



**GENERAL
REGULATIONS**



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1. General Information

1.01 Deaf Champions League (DCL) organises club competitions each season for football and futsal.

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

1.02 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 the season can be invited to the next DCL competition that is held following the end of the season, i.e. after the 31 August.

Deafness

1.03 Only Deaf and hard of hearing players can compete in the DCL competitions.

1.04 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>

1.05 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).

1.06 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 Protest Committee will review the case and decide if the suspension is to be increased. During the match, the guilty player shall be dismissed from the Field of Play (i.e. red card) and cannot be replaced during the match. A financial sanction shall be imposed on the offending club and the match result shall stand.

For any matters not provided for in the Rules 1.03 to 1.06, and any additional incidents involving these Rules shall be dealt with by the DCL by referring to the EDSO Regulations.

2. Bidding Procedure and Hosting Policy

2.01 In the event of the club/National Deaf Federation or other organisations withdrawing or cancelling their agreement to host before the start of the relevant DCL competition, the Executive Committee shall impose a financial sanction as per DCL’s **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**.

Refer to the DCL’s Hosting Policy for further information.

3. Committees and Bodies

Committees and Bodies

3.01 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 Technical Committee set up for each DCL competition, deals with all logistics in relation to the competition.
- c) The Protest Committee set up for each DCL Competition, deals with matters concerning control and discipline in accordance with the DCL’s Disciplinary Regulations during the



relevant DCL Competition.

- d) The Control and Disciplinary Body deal with matters concerning control and discipline in accordance with the DCL's Disciplinary Regulations during the whole season.
- e) The Appeal Body deals with appeals lodged in accordance with the DCL's Disciplinary Regulations.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee and Clubs

- 3.02 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.
- 3.03 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.
- 3.04 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.
- 3.05 The clubs undertake that their team will arrive at the host venue by the evening before the DCL competition starts.
- 3.06 Members of the Organising Committee at each DCL competition must not be an official or player of a participating club during the competition.
- 3.07 The Organising Committee shall assist the clubs and DCL officials as much as practical with Visa process, if applicable.

4. Planning, Reports and Regulations

Planning

- 4.01 The DCL Technical Director and DCL Coordinator shall plan each DCL competition and ensure inspections with the hosts' organising committees are scheduled.
- 4.02 The DCL Technical Director shall decide on the Technical Committee members for each DCL competition, with a minimum of 3 members appointed, up to a maximum of 5 members, to serve on the Technical Committee. The appointed members shall be stated in the Technical Regulations that are issued for each DCL competition.
- 4.03 The DCL Technical Director shall ensure that the Technical Regulations are issued to the relevant parties at least 6 months before the competition, with updates (e.g. Protest Committee, Groups after the competition's draw, etc.) issued as and when further information is added to the Technical Regulations.
- 4.04 The DCL Coordinator shall ensure that information regarding hotels, transport, etc. is issued at least 3 months before the competition.

Competition/Match dates

- 4.05 All competition/match dates are binding on all concerned. The following principles apply to this competition:



- a) DCL competitions/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

- 4.06 DCL and the Organising Committee (OC) shall publish, e.g. Technical Regulations and playing schedules before the competition starts, their final decisions on any parts of the Rules and Regulations that have not been declared within this document.
- 4.07 The Technical Regulations shall be published at least 3 months to all the members/clubs before the relevant DCL competition starts. The Technical Regulations can be reissued as more information is confirmed, e.g. match balls, playing schedule, etc.

Technical Meetings - DCL competitions.

- 4.08 There shall be at least 1 Technical Meeting held at a DCL competition, preferably at the beginning of the DCL competition. Extra meetings are an option. DCL shall inform the host's organising committee (OC) when the meeting is to be held and the OC is responsible for ensuring a suitable meeting room is made available.
- 4.09 DCL is responsible for conducting the meeting and making summary notes of key points raised and discussed.
- 4.10 A maximum of 2 representatives from each club and National Deaf Federation (and other recognised organisations with DCL's prior approval) are allowed to attend the Technical Meetings. At least 1 of the representatives shall understand international communication.

Reports.

- 4.11 The DCL Technical Director and Financier Officer shall ensure a Final Report is submitted to the Executive Board within 6 weeks following completion of each DCL competition. The Final Report shall include the operational/technical and financial aspects.
- 4.12 The DCL Technical Director shall ensure a final Competition report is submitted to the relevant clubs, National Deaf Federations and other relevant organisations within 3 months.
- 4.13 Each Competition Report shall include the complete competition results and statistics (e.g. number of players, officials and teams involved, etc.) of the DCL competition.

5. Entries to Deaf Champions League's Competitions

Number of qualifying Clubs for entry to Deaf Champions League

- 5.01 Qualifiers for the DCL comes from the results of the domestic Deaf League or Cup competitions affiliated to their National Deaf Football and Futsal Leagues (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 31st August, at the latest, following the end of the season.

(Season = 1 September to 31 August).



5.02 A DCL Coefficient will be used to determine the countries and clubs ranking based on the previous seasons of DCL's competitions.

Football:

The **previous 5 seasons of DCL football competitions** are used.

The minimum and maximum number of teams invited to the DCL football competition held once a year shall be;

Men/Under-21: 6 - 32 teams.

Women: 4 - 32 teams.

Each country must have a minimum of;

2 Men clubs,

2 Under 21s clubs,

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.

Futsal:

The **previous 5 seasons of DCL futsal competitions** are used.

The minimum and maximum number of teams invited to the DCL futsal competition held once a year shall be;

Men: 8 - 32 teams.

Under-21: 6 - 32 teams.

Women: 6 - 32 teams.

Each country must have a minimum of;

3 Men clubs,

2 Under 21s clubs,

2 Women clubs,

participating in their national futsal 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).
- 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 3 clubs, e.g. Host club, Title-holder and 1 club.



- 5.03 For both football and futsal DCL competitions, there shall be a maximum of 4 clubs from a country is permitted in the DCL competition.

Title-holder and Host Club

- 5.04 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.
- 5.05 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 be registered with their national deaf federation.

Admission criteria

- 5.06 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

- 5.07 Clubs which fulfil the admission criteria are informed of their admission to the competition by the DCL.
- 5.08 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 5.02, 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.
- 5.09 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 continues 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 Prior to the start of the DCL competition, the license for each player (individual) and each official is to be paid to DCL. The fees shall be paid before being allowed to participate.



- 5.12 The participating clubs are responsible for their travel costs to the DCL competition and their accommodation. OC can offer to the clubs the transport arrangements for during the DCL competition and other logistics issues, which may be expensed by the clubs.

Duties of the Clubs

- 5.13 On entering the DCL competition, participating clubs agree:
- a) To pay the entry fee and deposit decided between the DCL and the OC, this is to be debited directly to DCL.
 - b) To pay the license fees and any outstanding fees/fines prior to starting the DCL competition.
 - c) To comply with the current relevant *Laws of the Game* that is issued for football and futsal.
 - 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) To complete the Terms and Conditions document before participating in a DCL competition, including confirming their agreement with regards to the displaying of their individuals on internets and social media networks. (i.e. Privacy and Data Protection Policy)
 - h) Not to represent DCL without DCL prior written approval.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 Deposits outstanding with DCL shall be monitored by the club. If a deposit is over 3 years old, DCL will contact the club again about refunding the deposit back. If there is no reply or agreement made between the club and DCL, then the deposit will be taken by DCL.
- DCL will contact the club after the relevant competition/event with a form for refunding the deposit.
 - The club can make an agreement to hold the deposit for longer, but the club must contact DCL to confirm the holding of the deposit (so a new Credit Note can be made).
 - After 3 years DCL will try to make contact again.
 - On the 4th year the deposit will be taken (i.e. no deposit left for the club).

Wild Card

- 5.16 If a country has no national competition, DCL has the option to invite one club from that country using the “Wild Card”. The National Association/Federation needs to approve this club for participation in the DCL competition.

6. Eligibility and Registration of Players/Officials

Eligibility of players

- 6.01 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.
- d) No player shall be eligible to play, or be registered, for two or more deaf football/futsal clubs at the same time and 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 also General Regulations 6.10 and 6.14.**

6.02 There is no age limit 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 2023, the player must not be age 21 before 1st January 2023, and so on for each year, 2024/1st January 2024, 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.

6.03 Each club must submit their list of players (i.e. **Original Players List**) and a list of club 7 officials, plus one interpreter, but a **minimum of 1 non-playing club officials**, 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 Players List** at least 2 weeks 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 football players or 20 futsal players) submitted 6 weeks before the competition. Changes to the list of officials may be made without any fine being imposed.

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 financial sanction will be imposed.

Football:

Original Players List = maximum of 30 players.

Final Players List = maximum of 23 players.

Final Officials List = maximum of 7 officials + 1 interpreter.

Maximum number of non-European players = 5 players.

Maximum number of loaned players = 3 players and 2 U-21 players.

Minimum number of club officials = 1.

Futsal:

Original Players List = maximum of 20 players.

Final Players List = maximum of 14 players.

Final Officials List = maximum of 7 officials + 1 interpreter.



Maximum number of non-European players = 3 players.

Minimum number of club officials = 1.

- 6.04 If the club does not send the **Original Players List** on time before the DCL competition, a financial sanction is imposed by DCL as per DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**.

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.

- 6.05 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 financial sanction will be imposed as per DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions** (i.e. treated as if a new Team Players List and late). Officials may be added without any fine being imposed.
- 6.06 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.
- 6.07 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 (Football) / 5-0 (Futsal), or greater, depending on the score of the match. A financial sanction shall be imposed on the offending club for playing an ineligible player.

Players' registration and numbers

- 6.08 For the Final registration of players in the DCL competitions, each team must comply with the minimum and maximum as per General Regulation, 6.03 above.

Each club can submit an **Original Players List** with the maximum number of players as per General Regulations 6.03 above, but the Players List **must be reduced to** the maximums as per General Regulations 6.03 **at least 2 weeks** before the competition starts. A financial sanction will be imposed by DCL on the offending club if they fail to confirm their **Final Players List**.

- 6.09 From the first match of the competition, all registered players must wear set numbers between;

Football - 1 to 99.

Futsal – 1 to 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.

- 6.10 Each Club may only be permitted to have the following number of non-European players;

Football = **5 'Non-European' players** within their **Final Players List**.

Futsal = **3 'Non-European' players** within their **Final Players List**.

'Non-European' players for DCL competitions, means players who do not have European passports and do not have European working/residence permits. (See General Regulation 6.01 e)

- 6.11 With the aim to promote **women futsal and men/women U-21 futsal**, DCL allows the transfer (loan) of players from other clubs only for the DCL tournament. Up to a maximum of 3 loaned players can be used from other clubs for the teams that wish to "loan" players.



The club wanting to “loan” players shall obtain the approval from the club that they are “loaning” the player(s) from with the “DCL - Loan of Players - form”.

Clubs may only consider “loaning” players if they have less than 14 players available in their own club. The number of players that can be “loaned” is shown below;

- Club has only 7 to 11 registered players + then club can maximum 3 loaned players (= 10 to 14 players).
- Club has 12 to 14 registered players + then club can maximum 2 loaned players (= 14 players).
- Club has 13 to 14 registered players + then club can maximum 1 loaned player (= 14 players).
- Club has 14 registered players + then club cannot loan any players (= 14 players).

Minimum players: 7. Maximum players: 14.

Maximum loaned players: 3.

Deadlines for completing the transfers shall be notified by DCL before each DCL competition.

- 6.12 With the aim to promote **women football**, DCL allows the transfer (loan) of players from other clubs only for the DCL tournament. Up to a maximum of 5 loaned players can be used from other clubs for the teams that wish to “loan” players.

The club wanting to “loan” players shall obtain the approval from the club that they are “loaning” the player(s) from with the “DCL - Loan of Players - form”.

Clubs may only consider “loaning” players if they have less than 21 players available in their own club. The number of players that can be “loaned” is shown below;

- Club has only 11 to 16 registered players + then club can maximum 5 loaned players (= 16 to 21 players).
- Club has only 17 registered players + then club can maximum 4 loaned players (= 21 players).
- Club has only 18 registered players + then club can maximum 3 loaned players (= 21 players).
- Club has only 19 registered players + then club can maximum 2 loaned players (= 21 players).
- Club has only 20 registered players + then club can maximum 1 loaned player (= 21 players).
- Club has 21-23 registered players + then club cannot loan any players (= 21-23 players).

Minimum players: 11. Maximum players: 23.

Maximum loaned players: 5.

Deadlines for completing the transfers shall be notified by DCL before each DCL competition.

- 6.13 With the aim to promote **men football**, DCL allows the transfer (loan) of players from other clubs only for the DCL tournament. Up to a maximum of 3 loaned players + 2 loaned U-21 players can be used from other clubs for the teams that wish to “loan” players.

The club wanting to “loan” players shall obtain the approval from the club that they are “loaning” the player(s) from with the “DCL - Loan of Players - form”.

Clubs may only consider “loaning” players if they have less than 21 players available in their own club. The number of players that can be “loaned” is shown below;



- Club has only 11 to 16 registered players + then club can maximum 3 loaned players + 2 loaned U-21 players (= 16 to 21 players).
- Club has only 17 registered players + then club can maximum 3 loaned players + 1 loaned U-21 player (= 21 players).
- Club has only 18 registered players + then club can maximum 3 loaned players (= 21 players).
- Club has only 19 registered players + then club can maximum 2 loaned players (= 21 players).
- Club has only 20 registered players + then club can maximum 1 loaned player (= 21 players).
- Club has 21-23 registered players + then club cannot loan any players (= 21-23 players).

Minimum players: 11. Maximum players: 23.

Maximum loaned players: 3. Maximum loaned U-21 players: 2.

Deadlines for completing the transfers shall be notified by DCL before each DCL competition.

Match sheets

- 6.13 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.
- 6.14 Each club may only be permitted to have **three 'Non-European' players** within their **Team Sheet per match**. 'Non-European' players for DCL competitions, means players who do not have European passports and do not have European working/residence permits. (See General Regulation 6.01 e).
- 6.15 Both clubs must hand their match sheet to the designated DCL representative at the sports venue at least 30 minutes before kick-off.
- 6.16 The clubs may be asked 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.
- 6.17 If the match sheet is not completed fully and/or not returned on time a financial sanction will be imposed by DCL.

7. Venues

Venue inspections

- 7.01 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 referred to the DCL's Technical Committee, which will decide on appropriate measures in accordance with the relevant Laws of the Game.

Alternative venues

- 7.02 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

- 7.03 The OC shall undertake to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the pitches are playable.
- 7.04 The fields of play and pitches shall comply with the current relevant *Laws of the Game*.
- 7.05 DCL cannot be held responsible for any damage to third parties resulting from the use of the pitches.
- 7.06 The OC shall arrange for the use of floodlights at the football venues. At least one pitch must have floodlight facilities available for use. The minimum average lux reading of the floodlights is to be 120.

Scoreboard and display boards

- 7.07 All DCL competition venues shall have electronic scoreboards, which may be permanent or portable.

7.08 Football;

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.

Futsal;

As a minimum there shall be a manual match recording displays (showing goals scored and team fouls) to be used at the venue(s) during the DCL competition. Electronic scoreboards would be the preferred option for DCL competitions.

Match balls

- 7.09 For all matches, the balls must comply with the current relevant *Laws of the Game*, which are selected and supplied by the DCL and/or OC.

8. Disciplinary Matters

Deaf Champions League's Disciplinary Regulations

- 8.01 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.
- 8.02 Participating players agree to comply with the current relevant *Laws of the Game*, General Regulations, the DCL competition's Technical 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.
- 8.03 The participating clubs will sign a document as agreement and acceptance of the General Regulations, competition's Technical Regulations and Disciplinary Regulations from DCL, and must do it before the competition starts.

Control and Disciplinary Body

- 8.04 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 Protest Fee, as per DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**, with a written report of their protest/complaint to DCL Secretary, or pre-notified DCL representative/member. The Protest Fee will be returned to the club if the protest is considered valid (i.e. win protest).
- 8.05 The protest/complaint must be submitted within 2 hours after completion of their match.
- 8.06 No protest/complaint can be made against the match officials decisions regarding facts connected with play.
- 8.07 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 impose action or financial sanctions as they see appropriate.
- 8.08 The Protest Committee shall have the authority to deal with any issues/disputes not covered within the General and Technical Regulations, and impose action and/or financial sanctions as they see appropriate. (In Disciplinary Regulations)

*Refer to the **Disciplinary Regulations** for further information and for protests made outside the period of the DCL competition.*

Withdrawals, refusal to play and matches abandoned

- 8.09 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 make a decision on the matter using the DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**. The entry fee is forfeited and payment for the ID cards may be added to the financial sanction.
- 8.10 Where a club refuses to play or withdraws from the competition when at the DCL competition, the Protest Committee will make a decision on the matter using the DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**. The entry fee is forfeited and payment for the ID cards shall be added to the financial sanction if not already paid.
- 8.11 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 for Football or a score of 5-0 for Futsal.

Knock-out Stage match - the offending club shall lose the match and the opposing club shall get a score of 3-0 for Football or a score of 5-0 for Futsal.

A financial sanction shall be imposed on the offending club for any abandoned matches.

8.12 **Football;**

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.

Futsal;

If there are fewer than three (3) players in one of the teams, the match will be abandoned. In this case, the Protest Committee decides on the consequences.

- 8.13 Exceptionally, the Control and Disciplinary Body and/or 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 for Football or 5-0 for Futsal).
- 8.14 In all cases, the Control and Disciplinary Body and/or 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.
- 8.15 If a club is disqualified during the competition, the results of all their matches are declared null and void, and the points awarded forfeited.
- 8.16 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

- 8.17 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. An official sent off/removed from the Technical Area is reviewed by the Protest Committee as to what sanction shall be imposed.
- 8.18 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 relevant UEFA/FIFA *Disciplinary Code* shall be referred to.
- 8.19 The financial sanctions for cards and misconduct are listed in the DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**. For very serious offences, the Protest Committee may impose a higher financial sanction. (See **Disciplinary Regulations** for further information if required)
- 8.20 The financial sanctions must be paid before the next match to DCL. If the club do not pay this financial sanction, the player cannot play in any match. The financial sanctions must be paid in Euros (€). A Deposit payment paid before the DCL competition starts will be used to offset the financial sanctions during the DCL competition. No other formats or currencies are accepted.
- 8.21 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.

Appeal Body

- 8.22 The Appeal Body constitutes 1 to 3 impartial members and deals with appeals lodged against decisions of the Control and Disciplinary Body or DCL.
- 8.23 Any appeals made by a club during the DCL competition must be done on a written report and an Appeal Fee, as per DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**, be paid to the DCL Secretary, or pre-notified representative, within 24 hours of a contested decision. The Appeal



Fee will be returned to the club if the appeal is considered valid (i.e. win appeal).

*Refer to the **Disciplinary Regulations** for further information and for appeals made outside the period of the DCL competition.*

- 8.24 The Appeal 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 the Protest Committee. The Appeal Body decision is final.

9. Prizes, Awards and Procedure for Ceremonies

Cup and medals

- 9.01 A trophy is presented to the winning club.
- 9.02 Medals are presented to the winning club, the runners-up club, and the third-placed club. Additional medals may not be produced.
- Football: 30 medals for each team.
- Futsal: 21 medals for each team.
- 9.03 Each club that completes in the DCL competition will be awarded a commemorative diploma or plaque. DCL are responsible for arranging this.
- 9.04 Additional awards/trophies may be given at each DCL competition for specific categories, such awards/trophies could be for example:
- Best young player.
 - Best player.
 - Best Goalkeeper.
 - Top goals scorer.
 - Best coach.
 - Best team "Fair Play", etc.

Ceremonies

- 9.05 The opening and closing ceremonies for each DCL competition is the responsibility of the DCL, who shall liaise with the host's organising committee for assistance if required.
- 9.06 The procedure for the opening/closing ceremony may be varied with DCL approval.

10. Match Officials (Referees)

Selection of Match Officials (Referees)

- 10.01 The DCL Technical Director and host's Organising Committee (OC) in consultation with the Technical Committee shall decide on the number match officials (Referees) required to cover the tournament matches.
- 10.02 DCL shall in liaison with OC, try to ensure that neutral match officials are appointed where appropriate (e.g. for matches involving clubs of the host country).
- 10.03 DCL shall liaise with the host's OC, and the European Deaf Referees Union (EDRU) when appropriate, in order to invite and appoint match officials to the tournament.



Match Officials (Referees)

- 10.04 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.
- 10.05 Each Referee shall use a **flag** as an aid of communication with the players during the match. The flag shall be used to help indicate the start or restart of the match, to stop or delay the match due to an infringement or injury, or to indicate that the time is expired for each half. The third referee shall have a flag to help communicate with the referees. The flag is an important communication tool for the referees together with verbal, body and eyes the match.
- 10.06 If a match official is unable to carry out their duties before or during the match as a result of injury (or otherwise), then the Team of match officials shall decide on who steps up. If there a need for a replacement, the Referees Liaison Officer (RLO) will find a replacement from the list of match officials at the DCL competition.
- 10.07 During the competition, the match officials are taken care of by a Referees Liaison Officer, who is an official representative on the Technical Committee for the DCL competition.
- 10.08 The DCL Technical Director and OC in consultation with the Technical Committee decides on the number match officials (Referees) to be appointed to each match during the competition for the Group Stage, Quarter-finals and Play-off matches.
- 10.09 The Referees Liaison Officer shall make the match official appointments in consultation with DCL's Technical Committee.

Match Report Forms

- 10.11 After each match, the Referee shall complete a DCL Match Report Form and pass to the designated DCL representative at the sports venue immediately.

Laws of the Game

- 10.12 Matches are played in conformity with the current relevant *Laws of the Game* that has been issued.
- 10.13 Any disagreement in the interpretation of the current relevant *Laws of the Game*, then the English version is the authoritative text.

11. Medical Care/First Aid

- 11.01 The host's organising committee shall be responsible for the adequate provision of medical support during the DCL competitions (e.g. First Aid, Doctors, qualified personnels, ambulances, etc.).
- 11.02 Information about and access to the emergency services (e.g. hospital, ambulance services, etc.) shall be available at all times for the clubs at the DCL competitions.

12. Doping

- 12.01 DCL supports the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) and will ensure that the ICSD's Anti-Doping Rules are adhered to, if called upon to conduct any tests.



- 12.02 If called upon, DCL will liaise with the Organising Committee to ensure that there are facilities for enabling a doping control programme to be conducted at a DCL competition.
- 12.03 If called upon, the expenses for the doping tests shall be covered by DCL and/or the Organising Committee.
- 12.04 Each Club shall be responsible for ensuring that their players are fully informed of the ICSD's Anti-Doping Rules and their relevant requirements.

*For further information and clarification, refer to the **WADA and ICSD's Anti-Doping Codes**.*

13. Media

- 13.01 The DCL will decide if a media company/team can attend a DCL competition and only on payment beforehand, as per DCL's **Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions**.

The maximum number of people per media company/team attending a DCL competition shall be decided prior to the DCL competition.

- 13.02 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.

*Refer to the **Media Regulations** for further information.*

14. Intellectual Property Rights

- 14.01 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.

- 14.02 All rights to the fixture lists, and match schedules, as well as any data and statistics in the DCL competitions, are the sole and exclusive property of DCL.

- 14.03 Clubs may have sponsors/commercial advertising on their playing kits, with DCL's approval before each competition, provided;

- a. It does not appear more than once on each playing kit's shirt.
- b. It does not appear in size greater than a total of 400 square cm.
- c. The display of the manufacturer's logo or distinctive mark (e.g. Adidas, Nike, Joma, etc.) is allowed on the playing kit items.
- d. It may not display any political, religious or inappropriate messages not seen fit for a sports event.
- e. The sponsorship may not involve tobacco or alcohol.

DCL has the sole discretion to decide if any sponsor/commercial advertising is deemed not appropriate (e.g. displays political, religious messages, etc. or is too large, etc.).

- 14.04 Clubs shall obtain DCL's approval before each competition if they wish to display any banner (or of any similar sort) within the venue's perimeter or hall during the DCL competition. DCL and the Organising Committee (OC) has the sole discretion on this matter.



15. Closing Provisions

- 15.01 In the event of any disagreement in the interpretation between different languages, the English version of these DCL General Regulations is the authoritative text.
- 15.02 These General Regulations come into force on their approval at the DCL's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and are to be applied from 1st September of the new season after the AGM.
- 15.03 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: 12th December 2023



Deaf Champions League – Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions.

	AMOUNT €	REFERENCE
<u>DCL Competition Entry and Registration Fees:</u>		
Football:		
Men	350, €	GR 5.13 a
Women	200, €	
Under 21s	250, €	
Futsal:		
Men	300, €	
Women	250, €	GR 5.13 a
Under 21s Men	200, €	
Under 21s Women	100, €	
Registration/License Fee per player/official *Optional: additional fee for OC.	10, € *	GR 5.11, GR 5.13 b
<u>Deposits for sanctions at DCL Competitions:</u>		
Men/Under 21s - Football and Futsal	200/150, €	GR 5.13 a
Women/Under 21s – Football and Futsal	100, €	
<u>Disciplinary Matters:</u>		
Players List.		
Late (or changed) Players List:		
Less than 6 weeks before DCL competition.	40, €	GR 6.03 / 6.04 / 6.05
Less than 4 weeks before DCL competition.	100, €	
Less than 2 weeks before DCL competition.	150, €	
Late FINAL Players List.	50, €	GR 6.08
During the DCL Competition.		
Late/Incomplete Team Sheet before the match.	10, €	GR 6.17
Yellow card in a match.	10, €	GR 8.20
Double Yellow (2 x yellows) cards in a match.	15, €	GR 8.20
Red card in a match.	20, €	GR 8.20
Ineligible player in a match.	100, €	GR 6.07
Player using hearing aid(s)/amplification or external Cochlear Implant in a match.	100, €	GR 1.06

Abandoned match (per team).	100, €	GR 8.11 / 13 / 14 / 15
Protest Fee	30, €	GR 8.04
Appeals Fee	50, €	GR 8.23
Withdrawal from DCL Competition. After club has paid Entry Fee: Withdraw before the Competition Draw. Withdraw after the Competition Draw (but before arrive for the DCL competition). PLUS Payment for ID cards if withdraw after the Draw.	200, € 600, €	GR 8.09
Withdrawal at the DCL competition. Refusal/withdrawal during Group Stages. Refusal/withdrawal – Quarter Finals/Play Offs. Refusal/withdrawal – Semi Finals. Refusal/withdrawal - Final. PLUS payment for ID Cards.	800, € 1000, € 2000, € 3000, €	GR 8.10
Cancellation of DCL Competition. Host – more than 1 year before the competition. Host - within 1 year before the competition.	2000, € 5000, €	GR 2.01
Media Fees: Photographer/ TV / Video Camera – per 1-4 persons/camera	100, €	GR 13.01

CON = DCL's Constitution.

GR = DCL's General Regulations.

HP= Hosting Policy.

Updated 12th December 2023