



# League Rules, Governance, Disciplinary and Competition

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## Revision History

Issue date	Revision	Details
TBC	Rev 0	Initial draft
TBC	Rev 1	First release
06/2023	Draft	Re-structure of content and changes in line with FAI guidelines and updated both Governance and Competition rules
07/2023	Rev 2	Finalised following league AGM on 29/06/23 where rule book was accepted. Change to draft version only include motions passed at AGM.

Table 1 – Revision History

## Definitions and abbreviations

Definition	Description
Abandoned	Means that a match started but was not completed
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Children, Child or Young Person	Shall mean a person under the age of 18 other than a person who is or has been married
Days	Are calendar days and include Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays
EGM	Emergency General Meeting
ETP	Emerging Talent Programme
FAI	Football Association of Ireland
FAI Connect	The FAI Football Management System
LDSBGL	Limerick Desmond SchoolBoy/Girl League
Match officials	Includes referees, assistant referees and reserve officials
Postponed	Means that a match did not start.
SFAI	SchoolBoy/Girl Football Association of Ireland
The Committee	The Limerick Desmond SchoolBoy/Girl League Committee
The League	The Limerick Desmond SchoolBoy/Girl League
The Manager	The Club representative responsible for a particular team

Table 2 – Definitions and abbreviations

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this rulebook is to set structures and guidelines for the successful operation of League and Cup competitions from both a Governance and Competition perspective. The aim is to ensure that all Club officials and managers/coaches read and understand these rules which will improve their understanding of the structure and decision making process. This is a live working document and is split into two sections:

- Section A - Governance rules and
- Section B- Competition rules.

Governance rules can only be changed at an AGM/EGM whilst Competition rules may be changed by the League committee throughout the season as the need arises whilst maintaining the best interests of players, clubs and supporters at the centre of all decisions.

This rulebook is to be read in conjunction with:

- FAI Connect – a comprehensive guide on player registration,
- FAI Governance handbook,
- SFAI rulebook,
- FAI PDP guidelines.

**This Rulebook was proposed and accepted by members at the League AGM held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 in the Rathkeale House Hotel.**



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## Section A – Governance Rules

### 1. Title and Authority

1. The League shall be known as “Limerick Desmond Schoolboys/girls League” (LDSBGL), hereinafter referred to as “the League” and shall be under the jurisdiction of the Schoolboys/girls Football Association of Ireland (SFAI) and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI).
2. All matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Schoolboys/girls Football Association of Ireland and according to the Laws of the Game as modified for Schoolboy/girl Football.
3. In the interpretation of these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings so defined and words importing the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, words importing the masculine includes the feminine and words importing persons shall include corporate bodies.
4. The League Committee shall have the power to deal with any situation, event or circumstances which arises that is not specifically covered within these rules.
5. Subject to (1.) above the Committee may include the name of a sponsor in the title.

### 2. League Objectives

The objectives of the League are as follows:

1. The development and promotion of Schoolboy/girls through the medium of Association Football in the designated age groups.
2. The raising of the standard of Association Football and the development of interest in it throughout the League in the designated age groups.
3. To co-operate with the FAI and the SFAI in their efforts in the promotion, development and enjoyment of the game of Association Football in the League.
4. To encourage and assist all League clubs in applying for the FAI Club Mark awards.
5. To take the necessary measures to prevent any infringements of the rules of the game and measures to eliminate improper methods or practices in the game.
6. To accept, money by gift, subscription/sponsorship or grants and to distribute same for the furtherance of all of the objects of the League.
7. To award prizes or otherwise in connection with any such matters as aforementioned on such terms as may be presented.
8. To accept cups and other prizes as may be approved by the League and to provide for proper custody, insurance, protection, exhibition or loan of or dealings with all or any of the same.
9. To conduct any proceedings which directly or indirectly advances the stated objects.

### 3. Rulebook

#### 3.1. Access

1. All rules contained within are applicable to games and competitions played under the jurisdiction of the League and are subject to annual monitoring and review by the Committee.
2. The League Rulebook will be available to download from the League website free of charge.
3. Each club shall confirm to the Hon. League Secretary, download and circulation to all club officers and team managers/coaches before start of each season and no later than the 31st of August annually.
4. Failure to confirm communication to club officers, team managers and coaches will result in a €25 fine.

#### 3.2. Changes

1. All League **Governance rules** can only be altered at a properly convened AGM or EGM of the League.
2. Proposed alterations by clubs to these rules must be submitted on club headed paper, signed by both the Club Chairman and Club Secretary and sent via e-mail and/or registered post to the Hon. League Secretary by the 30th of April annually.
3. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of clubs present and voting at the relevant meeting will be required for any additions to or changes.
4. All additions or changes become effective immediately upon their adoption, but no rule changes can be applied so as to take effect before the date of their adoption.
5. All League **Competition rules** may be amended as required throughout the season by the Committee to facilitate successful operation of the League.
6. Any changes to competition rules will be enforced once notified to all Club Secretaries, but no later than three (3) days from League Committee decision date.



## 4. League Committee

### 4.1. Governance and Control

1. The governance and control of the League shall be vested in the Committee, which shall consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 14 members, similar to the table below:

League Committee Structure					
#	Title	#	Title	#	Title
1	Chairperson*	6	Assistant Treasurer	11	League Registrar
2	Vice-Chairperson*	7	Fixtures Secretary	12	Inter-League Co-ordinator
3	Honorary Secretary*	8	Assistant Fixtures Secretary	13	Committee Member
4	Honorary Treasurer*	9	PRO	14	Committee Member
5	Assistant Secretary	10	Assistant PRO		

Table 3 – League Committee structure

Note 1: Those marked \* are senior officers of the League Committee.

Note 2: Roles such as Child Welfare officer and Data Protection officer etc. can be combined with any of the above positions

### 4.2. Election of Senior officers and Committee members

1. An affiliated club wishing to nominate a person for the Committee must do so in writing, on club headed paper, signed by the Club Chairman and Club Secretary and sent via e-mail and/or registered post to the Hon. League Secretary by the 30th of April to be voted on at the AGM.
2. Committee members shall be elected annually at the AGM.
3. Where no new nominations are received in respect of any Officer or Committee member position the present incumbents shall be deemed to be re-elected to those positions for the following season.
4. To be eligible for selection to any one of the four senior officers positions, members must have served at least two years on the League Committee.
5. A Committee member may hold more than one role.
6. Where a vacancy arises amongst the Officers or Committee members, the Committee may combine some Officers' duties and/or, appoint an acting Officer from within the current Committee members and/or co-opt a suitable person(s) on the Committee until the next AGM.
7. No club shall have more than one representative on the Committee.
8. All Officers and Committee members must be 18 years of age.
9. Professional players or referees shall be ineligible to act as an Officer, member of the Committee or representative of the League or its clubs.

### 4.3. Co-Opting onto League Committee

1. In the event of a non-senior officer position on the Committee being declared vacant during the season, the Committee may co-opt a suitable person to fill such vacancy.

### 4.4. Powers of Committee

1. The Committee shall carry out its duties and exercise its powers to achieve the objects of the League as defined within these rules.
2. No Committee member or officer may represent, take part in, debate, or in any way influence any League discussion or decision(s) affecting their club.
3. The Committee has the right to admit membership, fine, suspend, expel or otherwise deal with any club, player or member who shall, in their opinion, act in a manner not in conformity with the rules, or in any manner which could be regarded as bringing the League into disrepute.
4. The Committee has the right to investigate any incidents / complaints and to remove from office any person whose conduct in the management of the League affairs has been objectionable.
5. The Committee has the right to order games to be played on neutral ground or an opponent's ground as they see fit.
6. Fines, suspensions, expulsions or otherwise of a club, player or member shall be on the terms detailed in the notice issued by the Hon. League Secretary to the registered Club Secretary.
7. The Committee shall have the power to appoint and delegate any of its powers to necessary sub-Committees as they may consider and define the scope of their duties.
8. The Committee will have the authority to deal with all matters concerning the League that are not expressly provided for in these Rules.
9. All Committee decisions are final and binding unless they are rescinded on appeal to the SFAI.

#### 4.5. Committee voting

1. All Committee members will be entitled to vote on all matters except when it directly concerns their own club. In the event of a tie the Chairperson's vote will be the casting vote. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will have the casting vote. If both officers are not present and the vote is a tie, the vote will be postponed to next meeting date.

#### 4.6. Committee attendance

1. Committee members are required to attend a minimum of 60% of scheduled meetings in the season.
2. Failure to attend more than 60% of meetings, without a satisfactory explanation, may lead to the Committee member being removed from the Committee.

#### 4.7. Roles and Duties of Committee members

##### 4.7.1. Chairperson

1. As the senior Hon. Officer, the Chairperson shall represent the League at all times in a manner appropriate to the position.
2. In conjunction with the Hon. League Secretary they will ensure that all meetings are held, with an agenda prepared and communicated in a timely and professional manner.
3. Shall chair all AGM, EGM, Delegate and League Committee meetings in a non-partisan manner.
4. Shall ensure that the minutes of previous meetings are passed, adopted and reviewed and should ensure that the meeting agenda is strictly adhered to.
5. Shall allow all members a fair opportunity to speak on each topic before a consensus is reached or calls for a vote to determine the decision.
6. Shall have a thorough knowledge of the rules of the League, together with meeting procedures.
7. Is required to lead by example and devote the necessary time and effort into ensuring that The League and its members are progressing in line with League objectives and rules.

##### 4.7.2. Vice Chairman

1. Shall assist the Chairperson, as required, in the carrying out their duties.
2. Shall chair all meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

##### 4.7.3. Honorary League Secretary

1. Shall record minutes of all Committee, Club Delegate, AGM, EGM and any other relevant meetings where they are in attendance.
2. Shall be entitled to be an ex officio member of all League sub-Committees.
3. Shall issue the minutes of AGM and Delegate meetings within 14 days of their completion to all clubs.

##### 4.7.4. Honorary League Treasurer

1. Shall be responsible for all financial matters concerning the League and shall issue all outgoing payments which must be authorised by at one other of the following Chairperson, Asst. Treasurer or the Hon. Secretary.
2. Shall present a financial summary at all Committee meetings where they are present.
3. Be responsible for the timely lodgement of all incoming funds to the League's designated bank.
4. Present an annual financial report to the member clubs at the AGM. All such reports shall require adoption by the member clubs at the AGM.
5. Shall recommend to the Committee the level of membership fees, registration fees and all other charges to be voted on for implementation for the coming season.

##### 4.7.5. Fixtures Secretary

1. Shall be responsible for the setting of all League and applicable cup fixtures from U10 – U16, Boys and Girls.
2. Shall be responsible for the setting of all U7 - U9 groups but the arrangement of these fixtures (between the groups) will be at the discretion of clubs (within the parameters of the playing season).
3. Shall be responsible for the maintaining and updating of League tables in the relevant age groups.
4. Shall have the final decision in conjunction with the Chairperson in all matters relating to fixtures including requests for postponements but except for awarding walkovers which decisions shall be the responsibility of the Committee.



#### 4.7.6. Public Relations Officer (PRO)

1. Shall work under the sole direction of and be responsible to the Committee for the promotion of all League activities within the policies and guidelines laid down by the Committee.
2. Shall be responsible for communicating with the various local print media companies any submissions related to the League.

#### 4.7.7. League Registrar

1. Shall monitor team and player registrations on behalf of the League.
2. Will activate players on FAI Connect once approved by the FAI and added by a club to a team.  
Note: The League Registrar is not accountable for the accuracy or veracity of any details entered by member clubs on any player/team registration form/s online.

#### 4.7.8. Child Welfare Officer

1. Shall be responsible for and carry out the current regulations and policies as laid down by the FAI and any other relevant bodies.
2. The position of Child Welfare Officer may be held in conjunction with another Committee post.  
Note: the Child Welfare Officer does not have the responsibility of investigating or validating Child protection concerns within the Club/League and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the Gardaí, Tusla or the HSE.

#### 4.7.9. Committee members

1. Shall carry out all duties and responsibilities assigned to them by the Committee and report as required to the Committee.

#### 4.7.10. SFAI Delegate

1. Shall represent the League and liaise with the SFAI on all relevant matters and shall report on those as required to the Committee.
2. The position of SFAI delegate may be held in conjunction with another Committee post.

#### 4.7.11. FAI General Assembly member

1. Shall represent the League and liaise with the FAI on all relevant matters and shall report on those as required to the Committee.
2. The position of FAI general assembly member may be held in conjunction with another Committee post.

## 5. Meetings

### 5.1. League Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. The League AGM shall be held on such date and at such time as the Committee may determine, but not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June annually.
2. The notice convening the AGM shall be sent to each club not less than 14 days in advance.
3. Such notice shall also include minutes of previous AGM, current AGM meeting agenda, Secretary's report, and itemised League accounts relating to the previous financial year, rule changes proposed by clubs, and all other relevant documents and information pertaining to the AGM.
4. The business of the AGM shall be to receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, to elect the Committee and to adhere to the meeting agenda.
5. Each affiliated club shall be entitled to send one delegate per League team to the AGM. For the avoidance of doubt, a League team is any team that has paid its affiliated fees.
6. Clubs only have the right to representation once all fees and fines are paid to the previous delegate meeting for the relevant season.
7. Each club is entitled to one vote per affiliated team (includes both competitive and non-competitive teams).
8. No votes by proxy are permitted, only members present at the AGM are entitled to vote.
9. Only delegates aged over 18 years shall be entitled to vote. Proof of age may be required at the meeting.
10. It is compulsory that all clubs are represented at the AGM. Failure to do so will result in a club fine of €75.
11. A Committee member will not be accepted as representing their club at the AGM.



## 5.2. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

1. The Committee shall have the power to convene an EGM where it deems that to be required, subject to 5 days notification of date, venue and time and the business to be discussed are issued in accordance with the rules in that regard.
2. The current member clubs shall have the right to request an EGM only where 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of all current member clubs confirm their agreement to do so.
3. Such a request must be sent in writing (with 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s club confirmation) to the Hon. League Secretary and must include notice of the business to be discussed at that EGM.
4. Where a request from the member clubs to convene an EGM is received in accordance with the relevant rules, and that request is granted by the Committee, only the business stated in that request shall be dealt with, and only decision(s) in line with that business can be taken at that meeting.
5. Where a request to convene an EGM has been granted by the Committee all current member clubs will be notified by email at least 5 days in advance of the date, venue and time of that EGM and that notice will include the business to be dealt with at that EGM.
6. The voting entitlements and procedures at an EGM shall be as those prescribed for an AGM.

## 5.3. Delegate meeting

1. Delegate meetings for affiliated clubs shall be held at least twice a season, meeting #1 in the months of August or September and meeting #2 in the months of February or March of the current season.
2. All clubs shall be notified with details of date, venue and time at least 14 days prior to the date of any such meeting.
3. It is compulsory that all clubs are represented at the delegate meeting. Failure to do so will result in a club fine of €75.
4. All club delegates must be at least 18 years old and be a bona fide club Committee member or Officer.
5. A Committee member will not be accepted as representing their club at a Delegate meeting.
6. Minutes of delegate meetings shall be sent out within 14 days of their completion to all clubs.

## 5.4. League Committee Meetings

1. The first Committee meeting shall be held within 28 days of the previous AGM.
2. Meetings of the Committee during the season shall be held on a monthly basis, and the Committee may, in circumstances deemed appropriate, meet more or less frequently.
3. For the transaction of the business of the Committee, five members, one of which must be a League Senior Officer shall constitute a quorum for a Committee meeting to be held.
4. Where during the course of any League Committee meeting a conflict of interest arises involving an Officer's or Committee members club and another club, or the League itself, that Officer or Committee member must withdraw from the discussion taking place and from any decision making in regard to such matter.
5. The Chairperson shall ensure that decisions taken by the Committee are acted upon as quickly as possible.
6. If the chairperson considers that a member is behaving repeatably in an objectionable manner, it shall be for the chairperson to put it to vote whether such a member shall be removed from the meeting.
7. If another senior officer considers that the Chairperson is behaving inappropriately, it shall be for that senior officer to put it to vote whether the Chairperson shall be removed from the meeting.
8. Any member removed from a meeting shall have the opportunity of tendering an apology. Failing this, their reinstatement may only be determined by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s majority of the Committee.
9. The Chairperson shall have a vote, and when required, a casting vote, should they exercise their right to utilise that casting vote.
10. All matters discussed within the confines of a meeting should stay confidential until the Hon. League Secretary has dealt with the appropriate matter.
11. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairperson shall announce the date and time of the next meeting.

## 5.5. Club Annual General Meeting

1. To ensure correct governance, each club affiliated with the League must hold an AGM within a maximum of 6 months of the League AGM e.g. by 31<sup>st</sup> of December annually.
2. Confirmation of AGM must be sent to the Hon. League Secretary within 14 days of club AGM and no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of January annually.
3. A fine of €75 will be imposed for clubs not holding an AGM by 31<sup>st</sup> of December annually.



## 6. Finance and Insurance

### 6.1. Financial Year

1. The financial year will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December annually.

### 6.2. Financial Statements

1. The Hon. Treasurer shall keep a record of all income and expenditure and present an account and balance sheet at the AGM.
2. The financial report to be sent via the Hon. League Secretary to all Club Secretaries 14 days prior to AGM.
3. Disbursements shall, as far as possible, be made by cheque or EFT only.
4. All cheques shall be signed by any two of the four officers, viz. Chairperson, Asst. Treasurer, Hon. League Secretary and Hon. League Treasurer.

### 6.3. Financial payments

1. All Monies due to the League by clubs must be paid at the next delegate meeting.
2. If monies due are not paid within 28 days of the delegate meeting, all club games will be suspended until payment is made.

### 6.4. Gate Receipts

1. Only persons appointed by the League Committee are entitled to collect gate receipts at matches.
2. Such monies are the property of the League and must be submitted to the League Treasurer within five days of the match date.
3. The Treasurer will maintain a record of gate receipts and include as a separate line item in financial statements.

### 6.5. Insurance

1. All clubs participating in the League's competitions must ensure that their playing pitches and attendant areas are properly covered for public liability insurance and a copy of confirmation of such insurance being in place must be included with the online League application and no later than 1<sup>st</sup> August annually.
2. Clubs failing to have their playing pitches and attendant areas properly covered for public liability insurance will not be allowed to participate in the League or SFAI competitions.
3. Where a club is already in membership and subsequently allows the insurance to lapse or discontinue the Committee shall as they deem fit, suspend or remove the club until appropriate insurance is in place.
4. This indemnity hereby undertaken on the part of each club is not negated in any manner by the failure or omission of any club to obtain or renew such insurance.

## 7. Legal

1. The League, its Officers and Committee members shall not be held responsible or liable in any way for injuries or accidents suffered by player(s) in competitions under the League or SFAI jurisdiction, or whilst taking part in any training or games as part of any League representative squad.
2. Officers and members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the League against all costs, damages, compensation and expenses incurred by them in the discharge of their duties, except insofar as such may accrue from their own wilful acts or negligence.
3. No affiliated Club to the League may take legal action against the League or associated bodies on any issue relating to the application of these rules.
4. Each club hereby indemnifies the League in respect of all or any action proposed action or otherwise established or to be established in respect of any occurrence in relation to the running of the activities of the club however caused.

## 8. Complaints

1. Any complaint made by a member club against another member club(s), its members, supporters, players or referees must be submitted in writing to the Hon. League Secretary on club headed paper and signed by the Club Chairperson and Club Secretary. The Committee may, or may not, at its discretion, investigate any such complaint received in accordance with this rule.
2. Any such complaint must be lodged with the League no later than 7 days following the date precipitating the arousal of that complaint.
3. Under no circumstances can the complaint process be used as an alternative to the protest processes.



## 9. Membership

### 9.1. Club membership

1. Membership of the League shall be open to properly constituted Schoolboy/girls football clubs operating in the areas of Limerick as designated by the League and who shall affiliate each of their teams to the SFAI annually. A properly constituted club is one that holds an AGM to elect its officers and Committee members for each season.
2. Any new club(s) wishing to join the League must make a formal application on club headed paper signed by the club Chairperson and Club Secretary to the Hon. League Secretary no later than 30<sup>th</sup> of April prior to season commencing.
3. The Committee shall have power to admit to membership, fine, suspend, expel or otherwise deal with any club, team or player, who in their opinion, has, or may, act in a manner not conforming with the League's rules, or in any manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing the League into disrepute.
4. It is the responsibility of all clubs to assist in every way with the smooth running and operation of the League competitions and all entries are accepted on this basis.

### 9.2. Club application process

1. Every season each club must complete the official online League application form(s).
2. The online application form for U12 – U16 teams must be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August annually. A late registration fee of €50 will apply for a late registration per team after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.
3. No late entries for U12-U16 teams will be accepted after the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.
4. The online application form for non-competitive teams (U7-U11) must be completed by the 5<sup>th</sup> of September annually. A late registration fee of €15 will apply for a late registration of a non-competitive team after the 5<sup>th</sup> of September.
5. The online application form for Cup Competitions must be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September annually. Late registrations of teams beyond this date will not be accepted.

### 9.3. Club fees and fines

1. On the recommendations of the Hon. Treasurer, the Committee will decide on and set all relevant fees and fines the beginning of each season and as agreed at the AGM. (Refer to appendix 1+2)
2. All outstanding monies and first half of team registration fees must be paid at the first delegate meeting of the new season to be held in August/September. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the club registration not being processed.
3. The Committee may change the closing dates for the payment of team affiliation fees each season as required. Under no circumstances will team registration or player fees be refunded.
4. Fines may be reduced at the discretion of the League Committee on a case by case basis.
5. No player will be expected to pay any fine imposed under the jurisdiction of the League. All fines imposed upon clubs for team/player or adult misconduct shall be imposed against his/her club which shall be responsible for its payment.
6. Any fine imposed which is not the subject of an onward appeal must be paid at the next delegate meeting.

### 9.4. Club correspondence

1. All correspondence to the League from member clubs must be issued through the relevant Club Secretary, or in their absence, the club Chairperson. Correspondence from other club sources will not be dealt with.
2. All outgoing correspondence from the League shall be issued through the Hon. League Secretary. Should they be absent or unavailable, the Committee shall appoint a substitute for such duration as necessary.
3. E-mail and registered post are deemed acceptable methods of written communication; however, the League shall have discretion over the method of correspondence to be used.

### 9.5. Club records

1. When requested, each club must produce all its correspondence, policies and accounts for inspection.
2. Failure to produce satisfactory records will result in a fine of €25.



## 9.6. Teams withdrawing from the League

1. Where a club and/or team withdraws, it can no longer participate in the League's competitions in the relevant season.
2. Clubs/teams withdrawing after their fixtures have commenced in the relevant season, shall be liable for all relevant fees and will be fined an additional €100 per team.

**Note:** Refer to competition rules for how players / points may be distributed

## 10. Registrations and Transfers

### 10.1. Registrations of players

1. Players participating in the League's competitions must be registered on the FAI CONNECT, be age compliant and properly registered with a team currently a member club of the League.
2. An application for registration of any Player must be submitted via FAI CONNECT by no later than 12:00 on the last business day prior to the match in which they wish to participate.
3. Refer to the "[FAI CONNECT – a comprehensive guide on player registration](#)" handbook for further details and guidance. A copy will also be available on the Leagues website for download.

### 10.2. Player poaching

1. When a player becomes a registered player with the League it shall be an offence for any official, member or any other person on behalf of another club, to approach, encourage or influence that player, his/her parents/guardians or any other person, in order that the player transfer to or participate in any training, coaching or games for another club.
2. Any club found guilty of poaching player(s) from another club, or approaching parents with the same intent, during the playing season, shall be fined €500 and or incur a points deduction, as the disciplinary Committee dealing with the case deems appropriate.

### 10.3. Player Transfers

1. The transfer periods for all players under the jurisdiction of the League, up to and including the U-16 age group, shall be in accordance with those contained in the prevailing SFAI and FAI rules.
2. Refer to the "[FAI Handbook and FAI CONNECT Handbook](#)" for further details and guidance on player transfers. A copy will also be available on the Leagues website for download.

## 11. League Emerging Talent Programme (ETP) - Inter League Squads

1. The League may enter representative squads in all the Inter League Competitions.
2. Players can only play representative games for the SFAI affiliated League to which they are currently registered.
3. Any player registered to a National League club cannot play in any SFAI competitions or any SFAI affiliated League's competitions. In this context, teams originating from SFAI Leagues and registered to the National League, shall be deemed to be National League clubs and these restrictions on players shall apply.
4. An inter-League coordinator will be appointed by the committee to oversee the running of the inter-League representative squads.
5. The Management of any League representative squad should consist of a management team of 1 team manager and minimum of 3 coaches where possible.
6. All management positions will be advertised in advance by the League committee.
7. The Committee shall have sole power to appoint, retain or dismiss all direct personnel as it shall see fit, to positions relating to the selection, training, management, coaching and all other aspects of the formation, of inter-League squads.
8. All such appointments shall be made via whatever process that the Committee deems appropriate and all such appointed personnel shall carry out their duties on behalf of the League in a voluntary capacity.
9. All managers/coaches must have the relevant qualifications and safeguarding completed and in date.
10. Selection of players will be through a trial basis, consisting of a minimum of 3 trials before selection of the final squad.
11. Communication on all inter-League squads must be through the Hon. League Secretary and club secretaries.
12. All managers, coaches, players and parents will be required to sign up to and adhere to the relevant inter-League codes of conduct.



13. Failure to abide by the codes of conduct may result in the removal of managers/coaches and players from their respective squad by the League committee.
14. League clubs are expected to have its players and grounds at the disposal of the League if required.
15. All fundraising related to or connected with any League representative squad must have the prior approval of the Committee and all monies collected in such fashion must be returned to the League Hon. Treasurer in total and within 10 days of the conclusion of the relevant fund-raising event.
16. All proposed spending and outlay in relation to any element of the management or training or playing of fixtures regarding any League representative squad must have the prior approval of the Committee.
17. All persons appointed to any role regarding League representative squads are accountable to the League Committee in all circumstances and, if requested to do so, shall attend any meeting with the Committee dealing with any matter related to League representative squads.
18. The Committee shall have the right to conduct a review of the workings and management of any of its representative squads and all appointed personnel shall be required to participate fully in any such review.

### 11.1. League ETP / National League Players

1. Clubs cannot register more than one player per team in any given season who, in the season just concluded, had played for any of the League ETP and National League squads from U-12 to U-16 inclusive whilst being a registered player of another club in that season.
2. Clubs are entitled to re-register any player from the League ETP and National League squad who was registered with that same club in the previous season.
3. A list of players who had been members of any League ETP and National League squad in the previous season shall be available from the Hon. League Secretary on request by the Club Secretary of any current member club.
4. Players coming under the terms of this rule shall be deemed to be ineligible, the relevant club may be fined as determined by the League Committee and the player(s) will not be registered with that club.

## 12. Welfare

### 12.1. Health and Safety

1. It is the policy of the League to promote standards of Health and Safety within the League which will lead to the avoidance or reduction in risks to health and safety, to continually improve our safety performance and to ensure that the best practicable methods of compliance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, and associated legislation are achieved.
2. The League is also committed to managing and conducting League activities in such a way as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any improper conduct or behaviour (including bullying/harassment) likely to put the safety, health or welfare of players at risk.
3. The League Committee have overall responsibility for health and safety within the League.
4. Clubs share this responsibility in ensuring their own safety while participating in activities.
5. Clubs are encouraged to put forward suggestions for improvement of Health & Safety within the League.

#### 12.1.1. H&S Policies

1. The following policies are applicable and available to download:

League Health & Safety Policies					
#	Title	#	Title	#	Title
1	Health & Safety policy	4	Accident reporting policy	7	Player injury policy
2	Dignity & Respect policy	5	Bullying policy	8	Child welfare statement
3	Drugs & alcohol policy	6	Harassment policy	9	FAI Dispensation policy

Table 4 – League H&S policies

### 12.2. FAI Dispensation policy

1. The FAI dispensation policy/rule was approved in November 2022 which enables children with a disability to play on teams behind the age group prescribed by their date of birth (after an application/review process)
2. The intention of the policy is to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream football. To avail of the policy, the family and club must apply to [footballforall@fai.ie](mailto:footballforall@fai.ie). Applications must include:
  - a) A completed application form

- b) Expert evidence from the child's doctor or specialist outlining a number of key points (nature of disability, why the player is disadvantaged, and why this will not endanger the health and safety of others)
  - c) A Letter of Support from the players club confirming they fully agree with and support the application
3. After this information has been received, it will be reviewed by a representative from the League, a member of the FAI Football For All team, and an FAI Medical Advisor.
4. The decision of the assessment group will be communicated to the parent or carer in writing and at the same time to the relevant Club Secretary or Hon. League Secretary as appropriate.
5. This approval is valid for one competition season.

### 12.3. Data Protection

1. All information collected by The League shall be held and maintained in accordance with legislation and The League Data Protection Policy. This policy shall be available from the League on request.
2. The gathering, compilation, retention, storage or use of any information relating to underage players must be fully compliant with all the requirements of the Data Protection Acts and GDPR guidelines.

### 12.4. Photography & match recordings

1. Players, teams and all relevant persons, are obliged to cooperate with and participate in any filming or photography authorized by the League for the purposes of the promotion of League competitions.
2. Any and all such filming or photography will be published under the authorization of the League on social media and or any other form of public media consumption.
3. By entering League competitions all relevant clubs and teams grant permission to the League on behalf of all persons who will be subject to this rule, including all under-age players.

### 12.5. Child Welfare

1. The League is committed to ensuring that Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Persons can participate in all football activities in a safe environment. The Children First Act 2015 provides a statutory framework for all and the Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, is guidance when introducing measures to fulfil the obligations of the Children First Act 2015.
2. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter, which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour, which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
3. It is mandatory that all clubs comply with all FAI rules, regulations, codes, polices and guidelines in respect of child protection and welfare, including the appointment of a person to be responsible for all child protection and welfare matters within their club and the implementation of Garda Vetting of all those engaging with persons under the age of eighteen (18) and/or vulnerable persons.
4. It is mandatory that all clubs comply with all legislation and guidelines issued by any statutory agency in respect of child protection and welfare.
5. Breaches shall become a disciplinary offence.
6. Any participant who is the subject of a Statutory Inquiry Re: child welfare must stand down from football activities pending the outcome of that inquiry and any subsequent internal disciplinary proceedings.

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**End of Governance Rules**

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## Section B – Competition rules

### 1. General

1. These Competition rules are only to apply to Competitions under the jurisdiction of the League.
2. The Committee shall be the sole interpreter of these rules and shall have power to deal, as they think fit, with any matter not otherwise dealt with in these rules.
3. These competition rules may be altered by the Committee during the season to facilitate successful operation of the League.
4. Any changes to competition rules will be enforced once notified to all club secretaries, but no later than 3 days from decision date.

### 2. Jurisdiction

1. No club(s), player(s) or team(s) shall play in any match or trials outside of the League's jurisdiction without prior permission from the Committee.
2. No player currently registered to the League will be allowed to play with any other club(s) or League(s) academy, development or any inter League squad without the prior permission of the Committee, breaches of this rule may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter by the League.

### 3. Club colours

1. Every club must register its club colours with the League who can decide as to their suitability.
2. In the event of two clubs playing in the same colours, the home club shall change colours. The home team will be decided by home advantage or, where playing in a neutral venue, a draw will have taken place to establish the "home" team.
3. Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

### 4. Grounds

#### 4.1. General

1. Before the commencement of each season the Committee may review the playing pitch & changing facilities of each club to decide on its suitability.
2. Each club shall provide adequate changing facilities for all players.
3. In the interest of Child Safety and Protection, a club will lose home advantage for each game that it cannot provide adequate changing facilities.
4. Any club wishing to play a home fixture on grounds registered to the League or any other venue than home facility set out on affiliation sheet, must request this via email to the Hon. League Secretary and receive approval prior to fixture date. If more than one club applies for the use of the ground on the same date the first applicant has the choice of time.
5. All games under the jurisdiction of the League can be played on artificial turf surface where the surface has been certified and is currently in compliance with the prevailing FAI standards on such pitches.

#### 4.2. Fitness of pitch

1. The home team shall be responsible for stewarding, pitch markings, providing 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kits and ensuring their footballs, goalposts, nets, and corner flags are of the approved safety standards before the commencement of any fixture. If unsuitable, the referee must report the club to the League committee.
2. All visiting clubs must be notified by home clubs 48 hours in advance of the kick off time should there be the possibility that an artificial surface of the required standard and certification will be used. This notification shall include any restrictions on footwear.
3. The Committee shall have the power to fine clubs €25 found to be in breach of these rules and to increase the levels of fine(s) for repeated breaches of this rule.
4. Any objection to ground markings, goal-nets, goal posts, corner flag posts or size of the ground must be made in writing to the referee before the game is started.
5. The referee shall have the power to have such objection corrected.
6. The referee's decision on the day shall be final and shall not be the grounds for any protest or claim.
7. For avoidance of doubt, it is the referees decision to deem a pitch playable or un-playable. However, in cases where there has been inclement weather before a scheduled fixture, the club may request a postponement of the fixture to the Fixtures Secretary (cc the Assistant Fixtures Secretary) accompanied with photographs, no later than 12 hours in advance of the fixture time. Such will enable the Fixtures



Secretary to make a decision and prevent un-necessary travel by the match officials and the away team. Where the decision is made to proceed with the fixture, the referee will still have final decision on the date of the fixture following his/her pitch inspection.

## 5. Competition

### 5.1. Competition formats

1. The Committee shall have the sole right to determine and implement all formats for the playing of its competitions within the terms of the prevailing FAI PDP programme. (Refer to appendix 4).
2. All matches in whichever of its competitions, shall be played according to these guidelines.
3. Any club intending to organise a competition must seek permission from the League Committee and a breach of this rule may result in disciplinary action being taken, the level of which shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

### 5.2. Player eligibility / Age groups

1. The relevant date deciding a player’s eligibility to compete in a particular age-group shall be that which is determined by the SFAI. Currently, it shall cater for all boys and girls up to the age of sixteen years on the first day of January of the year in which the season concludes.
2. A maximum of 3 girls can play on boys teams up to and including the U/16 age group. Girls can also play one year below their nominal age group on boys’ teams, e.g. a girl eligible to play at U/14 can play U/13 boys in addition to being eligible to play for her club’s girls team at her age group or higher.

### 5.3. Playing Season

1. The current standard (Winter) playing season, adopted by the League shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. The League will operate (as much as reasonably practicable) as illustrated below:

Playing Season (Winter League)												
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Official Season												Closed
U7, U8, U9	N/A				N/A	N/A				N/A	N/A	Closed
U10, U11	N/A				N/A	N/A				N/A	N/A	Closed
U12 - U16											N/A	Closed

Table 5 – Playing Season

2. Currently, the month of July is a closed month.
3. At the conclusion of the standard season, clubs wishing to play games during July must receive prior written sanction via the League from the SFAI Executive Committee on or before 1st May in that season.

### 5.4. League Format

1. Prior to actual commencement of any League type competition the Committee shall have complete discretion as to the manner in which it shall be run.
2. The Committee will form teams into divisions for each age group on the basis of approved applications received from clubs at the start of each season as follows;
  - U7, U8, U9, U10 & U11 will be non-competitive football.
  - U12 will be 9-a-side competitive format.
  - U13, U14, U15 and U16 will be 11-a-side competitive format.
3. Depending on team entries to various Leagues (U12-U16), they may be split as either a One-Way, Two-way or Three-way Leagues as outlined below. League formats can only be decided once all teams have been registered.
4. One Way League:
  - All one-way leagues will have more than seven (7) teams.
  - There will be one round of fixtures and the team in 1<sup>st</sup> place, will win the league.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place will play vs. 5<sup>th</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will play vs. 4<sup>th</sup> place in two semi-finals with the winners playing the shield final in a neutral venue. There is no runner up for shield competition.
  - Note: In the Shield Semi-Finals, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams will have home advantage.
  - Note: In the event that the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> placed teams are level with the same no. of points, a draw will be made to determine what team has home advantage.



- If there are 8/10/12 teams in a league, there will be an uneven amount of Home and Away matches. A draw will take place to determine what clubs receive the additional Home fixture.
  - Note: Depending on league numbers and matches played, the League may introduce a 3<sup>rd</sup> competition for those teams placed 6<sup>th</sup> and below in the league. This can only be determined nearing completion of the League and will be communicated to Clubs once decided upon by the League Committee.
5. Two way League
    - Every team plays each other home and away.
    - Teams with most points are declared League winners.
    - Teams finishing with the second and third highest points will compete for the shield final.
    - Note: Second place team will have home advantage.
    - Note: In the event that the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams are level with the same no. of points, a draw will be made to determine what team has home advantage.
  6. Three way League
    - Usually reserved for a League with 4 or less teams.
    - Teams with most points are declared League winners.
    - Teams finishing with the second highest points will be declared runner-up.
    - An open draw to be held for the third round fixtures and clubs to be afforded the option of attending the draw.
  7. The League Committee shall have the sole right to place teams in divisions.
  8. If a club has more than one team entered in the League at a particular age level (e.g., A team, B team, C team etc) they must be entered into different divisions within that League, thereby ensuring that no club shall have two teams in the same division. However, if there is only one division in a specific age group then a club will be allowed enter a second team if they wish to do so.
  9. In the event that a club have 2 teams in the same division, their fixtures against each other will the 1<sup>st</sup> two fixtures played in that division.

### 5.5. League Points

1. In all League matches, three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match.
2. Where more than two teams finish on equal points, the Committee will decide on the play-off system. Their decision will be final and binding on the clubs.

### 5.6. Withdrawal of a team from League

1. In accordance with rules Sec. A, 9.6, all players registrations relating to that team(s) shall then become the property of the League.
2. Clubs, in financial good standing with the League, may apply to the Committee to register a maximum of three (3) such players to each one of their team's. Such players and registrations can only transfer during the open transfer window. For avoidance of doubt, if the transfer window is closed, players cannot be transferred even though their team has been withdrawn from the League. The Committee has the sole right to approve any such application.
3. Clubs withdrawing teams after the League application form has been submitted to the Hon. League Secretary shall be liable for all relevant fees and fines due.
4. Any team that shall be suspended, removed or otherwise withdrawn from any League competition shall have their record expunged, unless they have fulfilled 50% of their fixtures, when their record shall stand, any points for un-played matches being awarded to opposing teams as they accrue.

### 5.7. Cup competitions – League cup

1. An open League cup draw will be held at a Committee meeting where all clubs are notified 14 days prior to the draw taking place and can attend to witness the draw.
2. Initial rounds of the cup competitions are to be played between teams in the lower divisions at each age grade. Details to be announced for each age grade before the commencement of the competition.
3. All games of a knock-out type format must finish on the day of the playing of the relevant fixture, if required, extra time of 10 minutes each half, where required, followed by a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA rules will apply in all such games.
4. If a club enters 2 teams in a League, but only entered one team into a cup competition, players will be allowed from the other team/s at that age group to play in cup competitions.

5. Players cannot play for two different teams in the same domestic knock-out format competition in the same season as they are “cup-tied”.
6. Where adverse weather conditions cause knock-out format games to be postponed and if the home team cannot provide an alternative ground on the day, the game shall then revert to the opponent's ground on a date set by the Committee. Note: A total call off (Blanket cancellation) of all fixtures by the League does not come under the terms of this rule.
7. Where any game of a knock-out format has begun but cannot be completed due to adverse weather conditions the Committee shall reverse the venue for the refixed game.
8. The cup finals of all local competitions shall be played at a neutral venue or at a ground designated by the League.
9. All trophies will be presented to teams on the day (or final day) they win the competition.

### 5.8. Cup competitions – SFAI National cup

1. SFAI Cup games take precedence over affiliated League domestic fixtures, SFAI inter-League fixtures and club/s or League/s arranged tournament/s and or fixture/s of any kind.
2. Refer to “SFAI rulebook” for National cup competition rules.

### 5.9. Powerplay

1. The Powerplay format is to be used from U7's to U11's non-competitive age groups.
2. When a Team is losing by 4 goals an extra player is brought on by losing team.
3. If team is losing by 6 goals, then a second player is brought on.
4. If the game returns back to a 3 goal deficit, then losing team takes a player off.

### 5.10. Trophies and medals

1. The Committee will allocate Trophies and medals to specific competitions each season.
2. In general, League winners will be presented with a trophy and winners medals and runners up will be presented runner-up medals. Winners of any shield competitions will be presented with a shield trophy and shield winner medals. Note: There will not be shield runner up medals.
3. There will be a maximum of 16 medals per team presented for U12 League winners and runners up and Shield winners. If a Club requires additional medals, they must be requested to the Hon. League Secretary.
4. There will be a maximum of 18 medals per team presented for (U13-U16) League winners and runners up and Shield winners. If a Club requires additional medals, they must be requested to the Hon. League Secretary.
5. All trophies are the property of the League and all teams in possession of any trophy awarded by the League are responsible for the safekeeping and good condition of that trophy. Any damage or loss of any of the League’s trophies, whilst in the possession of any club, shall result in the relevant club being fully liable for the costs of all repairs or replacement of that trophy(s).
6. It is the winning clubs responsibility to have each trophy engraved (where space permits) for that particular season.
7. The participants in Cup Finals and League Playoffs will be awarded their winners and runners up medals upon completion of the game on the day of the fixture.
8. All clubs that win a trophy shall hand back the trophy in good condition at the Spring Delegate Meeting (to be held in February / March annually) in the following season to the League.
9. The league will provide medals for all registered players of non-competitive teams. Clubs are to have all requests for non-competitive medals submitted to the Hon. League Secretary by the 31<sup>st</sup> March annually.

### 5.11. Player of the year

1. For competitive teams only, each club is entitled to nominate one player of the year from each division that their club has a team participating in.
2. This player is to be from your club and once all nominations are received for each division these will be distributed back to all the clubs for votes to be cast.
3. Clubs cannot nominate a player if a team withdrew and/or were removed from a particular division.
4. All nominations and votes are to be returned to the Hon. League Secretary within 10 days of the request sent to clubs. There can be no exceptions.
5. Failure to return votes will result in that clubs nominations being removed from the player of the year award.

## 5.12. Appointment of referees and related matters

1. The League will provide official referees for U12-U16 age groups, to be specified at the start of each season, and in all Cup matches.
2. A referee and two linesmen (subject to availability) will be provided in all League Cup finals and a referee only for Shield finals.

## 6. Fixture Scheduling

### 6.1. General

1. The League Committee will be responsible for the setting up of, management, and control of all League competitions and fixtures and no team or club may alter these fixtures without the written consent of the Committee.
2. All such fixtures shall be played in accordance with FIFA laws of the game in conjunction with the relevant guidelines of the prevailing FAI PDP. (Refer to Appendix 4).
3. All matches, venues and times of kick off shall be the responsibility of the Fixtures Secretary on behalf of the Committee in accordance with the season calendar.
4. League fixtures for schoolboys/girls may be set so that odd age groups (U7, U9, U11, U13 & U15) are run on an alternate weekends to the even age groups (U8, U10, U12, U14 & U16) when scheduling allows.
5. Fixtures will be available on the league website (<https://limerickdesmondsbgl.com/fixtures/>) a minimum 12 days in advance of the fixture where feasible. This will be official notification of games to all clubs and will be strictly adhered to at all times.
6. The Fixtures Secretary (when scheduling allows) will ensure that where a club has entered two teams in the same League and they are entered into different divisions, both teams will have different kick off times if scheduled on the same day to accommodate same managers / coaches responsible for both teams to travel between venues.
7. Note: SFAI Cup games take precedence over League domestic fixtures, SFAI inter-League fixtures and club/s or League/s arranged tournament/s and or fixture/s of any kind.

### 6.2. Postponement / Re-Schedule of games

1. Clubs cannot agree to change any of the League's competitive fixture's arrangements, in any way, without the prior permission of the League Fixtures Secretary, breaches of this rule may result in both clubs being fined €25 for a 1<sup>st</sup> offence and €50 for each and every offence thereafter and the relevant fixture may be declared void unless the Committee is satisfied that the default occurred through unavoidable circumstances.
2. Clubs have until the Saturday night, a week before the fixture to request a change of time / day and must offer a valid reason for the request. Requests can only be made in writing via e-mail by Club Secretaries to the Fixtures Secretary (cc the Assistant Fixtures Secretary) in all correspondence.
3. A Club application for a fixture(s) postponement ("free weekend"), must be made at a minimum of 14 days' notice in writing to the Fixtures Secretary (cc the Assistant Fixtures Secretary) with an explanation for the request before any postponement application will be considered.
4. A Club application for a postponement for a Communion, Confirmation, school tour, or school entrance exam, must be made at a minimum of 14 days' notice in writing to the Fixtures Secretary (cc Assistant Fixtures Secretary). Clubs may be required to provide written confirmation, from the organising body of any such tour or entrance exam before any postponement application will be considered. No verbal applications will be considered.
5. Included with that confirmation must be the names of the players involved in the school tour or entrance exam. A minimum of two (2) or more such players, per individual team, are required to be affected by the school tour or entrance exam before any such application will be considered. No verbal applications will be considered.
6. An additional of 1 postponement request (excluding the above) may only be granted to each team per season.
7. Regarding bereavements, postponements may be granted for the death of an immediate family member of a registered club officer, team manager or player at the discretion of the Committee. Postponements may not be granted a day after the burial service has taken place; one minute's silence may be observed as a mark of respect.
8. In the event of a major tragedy or similar occurrence in a particular area, the League Committee may exercise its discretion to cancel/postpone a fixture if the tragedy affects a registered Club in that area.
9. Only the League Chairperson may deal with requests for EMERGENCY postponements



10. Only the League Chairperson may authorise a Blanket cancellation in the interests of Health and Safety and based upon the severity of weather alerts issued by Met Eireann.
11. Note: Failure to comply with these rules could make a club liable to a fine and /or loss of the points.
12. Note: The granting of such requests shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee.
13. Note: There is no guarantee that any requests in relation to the postponement or re-scheduling of games can be accommodated.

### 6.3. Failure to fulfil a fixture(s) / Walkover(s)

1. Teams must be toggled out, on the field and ready to play at the appointed time.
2. If a team fails to appear at the venue of any of the League's fixtures, the match referee, after 15 minutes has passed from the starting time will instruct the team in attendance to complete the referee's match card. The match referee will then send that card, along with his/her report, to the League Registrar. The Committee shall investigate the matter and shall have the power to award the game against the team that failed to fulfil the fixture.
3. Any team that fails to fulfil any competitive fixture will be fined €50 and the game will be awarded to the opposing team on a 3-0 scoreline.
4. Any team that gives 3 walkovers will be removed from the league and will be fined an additional €100 per team.
5. Any team official(s) and or mentor(s) found guilty of withdrawing a team from the field of play, once the game has begun, will be liable to a suspension and/or a fine, the team may also be removed from the relevant competition by the disciplinary Committee dealing with the case.
6. Clubs refusing or failing, without cause acceptable to the Committee, to fulfil any of the League's fixtures shall be liable to be fined and the forfeiture of that game.

### 6.4. Abandoned Games

1. In the event of an abandoned fixture, the League Committee will examine the referee's report and make a finding on the matter.
2. In the event of a match been abandoned due to inclement weather conditions, unplayable pitch condition, failing light or that extra time cannot be played the match will be re-fixed at the same venue. For avoidance of doubt, the match will be replayed with scores at 0-0 and with full match duration to be played.
3. In certain instances where it is to the advantage of the competition and there is no unfairness to either team, the League Committee are empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the final result.
4. In the case of uncompleted or abandoned matches the Committee shall have the power to order a replay or to award the game. The League Committee will review all abandoned games on a case by case basis.

### 6.5. Friendly / Challenge games

1. Friendly / Challenge games, with the permission of the League may be played for all age groups from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> June annually.
2. Friendly/Challenge games may be arranged for non-competitive teams throughout the season and the home team should inform the League Fixtures Secretary (cc the Assistant Fixtures Secretary) of such fixtures.
3. Friendly / Challenge games (including training matches between different clubs) for competitive age groups (U12-U16) and between affiliated League clubs played within the SFAI jurisdiction require permission from the respective Hon. League Secretaries in order to schedule the game. The Fixtures Secretary will appoint a qualified match official when scheduling allows.
4. However where more than two Clubs are involved in any type of event or tournament, SFAI permission must be sought at least 28 days prior to the commencement of the event or tournament. Where teams from outside of the SFAI's jurisdiction are invited to play in any such event or tournament, permission for those teams must be sought from the FAI in accordance with its current rules in that area with a copy of their current public liability insurance certificate.
5. During the season players may only play in friendly/challenge games for another club with the written consent of the club to which they are registered.

## 6.6. Unauthorised fixtures

1. No League club or player shall be entitled to play any match (other than fixtures organised by the SFAI or FAI) outside the League without getting the consent of the League Committee in writing by sending a request to the Hon. League Secretary.

## 7. Results

### 7.1. Reporting of results to League

1. All results from U10 – U16 must be notified to the PRO by text/WhatsApp before 8pm on the day of fixture for weekend games and 10pm on the day of the fixture for midweek games.
2. It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the PRO of the match results.
3. Failure to comply with above will result in a fine of €10 for each such occasion.
4. Note: Where possible, for U12-U16 matches, both clubs are to submit scorers to the PRO to facilitate accurate match day reporting.

### 7.2. Reporting of results – Social Media

1. Published match results in the media (print or social) are not to exceed a five goal winning margin for competitive age groups.
2. No results or suggestion of results are to be published for non-competitive age groups.
3. Failure to adhere to either of the above rules will result in a club fine of €25.

## 8. Protests

1. Protests as to overage player(s), or any other cause, must be sent, by e-mail or registered post, the Hon. League Secretary within 5 days following the date on which the potential protest arises. All protests must be accompanied by the protest fee (€100) paid by postal order or bank draft only. Under no circumstances will payment by cash or cheques be accepted, and any payment made in such a fashion shall render any such protest null and void.
2. An exact copy of the protest, signed by the protesting club, must be sent by registered post, within 5 days following the date on which the potential protest arises to the opposing Club's Secretary.
3. The burden of proof of any protest shall lie solely with the protesting club, it is not incumbent upon the League to prove any protest.
4. A club in doubt as to the eligibility of its opponent's player(s) shall bring the matter to the attention of the referee at half time and/or full time and shall be at liberty to request the referee to obtain the signatures and date of birth of a maximum of any three (3) opposition players entered on the referee's match card. Any team's refusal to accede to such a request will be regarded as an effort to conceal an irregularity in player(s) eligibility/registration and/or playing over-age player(s).
5. All such player(s) signatures and dates of birth must form the basis of any protest regarding player(s) eligibility and be produced at any subsequent protest hearing.
6. Clubs found guilty of breaching this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League in accordance with SFAI and FAI rules.

## 9. Disciplinary Matters and Suspensions

### 9.1. General

1. Any suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of the season, must be served at the commencement of the following season, even when the player moves up an age group in the following season e.g. If a player has a 2 game suspension remaining at end of season for U12 and the next season they are playing only U14, they must serve the remaining 2 game suspension at U14.
2. All of the suspensions outlined within the following sections are the minimum penalties. The League may impose suspensions above this minimum depending on the nature of the offences committed.
3. All of the suspensions may be appealed through the SFAI in accordance with the rules of The Association.

### 9.2. Cautionable offences

1. A player who is cautioned (receives a yellow card) in any game must be reported to the League.
2. A player who accumulates four cautions will be suspended for 1 match.
3. Following the suspension, if the same player accumulates a further four cautions, he will be suspended for 1 match.



4. Any player who receives in excess of 12 twelve cautions in any one season will receive a 2 match suspension for the 12th caution and thereafter 3 matches for every 4 cautions.
5. At the end of each season, players with up to 3 outstanding cautions will not have these cautions carried forward to the next season.

### 9.3. Sending off offences

1. The below table relates to misconduct by Players and/or Officials which results in a red card:

Sending off Offences		
	Sending off Offences	Suspension
1	Denying the opposing team, a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity	1 match minimum suspension
2	Unsporting conduct	1 match minimum suspension
3	Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 match minimum suspension
4	Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures other than towards a Match Official	1 match minimum suspension
5	Serious foul play	2 match minimum suspension
6	Violent conduct	3 match minimum Suspension
7	Spitting at an opponent or person other than a Match Official	6 match minimum suspension

Table 6 – Sending off offences

2. A player who is sent off (receives a red card) will be suspended automatically from the subsequent match of the same competition.
3. A player who is sent off in a specific age group must serve the suspension in that specific age group.
4. A player who is sent off in a League cup match must server the suspension in that specific age group, should the team be eliminated from that cup competition then the player must serve the suspension in the next competitive game.
5. Players sent off in an SFAI Cup game are automatically suspended from the next game in the SFAI Cup in which he/she was sent off. If that player's team has been eliminated from that SFAI Cup the automatic suspension will take effect for his/her next competitive game at the age group where he/she is registered
6. Players who are under an automatic one match suspension for being sent off in a domestic League competition are eligible to play in the SFAI Cup on the basis that the suspension is served for a domestic competition game directly following the SFAI Cup game.

### 9.4. Misconduct by players and officials against match officials

1. Anyone who uses violence, intimidation or threats to pressurise a match official into taking certain action or to hinder them in any way from acting freely shall be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
2. Where a Player or Official receives a red card and/or is subsequently reported for misconduct against a Match Official the overall suspension imposed shall be:

Misconduct against Match Officials		
	Offence	Sanction
1	Foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards a Match Official	At least a 3 match suspension
2	Behaviour that is aggressive, intimidating, or threatening towards a Match Official	At least a 6 match suspension
3	Deliberately placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a Match Official	At least a 12 match suspension
4	Assaulting or attempting to assault (deliberately or deliberately attempting to push, pull, spit at, strike, elbow, punch, kick etc.) a Match Official	At least 12 months
5	Assaulting a Match Official that involves head butting and/or repeatedly and deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. a Match Official	At least 36 months

Table 7 – Misconduct against Match Officials

### 9.5. Misconduct by Spectators and Club members

1. All Spectators are to remain off the field of play for the duration of the game.
2. Every club is responsible to the League for the actions of its player's officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or insulting officials and players during or at the conclusion of matches.
3. If a spectator engages in racist/discriminatory behaviour, including but not limited to chanting or displaying racist/discriminatory slogans at a match, the Committee shall sanction the club that the spectator supports.
4. Any player, member of a club or the Committee who have been suspended shall not, during the period of suspension take part in any match under the League's auspices, nor hold office in any club, nor otherwise act in any capacity under the League.
5. All players or club officials are entitled to a personal hearing if a player has been sent off or a club official is shown a red card or has been severely cautioned by the referee, by requesting same by e-mail and/or registered post within 3 days of match. If the player or club member cautioned / sent off does not make such an appearance then the matter will be dealt with in the normal manner.

### 9.6. Match officials and disciplinary action

1. Match Officials are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with SFAI and FAI Disciplinary Regulations and the FAI Referee Regulations. Refer to FAI Rulebook for details.

### 9.7. Notifications of disciplinary decisions

1. The League shall notify disciplinary decisions via e-mail to all parties & where relevant, be accompanied by the referee's report on the incident where applicable (with the exception of automatic suspensions).
2. The decisions come into force as and from the Tuesday following notification.

### 9.8. Right of Appeal

1. Any League official, club, player or member of a club dissatisfied with a decision of the League has the right to appeal to the SFAI.
2. Any such appeal must be forwarded to the Hon. League Secretary of the aforementioned bodies in writing by registered post accompanied by the appeal fee as per the Appeal Rules of the SFAI.
3. An exact copy must be forwarded by registered post within the same period to the Hon. League Secretary against whom the appeal has been lodged.

## 10. Referees and Match Cards

### 10.1. Referees

1. The Fixtures Secretary will provide details in advance of the appointed referee for competitive fixtures.
2. A referee must be at a minimum 16 years of age and have successfully completed a recognised referee's course, safeguarded and affiliated to the relevant referees society.

### 10.2. Referee Fees

1. Referees fees shall be defined each year by the League Committee and Referees representative.
2. These Referees' fees shall be communicated to all clubs before the start of each season and at any other time that may be appropriate.
3. If a Referee deems it unsuitable to start the match, he must be paid the agreed fee regardless.
4. If a walkover is given on the day of the fixture with more than 1 hour notice, the referees fee will be €20. If there is less than 1 hour notice, the full fee must be paid.
5. The home team must pay the referee's expenses for all games, no exceptions.

Referee Fees			
Age Group	Format	Duration	Fee
U12 – Boys & Girls	9 v 9	2 x 30 mins	€34.00
U13 – Boys & Girls	11 v 11	2 x 30 mins	€34.00
U14 – U15 Boys & Girls	11 v 11	2 x 35 mins	€40.00
U16 – Boys & Girls	11 v 11	2 x 40 mins	€45.00
Assistant Officials	All	As Required	€30.00

Table 8 – Referees Fees



### 10.3. Match Cards

1. Each team manager will share the full list of players and substitutes names before kick-off if requested to do so by either team in all competitive and non-competitive games.
2. The full first name and surname of all those player(s) forming part of each teams squad must be set out in BLOCK CAPITALS on the referee's match card prior to the commencement of all games. Clubs shall be solely responsible for the information entered on the match card in relation to any specific fixture.
3. For competitive games (U12-U16), it is the responsibility of the match referee to return the match card to the League registrar within 3 days of the scheduled fixture.
4. For non-competitive games (U10-U11), it is the responsibility of the home team manager to return the match card to the address on the match card within 3 days of the scheduled fixture. The match card must contain the actual scores of the game.
5. For non-competitive "Dual" matches (U10-U11), two match cards must be submitted with the actual scores of each of the games.
6. Failure to submit a match card or only partially complete a match card for both non-competitive (U10/U11) and competitive games (U12-U16) is a €10 fine.

**End of Competition Rules**

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## Appendices



## Appendix 1: Club Fees

The below are the agreed fees for the League:

Club Fees		
#	Description	€
<b>General</b>		
1	Kennedy Cup	€150.00
2	Gaynor Cup	€150.00
3	Pitch Hire	€50.00
4	Insurance	€35.00
<b>Per Team</b>		
5	SFAI affiliation fee – (U7, U8, U9)	€5.00
6	SFAI affiliation fee – (U10, U11, U12)	€10.00
7	SFAI affiliation fee – (U13, U14, U15, U16)	€15.00
8	League Entry Fee – Boys – (U7, U8, U9, U10, U11)	€45.00
9	League Entry Fee – Girls – (U7, U8, U9, U10, U11)	€45.00
10	League Entry Fee – Boys – (U12, U13, U14, U15, U16)	€60.00
11	League Entry Fee – Girls – (U12, U13, U14, U15, U16)	€60.00
12	Cup Entry Fees – Boys & Girls - (U12-U16)	€40.00
13	Protest Fee (when applicable)	€100.00
14	Extra Medals (per medal)	€6.50
<b>Referees Fees</b>		
A	U12 – Boys & Girls (9 v 9) (2 x 30mins)	€34.00
B	U13 – Boys & Girls (11 v 11) (2 x 30 mins)	€34.00
C	U14 – Boys & Girls (11 v 11) (2 x 35 mins)	€40.00
D	U15 – Boys & Girls (11 v 11) (2 x 35 mins)	€40.00
E	U16 – Boys & Girls (11 v 11) (2 x 40 mins)	€45.00
F	Assistant Officials (all)	€30.00
G	If a Walkover given on day of fixture with more than 1hr notice	€20.00

Table 9 – Club fees

## Appendix 2: Club Fines

The table below is only a summary of the key fines that may be imposed.

Club Fines (Summary)			
#	Reference	Description	€
1	Sec. A - 3.1	Failure to confirm Rulebook communication to Managers/Coaches	€25.00
2	Sec. A - 5.1	Club non-attendance at AGM	€75.00
3	Sec. A - 5.3	Club non-attendance at delegate meeting	€75.00
4	Sec. A - 5.5	Club AGM not fulfilled by 31st of December annually	€75.00
5	Sec. A - 9.2	Late Registration of a Competitive Team (U12 – U16)	€50.00
6	Sec. A - 9.2	Late Registration of a Non-Competitive Team (U7 – U11)	€15.00
7	Sec. A - 9.5	Failure to produce satisfactory records	€25.00
8	Sec. A - 9.6	Teams withdrawing or being removed (per team, after fixtures commence)	€100.00
9	Sec. A - 10.2	Player Poaching	€500.00
10	Sec. B - 4.2	Fitness of pitch not to required standards	€25.00
11	Sec. B - 6.2	Changing of league fixtures without permission – 1st offence	€25.00
12	Sec. B - 6.2	Changing of league fixtures without permission – 2nd offence +	€50.00
13	Sec. B - 6.3	Failing to fulfil a fixture / Walkover – 1st offence	€50.00
14	Sec. B - 7.1	Failure to txt / phone in Results (U10 - U16)	€10.00
15	Sec. B - 7.2	Non adherence to reporting of results on Social Media	€25.00
16	Sec. B - 10.3	Failure to submit completed or only partially complete Match Cards (U10 - U16)	€10.00

Table 10 – Club fines – Summary

## Appendix 3: Key Dates

The table below is only a summary of the key dates throughout the season.

Key Dates (Summary)			
#	Reference	Description	Comment
1	Sec. A – 3.1	Confirmation of Rule book communication	No later than 31 <sup>st</sup> August annually
2	Sec. A – 3.2	Proposed alterations to rules	No later than 30 <sup>th</sup> April annually
3	Sec. A – 4.2	Nominations to League Committee	No later than 30 <sup>th</sup> April annually
4	Sec. A – 5.1	League AGM	No later than 30 <sup>th</sup> June annually
5	Sec. A – 5.3	Delegate Meeting #1	August - September annually
6	Sec. A – 5.3	Delegate Meeting #2	February – March annually
7	Sec. A – 5.5	Holding of Club AGM	No later than 31 <sup>st</sup> December annually
8	Sec. A – 5.5	Confirmation of Club AGM to League	No later than 15 <sup>th</sup> January annually
9	Sec. A – 6.1	End of Financial year	31 <sup>st</sup> December Annually
10	Sec. A – 6.5	Club insurance confirmation	No later than 1 <sup>st</sup> August annually
11	Sec. A – 8.0	Making a complaint	Within 7 days of incident
12	Sec. A – 9.1	New Club Registration to the League	No later than 30 <sup>th</sup> April annually
13	Sec. A – 9.2	Online Application form U12-U16	No later than 1 <sup>st</sup> August annually
14	Sec. A – 9.2	Online Application form U7-U11	No later than 5 <sup>th</sup> September annually
15	Sec. A – 9.2	Online Application form Cup Competitions	No later than 30 <sup>th</sup> September annually
16	Sec. B – 5.10	Club requests for non-competitive medals	No later than 31 <sup>st</sup> March annually

Table 11 – Key dates

## Appendix 4: FAI Player Development Plan (PDP)

Game formats for are to be organised as per the current FAI Player Development Plan as illustrated below:

Playing Format Summary										
Age Group	Squad Size	Team Size	Match Format	Match Duration	Referees	Playing Time	League Tables	Pitch Size (m) Min/Max	Goal Size	Ball Size & Weight
U6	10	4 v 4 (no GK)	Twin	4 x 10 mins	No	75%	No	35m x 20m max * 30m x 20m min	1m x 3m	5 (290 gms)
U7	10	4 v 4 (no GK)	Twin	4 x 10 mins	No	75%	No	35m x 20m max * 30m x 20m min	1m x 3m	5 (290 gms)
U8	12	5 v 5	Twin	4 x 12 mins	No	75%	No	45m x 25m max * 40m x 25m min	2m x 5m	5 (290 gms)
U9	12	5 v 5	Twin	4 x 12 mins	No	75%	No	45m x 25m max * 40m x 25m min	2m x 5m	5 (320 gms)
U10	16	7 v 7	Twin	2 x 25 mins	Yes	50%	No	65m x 40m max * 60m x 35m min	2m x 5m	5 (320 gms)
U11	16	7 v 7	Twin	2 x 25 mins	Yes	50%	No*	65m x 40m max * 60m x 35m min	2m x 5m	5 (320 gms)
U12	16	9 v 9	Normal	2 x 30 mins	Yes	25% to 50%	Yes	Box to Box, see page 24	2m x 5m	5 (370 gms)
U13	16	11 v 11	Normal	2 x 30 mins	Yes	25% to 50%	Yes	Full	Full	5 (370 gms)
U14	16	11 v 11	Normal	2 x 35 mins	Yes	25% to 50%	Yes	Full	Full	5 (370 gms)
U15	16	11 v 11	Normal	2 x 35 mins	Yes	25% to 50%	Yes	Full	Full	5 (450 gms)
U16	16	11 v 11	Normal	2 x 40 mins	Yes	25% to 50%	Yes	Full	Full	5 (450 gms)

Figure 1 – FAI PDF Playing format summary



### Notes

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