 The provisions of the DCL's Disciplinary Regulations applies for all disciplinary offences committed by clubs, officials, members or other individuals exercising a function at a match on behalf of an association or club, unless the present regulations stipulate otherwise.
- 5.02 Participating players agree to comply with the current *Laws of the Game*, competition's Rules and Regulations, and Disciplinary Regulations. They must notably:
- a) Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and behave accordingly.
 - b) Refrain from any activities that endanger the integrity of the DCL competition or bring the sport of football into disrepute from the start to finish of the DCL competition.
- 5.03 The participating clubs will sign a document as agreement (acceptance) of the Rules and Regulations, and Disciplinary Regulations from DCL and must do it before the competition starts.

Control and Disciplinary Body/Protest Committee

- 5.04 If a club wishes to make a protest/complaint, during the DCL competition, to the Protest Committee (e.g. venues, pitches, eligibility of players, interpretation of the Rules, equipment, match officials, etc.), the club must pay a fee of 30€ first with a written report of their protest/complaint to DCL Secretary (if not, can give to Technical Director). The protest fee will be returned to the club if the protest is considered valid (i.e. win protest).
- 5.05 The protest/complaint must be submitted within 2 hours after completion of their match.
- 5.06 No protest/complaint can be made against the match officials decisions regarding facts connected with play.
- 5.07 The Protest Committee will constitute 3 to 5 impartial members (The members are to be confirmed prior to each DCL competition). The Protest Committee will review and decide on any issues/protests/complaints reported to them within 24 hours. The Protest Committee will order action or sanctions as they see appropriate.

Refer to the Disciplinary Regulations for protests made outside the period of the DCL competition.

- 5.08 The Protest Committee shall have the authority to deal with any issues/disputes not covered within the Rules and Regulations, and order action and/or sanctions as they see appropriate.
- 5.09 Any protest/complaints submitted which are found to be irresponsible or frivolous, the Protest Committee may impose a fine as they see appropriate.
- 5.10 The Protest Committee may discuss any matter with the DCL before making any final decision.

Withdrawals, refusal to play and matches abandoned

- 5.11 When a club withdraws from the competition after paying the entry fee, but prior to the start of the DCL competition, the Control and Disciplinary Body will take a decision on the matter and the following sanctions are available for the CDB to impose:

- Forfeit the entry fee.
- 200€ fine for withdrawal if before the DCL competition draw.
- 600€ fine for withdrawal if after the DCL competition draw (but before arriving for the competition).
- Payment for the ID cards (Minimum of 16 IDs).
- See Rule 5.15.

- 5.12 Where a club refuses to play or withdraws from the competition when at the DCL competition, the Control and Disciplinary Body will take a decision on the matter.

The following sanctions are available for the CDB to impose:

- 800€ for refusal/withdrawal - Group Stages
- 1000€ for refusal/withdrawal – Quarter finals or Play-offs.
- 2000€ for refusal/withdrawal – Semi finals.
- 3000€ for refusal/withdrawal – Final.
- Payment for ID cards (minimum 16 IDs)
- See Rule 5.15.

- 5.13 If, through the fault of a club (except in cases of force majeure) a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full, the Protest Committee shall decide on the action (e.g. extra disciplinary action, etc.).

The following result shall be awarded (as long as the match is not replayed):

Group Stage match - the offending club shall get 0 (nil) points and the opposing club awarded 3 points and a score of 3-0.

Knock-out Stage match - the offending club shall lose the match and the opposing club shall get a score of 3-0.

A fine of 100€ will be imposed on the offending club for any abandoned matches.

- 5.14 Exceptionally, the Protest Committee can validate the result as it stood at the moment when the match was abandoned if the match result was to the detriment of the club responsible for the match being abandoned (e.g. award a score better than 3-0).
- 5.15 In all cases, the Protest Committee can take further action if the circumstances so justify. This may include disqualifying the club from the competition, ordering the reimbursement to

DCL/OC for any expenses incurred as a result of the offending club's actions and also compensation for any damages or losses suffered.

- 5.16 If a club is disqualified during the competition, the results of all their matches are declared null and void, and the points awarded forfeited.
- 5.17 Upon receipt of a justified and well-documented request from the opposing club, or clubs concerned, the DCL may help set an amount of compensation due for financial loss.

Yellow and Red cards

- 5.18 As a rule, a player who is sent off from the field of play (red card or two yellow cards) is suspended for the next match.
- 5.19 If the DCL competition has groups of 5 or more teams involved then, when a player gets three cautions (yellow cards) in **different matches** during the competition, that player is suspended for the next match. After the suspension, the player starts a new cycle from zero.

If the DCL competition has groups of 4 or less teams involved then, when a player gets two cautions (yellow cards) in **different matches** during the competition, that player is suspended for the next match. After the suspension, the player starts a new cycle from zero.

- 5.20 The single cautions from the matches within the competition expire on completion of the Quarter-finals. Teams that compete in the placement matches (9^o - 16^o) will have the single cautions removed after the group matches.
- 5.21 All cautions from the matches expire at the end of the competition and are not carried to the next competition. Only suspensions and dismissals in the last matches are carried to the next competition. Any disagreement in the interpretation of suspensions, etc., then the current *FIFA Disciplinary Code* shall be referred to.
- 5.22 Payment of the fine (sanction) for cards received by a player in **a match**:
- Yellow card: 10€
 - Two yellow cards: 15€
 - Red card: 20€

For very serious offences, the Control and Disciplinary Body/Protest Committee may decide a higher fine (sanction).

- 5.23 The economic sanctions must be paid before the next match to DCL. If the club do not pay this economic sanction, the player cannot play in any match. The economic sanctions must be paid by cash in Euros (€). No other formats or currencies are accepted.
- 5.24 The Control and Disciplinary Body/Protest Committee has the right to augment any punishment (higher fine and/or match suspension) for any players or club officials. For very serious offences the punishment can be extended for the rest of the competition.
- 5.25 After 2 seasons, if a player/official has not managed to fulfil the suspensions and had less than 5 matches suspension, then they are wiped off. However, any financial sanctions not paid are to remain, and the player/official cannot participate until payment of the sanctions.

Players/officials with more than 4 matches suspension requires the Control and Disciplinary Body to review and approve each individual case.

Appeals Body

- 5.26 The Appeals Body constitutes 1 or 3 impartial members and deals with appeals lodged against decisions of the Control and Disciplinary Body, Protest Committee or DCL.
- 5.27 Any appeals made by a club during the DCL competition must be done on a written report and a fee of 50€ be paid to the DCL Administration within 24 hours. The appeal fee will be returned to the club if the protest is considered valid (i.e. win protest).
- Refer to the Disciplinary Regulations for appeals made outside the period of the DCL competition.*
- 5.28 The Appeals Body will review the appeal case as soon as appropriate. The member(s) on this Body cannot be the same as those on the Control and Disciplinary Body or Protest Committee. The Appeals Body decision is final.

Article 6.

Intellectual Property Rights

Ownership and Media

- 6.01 The Deaf Champions League (DCL) is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competitions, including any current or future rights of DCL; names, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights, including putting logos on sports clothing, requires the prior written approval of DCL, and must comply with any conditions imposed by DCL.
- 6.02 All rights to the fixture lists, and matches schedule, as well as any data and statistics in the DCL competitions, are the sole and exclusive property of DCL.
- 6.03 The DCL will decide if a media company/team can attend a DCL competition and only on payment as follows:
- Photographer/ TV/Video Camera: 100€ per 1-2 persons/camera.
- The maximum number of people per media company/team attending a DCL competition shall be decided prior to the DCL competition.
- 6.04 The DCL will withdraw the media company/team's access to the DCL competition if any material is broadcasted or the media company/team acts, in an inappropriate manner. DCL decision on this matter is final.
- 6.05 If a club responsible for looking after the DCL Trophy, loses or damages the DCL Trophy (i.e. the Trophy that is returned each year), the club shall pay DCL **double the cost** of replacing/repairing the Trophy, including any postage, engraving, etc.

Article 7.

Closing Provisions

Interpretation

7.01 In the event of any disagreement in the interpretation between different languages, the English version of these DCL Rules and Regulations is the authoritative text.

Approval

7.02 These Rules and Regulations come into force on their approval by the DCL's Executive Committee and are to be applied for the next season.

Miscellaneous

7.03 For any matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations, and any cases of force majeure, shall be dealt with by the DCL, whose decisions are final.

Version 14th April 2019