

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND
Rules of the Association

Football Association of Ireland Rules effective from 23rd May 2007

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RULE 1. NAME

- (a) The Name of The Association shall be CUMANN PEILE ná h-EIREANN or in the English language: THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND, hereinafter referred to as “the FAI”.
- (b) The FAI is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.
- (c) Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association are available to the members of The Association for inspection at the offices of The Association, subject to suitable notice being given.

RULE 2. OFFICES

The principal offices of The Association shall be in the Republic of Ireland.

RULE 3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objectives for which The Association is established are: -

- (a) To promote, foster and develop, in all its branches, the game of Association Football in Ireland, and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Rules of The Association and the Laws of the Game, or improper methods or practices in the game and for protecting it from abuses and to do such things as are conducive to the attainment of the objects herein before mentioned as the Council may determine.
- (b) The Association shall affiliate to UEFA and FIFA and be bound by their Rules, regulations and statutes.
- (c) Principles
 - i) Members and Leagues shall agree to comply fully with any decisions passed by the relevant FIFA bodies which, according to FIFA Statutes, are final and not subject to appeal.
 - ii) Members and Leagues shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, Players and Officials comply with these decisions.
 - iii) The same obligation applies to licensed match and players’ agents.

RULE 4. MEMBERS’ OBLIGATIONS

The Members of the Football Association of Ireland have the following obligations

- a) To comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the Football Association of Ireland at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members
- b) To ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
- c) To respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
- d) To adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA, the Football Association of Ireland or the League(s) shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA, UEFA or the Football Association of Ireland and that any recourse to Civil Courts is prohibited.

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RULE 5. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Rules 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 include the feminine and words importing persons shall include bodies Corporate.

Any Definitions not provided hereunder but contained within FIFA and UEFA Statutes, Regulations and Codes are incorporated into FAI Rules where appropriate.

In addition, the following terms and expressions shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the following meanings:

- (a) The words "The Association" or "the FAI" shall mean the Football Association of Ireland.
- (b) "The Council" means the National Council of the FAI.
- (c) "The Honorary Officers" shall mean the Honorary President; The Honorary Vice-President, The Honorary Secretary, The Honorary Treasurer and The Chairperson of The FAI National League Executive Committee.
- (d) "Junior Council" means The Junior Council of the FAI.
- (e) "The Board" means the Board of Management of the FAI
- (f) "Members" of The Association shall mean:
 - (1) National Associations; Divisional Associations and Leagues who have affiliated to the FAI.
 - (2) Clubs in Leagues who are currently affiliated to their Divisional/National Association.
 - (3) Players who are currently registered to play for their Club on League Registration Forms obtainable from a member League.
 - (4) Clubs participating in the FAI National League and Affiliated to their Divisional Associations.
 - (5) Other members who may be appointed by the Council from time to time.
- (g) "Participant" means an affiliated Association, League, Club, Club official, Player, Official, Match Official and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by The Association.
- (h) "Official" means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an affiliated body or competition.
- (i) "Manager" means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting a team
- (j) "Match" means a football match sanctioned by the Association or an Affiliated body.
- (k) "Match Officials" means referees and assistant referees and includes reserve officials and fourth officials.
- (l) "Divisional Associations" shall include the Councils of such Divisional Associations.
- (m) "Affiliates" shall mean other affiliated National and Provincial bodies.
- (n) "Chief Executive Officer" shall mean the Chief Executive Officer of The Association.
- (o) "The Society" means the Irish Soccer Referees Society
- (p) "Days" shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.
- (q) "The FAI National League" means the competitions owned, run and promoted by the FAI.
- (r) "Participation Agreement" sets out the terms and conditions which each Participant Club in the FAI National League agrees to adhere to, including inter alia; the FAI National League's format and operation, its Disciplinary Procedures, Commercial Rules and the FAI Club Licensing Scheme.

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RULE 6. AFFILIATION

- (a) Divisional Associations, Affiliates, Leagues and The Society in membership of The Association shall pay the prescribed annual affiliation fee, set from time to time by the AGM of The Association, on or before the 31st December in any year.
- (b) Clubs shall pay the prescribed annual FAI affiliation fee to their appropriate Divisional Association or Affiliate on or before a date to be determined by that Divisional Association or Affiliate, who shall pass on the fee to the FAI on or before December 31st in any year.
- (c) Members agree to be bound by the Rules of FAI.
- (d) Any member whose prescribed annual affiliation fee is not paid by 31st December in each year is liable to be suspended.
- (e) A Club in an area not within the jurisdiction of any Divisional Association may be permitted to affiliate directly to The Association.

RULE 7. HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Council may appoint Hon. Life Vice Presidents at its opening meeting each season on the recommendation of the Board. No more than two appointments may be made at any one meeting.

RULE 8. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- (a) The Association may appoint Honorary Life Members at the AGM of the Association on the recommendation of the Board.
- (b) Members of the Council and/or the Junior Council or other National bodies who have given in aggregate 20 years service as a member of either Council shall be considered by the Board as eligible for Honorary Life membership.
- (c) The Board may recommend to the AGM that other members of The Association or other appropriate individuals may be appointed Honorary Life Members.
- (d) Such membership shall entitle the holder to enjoy full privileges such as stand accommodation and board room invitations to all representative matches played under the jurisdiction of The Association.

RULE 9. RULEBOOKS

- (a) Rulebooks of The Association shall be available from the principal office of the Association at a reasonable commercial price to be set from time to time by that office.
- (b) The Association accepts no responsibility for the non-possession of Rulebooks by Participants nor can the non-possession be pleaded as ignorance of the Rules of The Association.

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RULE 10. APPROVAL OF RULES OF NATIONAL BODIES, DIVISIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, LEAGUES & THE SOCIETY

- (a) The Rules of all National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues and The Society must be in conformity with the Rules of the FAI. In the event of any discrepancy between the Rules of the FAI and National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues or the Society, the Rules of the FAI shall prevail.
- (b) In the event that National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues or The Society adopt rule changes or new Rules at an AGM or EGM the said rule changes must be sent for approval to the Chief Executive of the FAI within 14 days of passing the proposed rule changes.
- (c) The said rule changes shall be considered by a meeting of the Rules Commission of the FAI which shall be convened within fourteen days of receipt of the said rule change(s) by the Chief Executive of the FAI. The decision of the Rules Commission of the FAI shall be communicated in writing to the National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated League or The Society as appropriate within five days of their decision. Rejection by the Rules Commission shall in effect mean that the changes or Rules cannot be implemented, until approval is granted.
- (d) The Association shall have the power at any time to make inquiries into the working of such affiliates and to deal with same as it thinks fit provided that all proper procedures are duly followed.
- (e) The Rules of the FAI National League in addition to being in compliance with the FAI Rules must comply with all of the conditions of the FAI Participation Agreement, FAI National Club Licensing Manual and the requirements of UEFA.

RULE 11. RULEBOOKS & LIST OF MEMBERS

- (a) Approved printed rulebooks of all affiliates together with a list of the current membership of National Bodies, Divisional Associations, Leagues and The Society must be submitted to the Chief Executive by 1st November in any year.
- (b) This list must include an analysis of status under the headings of Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Youth, Women's, Schoolboy, Schoolgirl and Grades of Referees.

RULE 12. POWER TO FORM DIVISIONS

- (a) For the governance of Association Football, Ireland shall be divided into Divisions designated as Leinster, Munster, Connaught and Ulster.
- (b) The Council shall have the power, with the consent of the Divisions concerned, to vary the area and boundary of these Divisions and/or to create new Divisions. Representation on the Council of the various Divisions shall be in accordance with rule. Clubs or teams in Ireland not situated within the area of jurisdiction of a Divisional Association shall be under the direct control of The Association.

RULE 13. BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The bodies are the most important parts of an Association. Only the bodies, or persons who are authorised by them, can act with legally binding force for the Association. The Association shall ensure the separation of powers and respect the principles of corporate governance (e.g. checks and balances). Using the FIFA Statutes as a reference, these bodies are referred to below as the Council, Executive Committee, Standing Committees, General Secretariat, Disciplinary Commission and Appeal Board.

- 1) The Council is the supreme and legislative body.
- 2) The Executive Committee is the Board of Management.
- 3) Standing and ad-hoc Committees shall advise and assist the Board of Management in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Rules and /or special regulations drawn up by the Board of Management.
- 4) The General Secretariat is the administrative body.
- 5) The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Commissions and Appeal Boards.
- 6) The bodies of the Football Association of Ireland shall be either elected or appointed by the Football Association of Ireland itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Rules.

RULE 14. COMPOSITION OF THE FAI NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Council of the Association shall consist of: -

1.

- (a) The President of The Association
- (b) The Vice President of The Association
- (c) The Hon. Treasurer of The Association
- (d) The Hon. Secretary of The Association
- (e) The Chairperson of the FAI National League Executive Committee.
- (f) 1 representative to be appointed by each of the 22 participant clubs in the Premier and First Divisions of the FAI National League provided they are holders of a current FAI National League Club licence and in compliance with the terms of their Participation Agreement.
- (g) 9 representatives to be appointed by the Leinster Football Association,
- (h) 5 representatives to be appointed by the Munster Football Association,
- (i) 2 representatives to be appointed by the Connaught Football Association and
- (j) 2 representatives to be appointed by the Ulster Football Association.
- (k) 2 representatives to be appointed by the FAI Junior Council.
- (l) 1 representative to be appointed by the Defence Forces.
- (m) 1 representative to be appointed by The Colleges Football Association.
- (n) 4 representatives to be appointed by The Schoolboys FAI.
- (o) 1 representative to be appointed by Irish Universities Football Union.
- (p) 2 representatives to be appointed by the Football Association of Irish Schools.
- (q) 2 representatives to be appointed by The Women's Football Association of Ireland.

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- (r) The FAI Chief Referees Assessor
- (s) 1 representative from the Irish Soccer Referees Society.
- (t) 1 representative from the “Football for All” Body.

(Total membership of Council: (61))

- (u) In the case of death or resignation of a member of Council, the Club or affiliate concerned shall have the right to appoint a person to act in his place.
 - (v) In the event of a representative being unable to attend a Council Meeting, his nominating Club or Affiliate may appoint a substitute to attend that particular Council meeting in his place, providing they notify the Chief Executive of The Association in writing, prior to the meeting.
 - (w) In relation to clause (f) to (t) inclusive, the representatives or substitutes appointed must be members of the affiliate that appoints them. The appointment of representatives must be notified to the Chief Executive of The Association within one week after The Association’s AGM.
2. No person shall be eligible of being first appointed an Honorary Officer or a member of Council if at the time of appointment that person has attained the age of 70 years. An Honorary Officer or member of Council shall vacate office at the AGM after attaining the age of 75 years.

RULE 15. ROLE OF COUNCIL

- (a) The Council shall be responsible for monitoring the activities of the FAI and for monitoring the Board’s governance of the Association. The Board shall be empowered to take such decisions as are necessary for the effective governance and control of The Association in accordance with the provisions of Rule 22.
- (b) The Council shall empower the Board to appoint Standing Committees in accordance with rule. Terms of reference for Standing Committees shall be established by the Board in consultation with the Chairperson of each Standing Committee and the Chief Executive Officer.
- (c) The Council shall empower the Board and the Standing Committees to appoint Resource Groups, where necessary - such groups shall deal with specific projects or issues, and shall be purely temporary in nature.
- (d) The Council shall have the power to remove the Board and/or the Honorary Officers and/or any individual member of the Council by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting on a motion submitted 14 days in advance of a meeting of the Council and signed by at least 20 Council members.
- (e) The Council shall retain the power to elect Honorary Officers.
- (f) The Council shall establish written Codes of Practice for its own members.
- (g) Members of the Council shall retain the privileges stated in the Code of Practice applicable to Council members, unless the Council itself decides otherwise by majority vote.
- (h) The Council shall meet a minimum of four times each year to discuss reports presented by the Board (including the activities of the various Standing Committees) and to respond to requests for its views from the Board. The opening Council meeting shall take place no earlier than 14 days after the AGM.
- (i) At each meeting, Council shall receive a report from the Chief Executive on the activities of the Association.
- (j) Each representative duly nominated, present and entitled to vote at a Council meeting shall have one vote. The President shall have a casting vote only, and not an original vote at Council meetings.
- (k) A complete record of the draft minutes of the previous Council meeting and reports of the Standing Committees shall be distributed to Council members in advance of each meeting.

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- (l) Special meetings of the Council may be convened at the request of the Board or on receipt of a written request signed by 20 Council members. A special meeting shall transact the business specified in the notice convening that meeting.
- (m) The quorum for Council meetings shall be one half of the total number of Council members appointed at the time, rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- (n) The Council may fill any casual vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer or Auditors in accordance with the Rules.
- (o) The Financial Year of The Association shall end on 31st December each year.
- (p) At any meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded on any question. A declaration by the President that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or by any particular majority or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect made in the Minute Book of the proceedings of The Association, shall be sufficient evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded. A like declaration and entry of the result of a ballot shall have a like effect.

A poll may be demanded by not less than one-fifth of the duly nominated representatives present, and it shall be taken in such manner as may be determined by the President and the result of such poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of The Association. A poll demanded on the election of a President or on the question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith. Representatives or their substitutes may only give votes in person, and voting by written proxy shall not be permitted.

If any votes are given or counted at a meeting which shall afterwards be discovered to be improperly given or counted, the same shall not affect the validity of any resolution passed or done at the meeting, unless the objection to such votes be taken at the same meeting, and not in that case, unless the President shall then and there decide that the error is of sufficient magnitude to affect such resolution.

RULE 16. ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER AND HONORARY SECRETARY

- (a) No person other than a retiring Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary shall be eligible for election to these offices unless, not later than 30th April in each year they have sent by registered post to the Chief Executive a nomination in writing signifying their candidature for such office. The nomination shall be signed by the candidate and by a proposer and seconder (who shall be members of The Association).
- (b) When an election is needed because an officer-holder has reached the end of his term of office or a vacancy has occurred, the Chief Executive shall summon a special meeting of the members of Council immediately after the AGM and submit the nominations of the candidates for the positions. If only one candidate is nominated for either position, he shall be declared elected on receiving a vote of the majority of those voting. In the event of there being more than one candidate for any office a vote shall be taken by those present at the meeting, and the candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes, after an elimination process if necessary, shall be declared elected.
- (c) In the event of there being no nominations for the positions, the Special Meeting may fill any vacancy from the membership of The Council or from other members of the Association. No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.
- (d) The Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary elected under this Rule shall hold office until their successors are elected.

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RULE 17. ROLE OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

- (a) The Honorary Treasurer shall, together with the Director of Finance, oversee the financial strategy of the Association on a continuous basis, on behalf of The Association. This strategy must be presented to the Finance Committee for discussion/input and subsequently to the Board for their approval or otherwise.
- (b) The Honorary Treasurer shall oversee the implementation of the financial strategy. The Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Finance shall be responsible for its implementation.
- (c) The Honorary Treasurer shall oversee the management of the Association assets with the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance.
- (d) The Honorary Treasurer shall, together with the Director of Finance, sign off the expenses of the Chief Executive Officer, the President and other officers. The Honorary Treasurer's expenses shall be signed off by the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Finance.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance to ensure that all significant financial matters brought to their attention are placed before the Finance Committee and/or the Board as appropriate.
- (f) The Honorary Treasurer shall ensure that an Audit Committee be established annually, comprising of four (4) members of the Finance Committee one of whom shall act as chairperson. This committee shall meet at least twice (2) each year with a representative of the External Auditors. The Chief Executive Officer, the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall be available to attend if required to do so by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall see the External Auditors draft and final management letters.
- (g) The Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall provide a copy of the audited accounts of the Association to all those entitled to attend the AGM at least 7 days prior to that meeting.

RULE 18. ROLE OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY

- (a) The Honorary Secretary shall meet with the CEO on a regular basis to be kept updated on continuing activities within the Association.
- (b) The Honorary Secretary shall, if requested to do so by the CEO, assist the CEO on an issue by issue basis on matters pertaining to the affairs of the Association.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary shall keep himself apprised of football Rules, FIFA / UEFA Directives, company, employment and other appropriate legislation.
- (d) The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of all minutes of all AGM/EGM meetings and all of the meetings of the Council and the Board. The minutes shall be recorded in a minute book with each item numbered for reference.

RULE 19. ELECTION OF HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

- (a) Following their first election to the positions, the Honorary President and Honorary Vice President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two year period.
- (b) Immediately after the election of the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, a meeting of the Council shall be held to elect from their number a President and a Vice President.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer shall act as Chairperson at that meeting until the election of the President. The presiding Honorary Officer shall then vacate the chair and the President shall proceed with the election of the Vice President.

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- (d) To be nominated for the office of President or Vice-President a person must have been a member of Council for at least three years, which service need not necessarily have been consecutive. No person shall be eligible for election to these offices unless, not later than 30th April in each year they have sent by registered post to the Chief Executive a nomination in writing signifying their candidature for such office. The nomination shall be signed by the candidate and by a proposer and seconder (who shall be members of The Association).
- (e) When an election is needed because an officer-holder has reached the end of his term of office or a vacancy has occurred, the Chief Executive shall summon a special meeting of the members of Council immediately after the AGM and submit the nominations of the candidates for the positions. If only one candidate is nominated for either position, he shall be declared elected on receiving a vote of the majority of those voting. In the event of there being more than one candidate for any office a vote shall be taken by those present at the meeting, and the candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes, after an elimination process if necessary, shall be declared elected.
- (f) In the event of there being no nominations for the positions, the Special Meeting may fill any vacancy from the membership of The Council or from other members of the Association. No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.

RULE 20. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

- (a) The President shall be required to lead by example and devote time and effort into ensuring that The Association and its members under his direction are progressing in the propagation of the game of Association football at all levels. The President, as the senior Honorary Officer, shall represent The Association at all times in a manner appropriate to the position.
- (b) The President should have a knowledge of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the FAI and the Rules and Standing Orders of The Association.
- (c) The President in conjunction with the Chief Executive/Honorary Secretary ensures that all scheduled meetings are held, with advance notice of agenda given to all members.
- (d) The President shall chair all meetings of the Council and the Board in a non-partisan manner. At meetings, the President shall ensure that the minutes of previous meetings are passed, adopted and reviewed. He should ensure that the agenda is strictly adhered to and allows all members a fair opportunity to speak on each topic before a consensus is reached or calls for a vote to determine the decision.
- (e) The President shall have a casting vote only at Council meetings and not an original vote.
- (f) At the conclusion of each Council and Board meeting, the President shall review the decisions made and announce the date and time of the next Council and/or Board meeting.
- (g) The President shall ensure that all decisions taken by Council and the Board are acted upon as quickly as possible and that all matters discussed within the confines of a meeting shall stay confidential until the Chief Executive has dealt with the appropriate matter.

RULE 21. ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall undertake the duties of the President. The Vice President, once elected, shall automatically be Chairperson of the Development Committee.

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RULE 22. GOVERNANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) The governance and control of The Association is vested in the Board.
- (b) The Board shall carry out its duties and exercise its powers to achieve the objects of The Association as defined elsewhere in these Rules. It shall have the power to deal with such matters concerning The Association as are not expressly provided for in these Rules, but must report on such matters to the next meeting of Council.

RULE 23. COMPOSITION OF THE FAI BOARD

The FAI Board shall have a maximum of ten members as follows:

- a. The President of the FAI
- b. The Vice President of the FAI , who shall chair the Development Committee
- c. The Honorary Secretary of the FAI
- d. The Honorary Treasurer of the FAI, who shall chair the Finance Committee
- e. The Chairperson of the FAI National League Executive Committee
- f. The Chairperson of the International Committee
- g. The Chairperson of the Domestic Committee
- h. The Chairperson of the Legal and Corporate Affairs Committee
- i. The Chairperson of the Underage Committee
- j. The Chief Executive Officer

RULE 24. OPERATIONS OF THE FAI BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

- 1. The Board shall act as the Board of Directors of the Football Association of Ireland in compliance with the current provisions of the Rules of the Association, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, company law and the requirements of regulatory bodies and shall adopt best practice in corporate governance of the Association.
- 2. The President of the FAI shall chair the meetings of the Board. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall take the chair. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, those Directors present shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting.
- 3. A quorum for the transaction of business of the Board shall be six. As a Board member, the President shall have an original vote and a casting vote.
- 4. The Board shall meet as required to govern the affairs of the Association, and such meetings shall normally be held once a month. The Board shall be responsible for ensuring delivery of the objects of the Association, setting its strategic direction and upholding the values of the Association.
- 5. The Board shall establish at its opening meeting a set of Standing Orders, in writing, indicating how it shall conduct the business of the Association.
- 6. Board members shall comply with the written Codes of Conduct for Board members approved by Council.
- 7. No substitutions shall be permitted at Board meetings.
- 8. The Chief Executive Officer shall circulate a bi-monthly report of all Board Meetings and of all meetings of Standing Committees to all Council Members.

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9. The Board shall report on its work to the Council at each meeting of that body and shall also consult, as necessary, with the Council in developing and progressing major policies of the Association.
10. The Board shall be entitled to place proposals for changes in FAI Rules before an AGM or EGM for acceptance or rejection by that body.
11. The Board may delegate any of their powers to Standing Committees consisting of such members as authorised by Council. Any Standing Committees so formed shall, in the exercise of the power so delegated, conform to any limitation that may be imposed on it by the Board. The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall report on its work to the Board of the Association.
12. The Board shall have the authority to approve developments to the FAI Club Licensing System (subject to UEFA's minimum requirements). Any amendments proposed to be made to the licensing criteria must be recommended by the FAI Club Licensing Committee to the Board for its approval.
13. The Board shall appoint both the Chair and other members of the FAI Club Licensing Committee and the FAI Club Licensing Appeals Body.

RULE 25. STANDING COMMITTEES/FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A.

- 25.1 The following Standing Committees shall be formed at the opening meeting of Council after the AGM on the following basis:
 - (i) Finance, 2007 and every two years thereafter
 - (ii) Legal and Corporate Affairs, 2007 and every two years thereafter
 - (iii) Development, 2008 and every two years thereafter
 - (iv) International, 2008 and every two years thereafter
 - (v) Domestic 2007 and every two years thereafter
 - (vi) Underage 2008 and every two years thereafter.
- 25.2 In accordance with the provisions of 25.1 a meeting of each Standing Committee shall where necessary be convened by the Honorary Secretary with the Chief Executive or his nominee in attendance, to elect its Chairperson before the opening meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees shall be a member of the Board. The Board shall duly approve the new Board members and the terms of reference of each Standing Committee.
- 25.3 A Standing Committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes by the members present. The Chairperson shall be entitled to vote at Standing Committee meetings. Where there is an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. The quorum shall be 6 persons.
- 25.4 In the event of a nominated representative to a Standing Committee being unable to attend a meeting, his nominating affiliate may appoint a substitute to attend that particular meeting, providing the Chairperson or the Chief Executive Officer is notified in writing, prior to the meeting and the substitute is an active member of the Association.
- 25.5 The Chief Executive shall be a voting member of the Finance and Legal and Corporate Affairs Committees.
- 25.6 Positions on Standing Committees to be filled by election shall be determined at the opening Council meeting.
- 25.7 The remaining positions on Standing Committees shall be selected by a Selection Sub Committee.

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- 25.8 Nominations from Members of the Association for election must be in the hands of the Chief Executive no less than five days in advance of the Council meeting in question.
- The official FAI nomination form should be signed by the candidate stating their willingness to serve on such Committee.
- Such nominees shall be formally proposed and seconded at the said Council meeting.
- In the case of an equality of votes between two or more candidates, a further vote shall be held and if that fails to produce a result, the result shall be determined by the drawing of lots.
- Each member of a Standing Committee must be conversant with and experienced in dealing with those aspects of the Association's business which has been designated by the Board as being appropriate to that particular Committee.
- 25.9 At the opening Council meeting, Council shall elect one of its members who shall not be an Officer to sit on a Selection Sub Committee to select the remaining members of the relevant Standing Committees. In exercising its right to select members of the Standing Committees, the selection Sub Committee cannot select a member from one affiliate to a Standing Committee where another member or members of the affiliate has been elected to that Committee.
- 25.10 No person may sit on more than two Standing Committees at any one time.
- 25.11 The quorum for Standing Committees shall be 6 persons.
- 25.12 The terms of reference for the six Standing Committees shall be established by the Board in consultation with the Chairperson of each Standing Committee and the Chief Executive.
- 25.13 Following the opening meeting of Council, a meeting of the selection Sub Committee comprising the President, Chief Executive and the member elected by Council shall meet to select the relevant members of the Standing Committees. Members who put themselves forward for selection but were not elected to a Standing Committee shall be eligible for selection as shall other persons who are put forward for selection to the selection Sub Committee. The selection of persons to a Standing Committee shall be open to non-members of Council provided they are active members of the Association. The decision of the selection Sub Committee shall be final and binding.
- 25.14 The process for nominating representatives to sit on the six Standing Committees shall be determined by each nominating body, and confirmed in writing to the Chief Executive Officer five days in advance of the opening Council meeting.
- 25.15 In cases where Provincial Associations are entitled to less than four representatives on any Committee by right, the Presidents/Chairmen for the time being of the four Provincial Associations shall meet to decide which Provincial Associations shall be represented on those Committees.
- 25.16 In the case of Standing Committees where the Provincial Associations have four representatives, the four representatives shall comprise of one representative from each of the four Provincial Associations.

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25.17 COMPOSITION OF DOMESTIC COMMITTEE

- a. Four representatives from the Provincial Associations
- b. Three representatives from the FAI National League participant clubs
- c. One representative from an affiliate not otherwise automatically represented
- d. Two representatives to be elected by Council
- e. Two representatives to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee

With reference to 25.17 (c) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who shall formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

25.18 COMPOSITION OF UNDERAGE COMMITTEE

- a. Four representatives from the S.F.A.I.
- b. Two representatives from the F.A.I.S.
- c. Two representatives from the W.F.A.I.
- d. One representative from the FAI National League participant clubs
- e. One representative from the Youth Committee
- f. One representative to be elected by Council.
- g. One representative to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In selecting this member, the Selection Sub Committee shall select only from the S.F.A.I, F.A.I.S and W.F.A.I., on the clear understanding that none of the aforementioned affiliates shall have more than five members on this Committee. The person selected may not be a representative of the same affiliate as the person elected.

25.19 COMPOSITION OF LEGAL & CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Secretary.
- b. The Honorary Treasurer.
- c. The Chief Executive Officer
- d. Two representatives from the FAI National League participant clubs
- e. Four representatives from other strands not otherwise automatically represented.
- f. One external member.
- g. One member to be elected by Council
- h. One member to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In the case of this Committee, a meeting of one representative from each of the four Provincial Associations, together with one representative from the S.F.A.I., F.A.I.S., W.F.A.I. and one representative on behalf of the other bodies, namely the Defence Forces, I.U.F.U., the C.F.A.I. and the Irish Soccer Referees' Society, shall be convened as soon as possible after the AGM to decide which four persons shall serve on this Committee representing these bodies. With reference to 25.19 (e) above, a meeting to elect these representatives shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who shall formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election. The External member to sit on the Legal and Corporate Affairs Committee shall be elected by the Committee at its opening meeting.

25.20 COMPOSITION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Secretary (excluded from Chairmanship)
- b. Two representatives from the FAI National League participant clubs
- c. Two representatives from the Provincial Associations / Junior Council.
- d. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the F.A.I.S.
- f. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- g. Two representatives to be elected by Council.
- h. Two representatives to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

25.21 COMPOSITION OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The Vice-President of the Association, who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- b. Two representatives from the FAI National League participant clubs
- c. Four representatives from the Provincial Associations.
- d. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- f. One representative from the F.A.I.S.
- g. One representative to be elected from the other affiliates not otherwise automatically represented.
- h. One representative to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In the case of the Development Committee, the person elected must be from either the Defence Forces, the C.F.A.I., I.U.F.U., or the Irish Soccer Referees Society.

With reference to 25.21 (g) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive or his nominee in attendance, who shall formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

25.22 COMPOSITION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Treasurer who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- b. Two representatives from the FAI National League participant clubs
- c. Two representatives from the Provincial Associations.
- d. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- f. One representative from other affiliates not otherwise automatically represented.
- g. The Chief Executive
- h. Two members to be elected by Council.
- i. One member to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

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In the case of a Finance Committee, a meeting shall be held as soon as practicable following the AGM comprising one representative, each from the Defence Forces, C.F.A.I., I.U.F.U and the Irish Soccer Referees Society to decide who, from these bodies, shall fill the one position available on this Committee.

With reference to 25.22 (f) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who shall formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

B.

COMPOSITION OF THE FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The Chairperson elected at the participant Clubs' Annual Convention
- b. The Vice-Chairperson elected at the participant Clubs' Annual Convention
- c. The Chief Executive Officer
- d. One member to be elected by Council at its opening meeting who shall not be an active member of any of the participant clubs.

Nominations from Members of the Association for election must be in the hands of the Chief Executive no less than five days in advance of the Council meeting in question.

The official FAI nomination form should be signed by the candidate stating their willingness to serve on such Committee.

Council members of participant clubs are not entitled to nominate or vote.

Such nominees shall be formally proposed and seconded at the said Council meeting.

In the case of an equality of votes between two or more candidates, a further vote shall be held and if that fails to produce a result, the result shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

- e. Two External Specialists to be co-opted by the Committee at its opening meeting and approved by the Board.

With reference to 25 B (d) the member elected by Council shall take up his/her position on 1st January and serve a term of two Calendar years.

RULE 26. THE HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be:

1.

- (a) The President
- (b) The Vice President
- (c) The Honorary Secretary
- (d) The Honorary Treasurer
- (e) The Chairperson of the FAI National League Executive Committee

2.

The Honorary Officers as a group shall not exercise any collective responsibility as a "Board".

- a) The President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two year period immediately following his first term.
- b) The Vice President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two-year period immediately following his first term.
- c) The Hon. Secretary shall serve a term of 4 years and be entitled to seek re-election for further terms.
- d) The Hon Treasurer shall serve a term of 4 years and be entitled to seek re-election for further terms.

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- e) During the term of office of the above named Hon. Officers, they shall have no direct or indirect capacity with any members of The Association except the Chairperson of the National League.
- f) The Chairperson of the National League shall serve a term or terms determined by that body.

RULE 27. POWERS TO DEAL WITH DETRIMENTAL CONDUCT AND INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES

- (a) The Board, either directly or through the Rules Compliance Commission, appointed annually by the Board, shall have the power to deal with any participant as defined in the relevant section of Rule 5 who is proven, to the satisfaction of the Board, or the Commission to have committed any infringement of these Rules or Rules of any competition under the jurisdiction of The Association or be in non-compliance with any of its decisions or any matter it deems detrimental to the objectives and good conduct of the affairs of The Association.
- (b) In addition to matters referred to in any other rule hereof, misconduct shall be deemed to have occurred if any participant shall have: committed any act, made any statement verbally or in writing, and/or otherwise have been responsible for conduct which the Board or the Commission considers to be offensive, insulting or improper and likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- (c) The person or body making the complaint shall send in writing to the Chief Executive by registered post the substance of the complaint and the reasons for making the complaint within four days of the discovery of the alleged charge taking place and the complainant becoming aware of it.
- (d) The Commission shall have a panel of up to ten (10) members, none of whom shall be members of Council or of any Standing Committee. Three members shall be selected from the panel to conduct any hearing of the Commission. In the event of an appeal, three members shall be selected from the remaining seven members on the panel to conduct the appeal hearing. A quorum of three is required for all Commission Hearings. Any change in the composition of the Commission is subject to ratification by the Board.
- (e) The Commission shall operate under terms of reference set by the Board.

(f) Right to Personal Hearing

- 1) Any person charged with misconduct shall be furnished with details in writing of such charge, which shall be sent by registered post by The Association to the person so charged. Within fourteen (14) days from the posting thereof, the person so charged shall send to the Chief Executive of The Association by registered post an answer thereto in writing and the answer may be accompanied by a written application that such charge shall be heard before the Commission.
- 2) Upon receipt of such application, the Board if it so decides shall request the Commission to deal with the matter and notify the person so charged of the date and place of the Hearing.
- 3) The person so charged and if necessary any other person it deems appropriate shall be requested to attend such hearing and give the Commission oral evidence of the facts of the charge and shall answer any questions they may ask by way of cross examination and shall produce any documentation they consider necessary.
- 4) The person so charged shall have the right to give and call evidence in rebuttal of the charge and shall have the right to cross-examine any witnesses who give evidence in support of such charge.
- 5) In default of an application for a hearing or if the person charged shall fail to attend the hearing or shall refuse to answer any questions asked by the Commission or neglect to produce any necessary documentation, then the Commission shall investigate and adjudicate upon the charge or allegation in such manner and upon such evidence as they deem expedient.
- 6) On completion of the evidence the hearing shall be closed and the findings of the Commission shall be referred to the Board who shall subsequently communicate its decision in writing by registered post to the person charged and the claimant.
- 7) The findings of the Commission shall be subject to the right of appeal made in accordance with Rule 27

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(g) Punishment

On misconduct being proven, to the satisfaction of the Commission, the Board shall have the power to order the offending person.:

- 1 To be suspended from all or any specific football activity either permanently, sine die or for a stated period. After seven (7) years, an application may be received for review of a permanent suspension and/or any subsequent modification thereof, shall only be made by the Board.
- 2 To be fined (either with or without suspension).
- 3 To be censured.
- 4 To close a ground either permanently or for a stated period.
- 5 To pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter, either with or without penalty.
- 6 To deal with the matter in such manner as the Board may think fit.
- 7 To ensure publication of text in a club's programme as may be directed.

The Board shall not be entitled to order a club to cease paying the contract wages of a player who is serving a period of suspension for violating the Laws of the Game.

(h) Default of Payment of Fine

On default for fourteen (14) days in payment of any fine or costs, the Board shall have the power to order the defaulting person to be suspended under such conditions as the Board shall decide.

(i) Notification

- 1 Any letter, request or communication to be sent by The Association under this rule shall be registered and properly sent if addressed to the last known address of the person charged or, if such address is not known, to the address of the registered Secretary of such Participant club or affiliated body, where appropriate.
- 2 In any case where this rule conflicts with any other rule of The Association then this rule shall prevail.

RULE 28. SUSPENSIONS

- (a) Suspension of Divisional Associations, Affiliates, The Society, Leagues, Clubs, Teams or Participants shall be on the terms detailed in the notice of suspension issued by the Chief Executive.
- (b) Any member suspended by The Association shall not, during the period of suspension, play or take part in any activity, match or fixture under the auspices of The Association.

RULE 29. EXPENSES ALLOWED TO MEMBERS

Members of the Council and persons assisting The Association in its functions shall be paid such expenses and/or fees in line with the policy laid down by the Finance Committee, and as approved by it.

RULE 30. APPEALS

A.

- (a) Decisions of any League, other than the FAI National League Executive Committee, which is covered at (b) below, FAI Disciplinary Commissions, National Associations, Divisional Associations, may be appealed to the FAI Appeal Board in accordance with FAI Rules.
- (b) Decisions of the FAI National League Executive Committee, other than those relating to Schedule Two, Club Licensing, Schedule Three Commercial Rules and Schedule Four Anti-Doping, as set out in the Participation Agreement, may be appealed to the FAI Appeal Board.
- (c) Appeals legitimately ruled "Out of Order" by a lower body may not be appealed to the FAI Appeals Board.

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- (d) In appeals, the onus shall rest with the party lodging the appeal to satisfy the Appeal Board as to the veracity and validity of the appeal. No appeal can be made, under any circumstances, regarding the appointment of Referees, Assistant Referees or Fourth Officials to matches under the jurisdiction of the FAI or its affiliates.
- (e) The Association's fixtures including FAI National League and re-arranged matches, shall not be subjected to appeals.

B. Composition of the FAI Appeal Board

The FAI Appeal Board shall consist of three (3) persons:
Chairperson and 2 members as described in (b) & (c)

- (a) The Chairperson, who shall not be a member of The Football Association of Ireland, shall be selected from a panel of Chairpersons as decided by the FAI Board of Management.
- (b) Council members shall be asked to indicate in writing, their willingness to be considered for the appeal panel at the opening Council meeting, on the understanding that they shall receive at least four days notice of an appeal hearing and shall also receive copies of the relevant documentation.
One (1) member who shall be a member of FAI Senior Council but who shall not have any direct or indirect association past or present with any party involved in an appeal.
- (c) One (1) member from a panel who shall be members of any affiliate of the FAI as decided by the FAI Board of Management.

The three panels shall be selected at the first Board Meeting following the AGM of The Association.

All FAI Appeal Board Panel members must at all times confirm their independence to The Association prior to accepting a position on an FAI Appeal Board.

C. Procedure:

- (a) Appeals must be sent to the FAI Appeals Department by registered post within four days of the date on which the notification of the decision to appeal was received in the first place. The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the appeal. In the event of a postal dispute or similar emergency appropriate and temporary alternative arrangements shall be put in place by the FAI Appeals Department..
- (b) An exact copy of the appeal must be sent simultaneously per registered post to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal. The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the copy of the appeal.
- (c) The FAI Appeals Department must inform all parties involved in the appeal of the venue, date and time of the Appeal Board Hearing.
- (d) Appeals must be accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for the Appeal Fee of €500, made payable to the F.A.I. This fee shall be refunded only if the appeal is successful. .
- (e) The body against whom the appeal is made, must produce to the FAI Appeals Department at least two (2) days before the hearing, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting that made the original decision, including reasons for making that decision, plus any other requested documentation relevant to the appeal. Failure to comply with the correct procedure as outlined above may result in disciplinary action being taken.
- (f) Upon receipt of an appeal, the FAI Appeals Department together with the Chairperson, who shall be selected on a strict rotational basis from the FAI panel shall select the composition of the FAI Appeal Board.
- (g) All appeals shall commence within 14 days of receipt of the appeal, by the FAI Appeals Department.

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- (h) All parties involved in the appeal must confirm to the FAI Appeals Department in writing at least 24 hours prior to the hearing, the names of their nominated representatives to attend at the hearing
- (i) Any party involved in the appeal, which fails to attend an FAI Appeal hearing when requested to do so by the FAI Appeal Board may be subject to disciplinary action.
- (j) All parties in an appeal shall be notified by the FAI Appeals Department within three days by registered post, of the outcome of the appeal giving reasons for the decision with reference to any relevant Rules.

D. Remit of the FAI Appeal Board

- (a) The Appeal Board shall re-hear the case in question.
- (b) The Appeal Board shall take all evidence that it considers relevant to the case.
- (c) The Appeal Board shall interview all witnesses it considers relevant to the case.
- (d) The Appeal Board shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal or to vary the sanction and/or fine, provided the decision is not in conflict with any of the Rules of The Association, which shall take precedence at all times.
- (e) The Appeal Board may adjourn an appeal hearing for further deliberation or expert advice. Following an adjournment the Appeal Board must reconvene within 14 days.
- (f) The Appeal Board shall order the return of the Appeal Fee in the event of a successful appeal only.
- (g) The Appeal Board shall, through the offices of the Association, notify all parties of their decision in writing and by registered post within three (3) days of making their decision. When issuing their decision the Appeal Board shall include reasons for same.

RULE 31. ARBITRATION

1.

- (a) Any dispute or difference (“a dispute”) between any two or more members (which shall include for the purpose of this rule The Association) may be referred to Arbitration.
- (b) Furthermore, any matter which has resulted in a decision of the FAI Appeal Board may be the subject of a referral by one of the parties involved in the appeal hearing.
- (c) In accordance with paragraph 1 to 3 of Article 62 of the FIFA Statutes, members undertake not to refer disputes with any other members or The Association to a Court of Law. Such disputes must be processed in the first instance through the Appeals System of The Association then, where applicable, by way of referral to Arbitration and finally where applicable through (CAS) Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- (d) At its opening meeting each year, the Board shall appoint a panel of Five Arbitrators. (“the FAI Panel”) all of whom must have dispute resolution experience and none of whom shall be members of Council.

2. Procedure

- (a) Any party referring a dispute to Arbitration arising out of a decision of the FAI Appeals Board must do so within 10 days of the notification of the FAI Appeals Boards decision.
- (b) When seeking Arbitration, the requesting party must do so in writing by Registered post to the FAI Appeals Department, setting out the basis upon which Arbitration is sought and sending a bank draft or money order for €3000, together with a further sum of €2000 by way of surety in respect of costs.
- (c) A copy of this request should be sent to all other interested parties in the dispute by Registered Post.

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- (d) The Registered Postal receipt shall be proof of time and date of posting in all cases.
- (e) Arbitrators shall be appointed on a strictly rotational basis.
- (f) If the Arbitrator declares himself unavailable the next available arbitrator on the rotation shall be appointed..
- (g) The Arbitrator shall fix his own terms of reference and determine the issues to be heard, direct who the appropriate parties to the Arbitration are and who is entitled to be heard prior to the hearing.
- (h) The Arbitrator may, at his discretion invite all relevant parties for the purposes of a preliminary hearing to deal with any such preliminary issue as he deems appropriate.
- (i) Prior to the hearing commencing, the Arbitrator shall obtain written confirmation from all of the parties to the Arbitration that the decision of the Arbitration is final and binding on all parties provided the decision is not in breach of any of the Rules of the FAI.
- (j) The Arbitration hearing shall take place within 10 days of the appointment of the Arbitrator and a decision shall issue within 5 days of the date of the hearing.
- (k) The Arbitrator shall determine his own expenses and how they shall be met.
- (l) He shall decide whether the Arbitration fee and/or the surety is to be returned to the party seeking Arbitration.
- (m) In all cases, the Arbitration shall be governed by the Arbitration Acts 1954 and 1980.

3. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

- (a) In accordance with FIFA Statutes decisions passed by the FAI shall be lodged with CAS, the Independent Arbitrator for Sport within 21 days of notification of the decision in question.
- (b) Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.
- (c) CAS however, does not deal with appeals arising from:
 - i) violations of the Laws of the Game
 - ii) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months;
 - iii) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal of the FAI may be made.
- (d) The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate FIFA body or, alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.
- (e) The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), is entitled to appeal to CAS only in cases of doping decisions After every internal channel has been exhausted at FIFA, Confederation or Association level.

RULE 32. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The AGM of The Association shall be held not later than the 31st July in each year, and shall transact any business of which notice may appear on the Agenda of the Meeting. In exceptional circumstances the Council may defer the AGM and opening Meeting of Council for a period of not more than one calendar month.
- (b) The following only shall be entitled to attend the AGM or EGM of The Association:-
 - 1. FAI National League - Two Representatives from each Club participating in the FAI National League provided the Clubs are holders of a current FAI National League licence and in compliance with the terms of their Participation Agreement and Affiliated to their Divisional Associations.
 - 2. Leinster FA - Nine representatives, of which not more than five shall be from the Dublin area.

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3. Munster FA - Five representatives of which not more than three shall be from the Cork area.
4. Connaught FA - Two Representatives
5. Leinster Senior League - One representative from each non-FAI National League Club, in the highest section of its highest division.
6. Munster Senior League - One representative from each non-FAI National League Club in the highest section of its highest division.
7. Junior Council of the FAI - Five direct representatives.
8. Defence Forces FA - Two Representatives.
9. Schoolboys' FAI - Four Representatives.
10. The Football Association of Irish Schools - Four Representatives.
11. Irish Universities' Football Union - Two Representatives.
12. Ulster Football Association - Two Representatives.
13. Women's Football Association - Two Representatives.
14. The Colleges' Football Association - Two Representatives.
15. Ulster Senior League - One Representative from each non-FAI National League Club in the highest section of its highest division.
16. Each League in membership of The Association shall be entitled to one Representative at the AGM or EGM.
17. The FAI Chief Referees Inspector
18. Irish Soccer Referees Society - Two Representatives.
19. Football for All – One Representative
20. In addition, members of the outgoing Council and Hon. Life Members shall also be entitled to attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to vote unless they are also acting in the capacity of representatives in accordance with the provisions of this rule.

(c) Notification

1. All members must submit, in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer, the names of its representatives at the AGM, not later than 14 days before the AGM.
2. The Chief Executive Officer shall inform the members of The Association of the time, date and venue of the forthcoming AGM, at least 14 days in advance of same.
3. Where necessary, the Chief Executive Officer shall inform the AGM at the beginning of that meeting whether the Affiliation Fees of members present had been received in full and on time.

(d) Future Venue

The venue for the next AGM shall be decided each year at the AGM.

(e) Extraordinary General Meeting

1. An EGM may be called by The Council, as it may deem necessary. An EGM shall also be called upon receipt by the Chief Executive Officer of a requisition signed by the Secretaries of at least 50 members, accompanied by a deposit of €3000 to defray expenses. No business shall be transacted at any such meeting except that specified in the requisition or contained in the Agenda issued by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. For any matters involving fresh principle or policy, an EGM of all members of The Association may be called by The Council. Seven days' notice of such meeting shall be given by the Chief Executive Officer to all members of The Association entitled to attend.
3. Ineligibility to attend an AGM or EGM: No member shall have a right to representation unless such member's subscription shall have been received by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with rule. In the case of Clubs formed after 1st September, such Clubs shall be entitled to representation at the AGM (or EGM) provided their subscriptions have been paid within 21 clear days of election to membership.

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RULE 33. AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

1

- (a) Players are either Amateur or Professional upon signing the appropriate registration form. A Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. The application for registration of a Professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. All other players are considered as Amateurs.
- (b) Players must be registered on approved FAI League Registration Forms obtainable from a member League. A bona-fide player of a club is one who has signed a properly completed registration form and paid the appropriate registration fee (if any), duly witnessed by the Club Secretary and lodged with the League forty eight (48) hours before kick-off. Registration procedures for the FAI National League shall be in accordance with the terms of the prevailing Participation Agreement. An Amateur player under the age of 21, and playing in the FAI National League Under 21 Development League shall not lose his junior/Amateur status whilst playing in this League.
- (c) A League date stamp shall be the official date of registration. A player is eligible for a League match if his Registration Form has been examined and considered to be properly completed and stamped by a League. In Cup competitions the player must be signed and registered at least fourteen days for his club before the match in question to be eligible.
- (d) Any Player, registered as an Amateur, receiving money or taking advantage over and above the reimbursement or payment for his account of expenses for travelling or hotel (duly justified), shall be deemed to be in breach of his Amateur registration.
- (e) In relation to players registered as Amateurs –
 - 1. Travelling and hotel expenses are to be understood as those necessary for training or taking part in matches, whether as playing members of a team or as a reserve.
 - 2. A player may receive at the expense of his Club the advice of a coach and/or trainer, the care of masseurs or specialists for his training, or when he is injured.
 - 3. A player receiving any money prize in a football contest shall be deemed to be in breach of his Amateur registration. Where the Council is satisfied that a player has been induced to sign a Professional Form for the purpose of his Club without any agreement being entered into, or his Amateur status otherwise interfered with, the Professional registration may, on the application of the player, be cancelled and he shall thereupon revert to the status of an Amateur.
 - 4. No Amateur shall be paid compensation in respect of broken time.

2 TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY

- a) Professionals who end their careers on expiry of their contracts and Amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the Association of their last club for a period of 30 months.
- b) This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an Official Match.

RULE 34. REGISTRATION

- a) A player must be registered with an Association to play for a club as either a Professional or an Amateur in accordance with the provisions of Rule 33. Only registered players are eligible to participate in Organised Football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the Statutes and regulations of FIFA, UEFA and the Football Association of Ireland.
- b) A player may only be registered for one club at a time.
- c) Players may be registered for a maximum of three clubs during the period from 1 July until 30 June of the following year. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in Official Matches for two clubs.

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- d) No player either Amateur or Professional shall play for two Clubs during the same season without first obtaining a transfer from his original Club and League. Original shall mean the Club which the player has signed a form and first registered with a League during any one season. Players shall complete an FAI approved transfer form.
- e) If the claims of any Club are considered exorbitant, the player concerned or Club seeking his transfer shall have the right to report same to the Governing Authority of the League, the latter shall make an enquiry and if the claims are excessive they shall fix a transfer and suspend, fine or otherwise deal with the offending Club.

RULE 35. REGISTRATION PERIODS

- a) Players may only be registered during one of the two annual Registration Periods fixed by the Association. As an exception to this rule, a Professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a Registration Period may be registered outside that Registration Period. Leagues are authorised to register such Professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. In case of just cause for termination of a contract, the Association may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse and in accordance with FIFA regulations.
- b) The first Registration Period shall begin after the completion of the season and shall normally end before the new season starts. This period may not exceed twelve weeks. The second Registration Period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks. The two Registration Periods for the season shall be communicated to FIFA at least 12 months before they come into force.
- c) Players may only be registered – subject to the exception as foreseen in paragraph 1 of this rule – if an application from the club is validly submitted to the Association during a Registration Period.
- d) The provisions concerning Registration Periods do not apply to competitions in which only Amateurs participate.

RULE 36. UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

If a player who has not been registered with the Association appears for a club in any Official Match, that player will be considered as having played illegally. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies with the Association or the organiser of the competition concerned.

RULE 37. PLAYER PASSPORT

The registering Association is obliged to provide the club for which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) for which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player shall be listed in the player passport for the club for which he was registered in the season following his birthday.

RULE 38. LOAN OF PROFESSIONALS

- a) A Professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as apply to the transfer of players, including the provisions on training compensation and solidarity mechanism.
- b) Subject to Rule 34, (c), the minimum period of loan shall be the time between two Registration Periods.
- c) The club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer him to a third club without the written authorisation of the club that released the player on loan and of the player concerned.

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RULE 39. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

- (a) If an agent is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he shall be named in that contract.
- (b) The minimum length of a contract shall be from the date of its entry into force to the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a Professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised.
- (c) A club intending to conclude a contract with a Professional must inform his current club in writing before entering into negotiations with that Professional. A Professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or will expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.
- (d) The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a positive medical examination and/or the granting of a work permit.

RULE 40. INSURANCE OF AMATEUR PLAYERS

- (a) An Amateur player injured while playing football in circumstances approved by his club and not otherwise in conflict with the Rules of The Association shall be permitted by The Association to have his medical, dental and physiotherapy fees/loss of earnings reimbursed by his club.
- (b) A club **MAY** arrange insurance to provide for such fees/loss of earnings. It is not compulsory for a club to make such arrangements.

RULE 41. PLAYING SEASONS

- (a) Affiliates shall notify The Association within fourteen (14) days of their AGM of their start of season date.
- (b) Matches are prohibited during the remainder of the year, which shall be known as the close season, but the Council shall have power to suspend or extend the season either sectionally or entirely and to alter the period of playing as may from time to time in their discretion be deemed necessary or desirable and agreements between Clubs, Players and Officials shall be subject to such decisions.
- (c) Registered players (Amateur or Professional) are prohibited from playing in Football Competitions, for which permission has not been granted. Players so doing shall be subject to penalties decided by the Council.

RULE 42. PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS' AGREEMENTS

- (a) All agreements between Clubs and players must be in writing and in the agreed format.
- (b) For the purpose of this Rule all Professional Registration Forms and Agreements shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer of The Association and the FAI National League as from the time they are posted by registered post and the postmark shall be conclusive evidence thereon. Contracts, schedules and registration papers may be copied and shared with the FAI Club Licensing Department in order to satisfy licensing requirements. These documents shall be held in the strictest confidence by the FAI Club Licensing Department.
- (c) A Professional Player is eligible to play in competitions other than Cup Competitions, for the Club by which he is registered, if his Professional Form and Agreement have been in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer of The Association and the National League one day prior to such match. A player cannot be registered as a Professional until the transfer has been completed by the National Association with which he has been previously registered, and the one day above mentioned is to count from the date of registration with The Association. The word 'play' shall be understood to mean engage in a match or competition in which the number of players in each side is more than five and where a charge for admission is made.

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- (d) No player under the age of 16 years shall be registered as a Professional player under the provisions of this Rule.
- (e) The Club engaging a Professional player must ensure that the terms of the agreement and Professional registration forms are read over by the player and that he understands the nature of his contract and further that he is subject to the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of The Association and the National League. If signing for a club other than an FAI National League Club, a separate Registration form must be signed by the player and returned the Chief Executive Officer.
- (f) A copy of the Agreement and Registration Form must be retained by the player and the Club.

RULE 43. PLAYERS ONLY TO PLAY FOR CLUB FOR WHICH REGISTERED EXCEPT BY PERMISSION

- (a) In Competition games (Cup-Ties and League Matches) a player shall play for the Club for which he is registered. In "friendly" games a player may play only for another Club with the written consent of the Club for which he is registered.
- (b) A player who has been transferred to another National Association shall not be re-registered with this Association by his former Club for a period of eight weeks from the date of his transfer.
- (c) Any player having signed a registration form may not sign another form unless as provided in these Rules.

RULE 44. PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT STABILITY

The terms and conditions of contracts between professional players and clubs should be respected at all times.

RULE 45. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL

- (a) The Council shall, subject to these Rules, have power to cancel the registration of a Professional, with the exception of professional players contracted to participant clubs in the FAI National League, at any time upon the application of the player or his Club, or may transfer him from one Club to another.
- (b) A Professional who is transferred must be re-registered by the Club to which he is transferred.

RULE 46. REINSTATEMENT & RE-GRADING

- (a) The FAI Domestic Committee shall have the power to reinstate any Professional player to Amateur status.
- (b) Any Professional player may apply to be reinstated as an Amateur player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his/her last match as a Professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forwarded in writing to the FAI Domestic Football Department for consideration by the FAI Domestic Committee.
- (c) No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of Amateur status. If a player re-registers as a Professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an Amateur, his new club shall pay Training Compensation in accordance with FIFA directives.
- (d) Any Professional player with a time of (1) one year elapsed since his last Professional match shall automatically acquire Amateur status.
- (e) **Re-grading to Junior Status**
Any player who has played (5) five or more matches in the current season at Senior / Intermediate level may be re-graded by his league to play at Junior level.
All Leagues must facilitate application for re-grading, which must be submitted before 31st January.

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RULE 47. PROFESSIONAL REFEREES OR PLAYERS INELIGIBLE

- (a) A Professional player or referee, during the period of their registration, or a paid representative of a Club outside the jurisdiction of The Association is not eligible to act as a Director of a Club or as a member of the Management Committee of a Club or sit on Council or act as a representative at any meeting of National Associations, Divisional Associations or Affiliated Leagues.
- (b) Nominated representatives from The Society shall be permitted to serve on Council and Standing Committees as provided for elsewhere in these Rules.
- (c) Amateur and Associate Referees are also exempt from this rule.
- (d) Players, who are registered with an affiliate, shall be entitled, upon successful completion of the appropriate FAI refereeing course(s), to officiate at fixtures, except those involving their own club and those in any competition in which they are playing or have played in that season or any fixture the refereeing of which may carry a conflict of interest.

RULE 48. PLAYERS ENTERING & LEAVING THE AREA OF JURISDICTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Any player wishing to leave the area of jurisdiction of The Association to play for a club in the area of jurisdiction of another National Association must obtain a certificate of clearance from The Association. Before The Association can provide such certificate it must have received the agreement to provide same from the club within the area of jurisdiction with whom the player was last registered.
- (b) Should a club withhold such agreement, thereby resulting in the non-issue of a certificate of clearance by The Association, the club must indemnify The Association for all damages, costs and for all expenses accrued by The Association as a result of the non-issue of the certificate of clearance. Should it be established that a club withheld agreement without reasonable cause, The Association shall be empowered to deal as it sees fit with such clubs.
- (c) A Certificate of clearance shall not be granted by The Association for players under 16 years of age.
- (d) Players leaving the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland may not be permitted to return to the jurisdiction of The Association until a period of 8 weeks has elapsed from date of clearance from The Association.
- (e) Any player wishing to be registered within the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland having last been registered within another jurisdiction must obtain an International Transfer Certificate. If the Association does not receive a response to the ITC Request within thirty days, it shall immediately register the player with the New Club on a provisional basis ("Provisional Registration"). A Provisional Registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC Request. The Association may withdraw a Provisional Registration, if, during this one-year period, the Former Association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC Request.

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RULE 49. THE FAI DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

- (1) The FAI Disciplinary Commission shall comprise three members to be appointed annually by the FAI Board.
- (2) Nominees to the FAI Disciplinary Commission shall not be directors or other officer of any Participant Club in the FAI National League or other competitions run directly by the FAI or of a holding company of any such Participant Club and shall not, either by himself or with one or more associates, either directly or indirectly have any interest in the management or administration of any Participant Club.
- (3) Substitutes may be nominated by the FAI Board. Substitutes are subject to all Rules, provisions etc as set out herein.
- (4) The FAI Disciplinary Commission shall deal with all reports by referees, and match delegates as may be appointed from time to time, in respect of matches played in competitions specified by the FAI Board.
- (5) The FAI Disciplinary Commission shall have the power to impose disciplinary penalty points, fine, suspend, or otherwise deal with, as it thinks fit, matters that are brought to its attention.
- (6) The FAI Disciplinary Commission shall operate under the detailed disciplinary procedures as set out in the relevant Competition Rulebook.
- (7) Decisions of the FAI Disciplinary Commission are subject to appeal as provided for under FAI Rule 30.

RULE 50. CONDUCT/SUSPENSIONS

1.

- (a) In the event of any player or players being sent off the field of play by the referee or Club officials being reported for misconduct of any kind, (other than assault on a referee) the referee shall transmit such name or names to the Council of the Divisional Association or relevant National Body or League.
- (b) Reports of any kind, however, referring to matches between Clubs who are members of different Divisional Associations or to matches under the jurisdiction of the FAI National League Executive Committee, shall be transmitted to The Association.
- (c) All suspensions relating to physical assaults on referees must be notified immediately to the Chief Executive Officer of The Association by the affiliate handing down the suspension.
- (d) All suspensions of 12 months duration or longer must be notified immediately to the Chief Executive Officer of The Association by the affiliate handing down the suspension. No suspension can be amended or cancelled without the express approval of The Association.

2 **Assaults on Referees**

- (a) A player whom the referee has reported as guilty of assault on him before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the first disciplinary body has decided upon the case and notified the parties involved by registered post of their decision. In this connection, spitting at the referees is regarded as an assault.
- (b) The minimum suspension on a player found guilty by a disciplinary body of assaulting a referee shall be 12 months.

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3 The FAI Disciplinary Code

Cautionable Offences

- (a) A player who is cautioned (receives a yellow card) in any game must be reported to the League concerned, and a record must be kept by that League.
- (b) A player who accumulates four cautions shall be suspended for 1 game.
- (c) Following the suspension, if the same player accumulates a further four cautions, he shall be suspended for one game.
- (d) Any player who receives in excess of 12 cautions in any one season shall receive a two (2) match suspension for the 12th caution and thereafter 3 matches for every 4 cautions.
- (e) Any suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- (f) At the end of each season, players with up to 3 outstanding cautions shall not have these cautions carried forward to the next season.

Sending-off Offences

- (a)
 - i. In all FAI National League competitions and FAI National Cup Competitions an expulsion automatically incurs a suspension from the subsequent match of the same competition. Following receipt of the Referees report the relevant disciplinary body may at its discretion extend the duration of the suspension and/or impose fines.
If it is not possible to impose the automatic one match suspension on a player in the current season, then the Disciplinary Body shall have the power to impose the automatic one match suspension in another domestic competitive match.
 - ii. In all other matches played under the auspices of the Football Association of Ireland an expulsion automatically incurs a suspension from the next competitive match. A player sent from the field of play shall serve an automatic suspension at the same level of football i.e. a player sent from the field of play in a 1st team fixture may not serve an automatic suspension in a reserve team fixture and vice-verse.
- (b) Should the same player be dismissed again in the same season the following punishments shall apply :-

<i>2nd sending off</i>	<i>suspended for 1 match</i>
<i>3rd sending off</i>	<i>suspended for 2 matches</i>
<i>4th sending off</i>	<i>suspended for 4 matches</i>
<i>For five or more dismissals in the season</i>	<i>suspended for 6 matches</i>
- (c) Any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- (d) All of the foregoing suspensions are the minimum penalties. Leagues may impose suspensions above this minimum depending on the nature of the offences committed.
- (e) All of the foregoing punishments with the exception of the Automatic one match suspension may be appealed through the various Divisional Associations and in accordance with the Rules of The Association and FIFA.

RULE 51. TESTIMONIALS TO BE SANCTIONED

- (a) No player or official of a Club can accept or receive any testimonial whatever, without the sanction of The Association and no Club, or Council, or member of same, or player of any Club is permitted to contribute to any testimonial that does not receive the sanction of The Association.
- (b) No Honorary Officer or member of The Association may accept or receive any testimonial, honorarium, grant or such like, from The Association without the consent of The Council.
- (c) Any application for a Testimonial game must be accompanied by a list of the Testimonial Committee members, a list of all persons and companies whose services are to be used by the Committee and any other information which The Association may request.

RULE 52. CHARITY AND BENEFIT MATCHES

Benefit matches for Amateur players, may, under special circumstances, be sanctioned by The Council.

- (a) The promoter of every charity or benefit match must furnish to The Association particulars of the charity and/or benefit match on official forms available from the Chief Executive Officer. All such promoters shall observe the Rules and Regulations of The Association and no Club shall play or take part in any charity or benefit match until same has been sanctioned by The Association. The Secretary of every charity and/or benefit match committee shall within fourteen days after the close of a match or competition forward to the Chief Executive Officer a duly audited balance sheet and the voucher from the beneficiary, together with a list of the Clubs, with secretaries' names and addresses, that have played in the match or competition. No charity or benefit match can be approved by The Association unless the promoter or promoters is or are a member or members of The Association. Charity or Benefit Matches may be played on any date approved of by The Council.
- (b) A Professional player must have five years continuous service as such with his Club before being eligible for a benefit match. Applications for permission for such matches should be made by each Club on or before the three months before date of match.

RULE 53. ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING & ARTIFICIAL TURF.

a) Artificial Lighting

Matches under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland can be played with the use of artificial lighting provided that they are installed as per FIFA directives for Leagues and Clubs (class 2) as may be revised from time to time.

b) Artificial Turf

Matches under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland can be played on artificial turf surface provided that the installed product complies with FIFA/UEFA artificial turf manual which is subject to ongoing revision.

RULE 54. GROUNDS, PLAYERS AND ARRANGING OF MATCHES

- (a) Each Club, League and Divisional Association shall, when required, place its players and grounds at the disposal of The Association.
- (b) Terms and conditions of ground rental to be negotiated between the parties.

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- (c) No matches shall be arranged in a Divisional Association's area which is hosting a designated game which would finish less than 2 hours before the kick-off of that game or would start less than 2 hours after the end of that game unless express permission is given by The Association.
- (d) For the purpose of this rule a designated game shall be a Senior International, the FAI Cup Final or Replay, or any other game which the Board shall declare as designated.

RULE 55. POWER TO DEAL WITH PLAYERS REFUSAL TO PLAY IN REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Any player selected to play in any International or other match arranged by The Association and who without good and sufficient cause refuses to comply with the arrangements of The Council for the playing of the match, or fails to play in such match, may be adjudged by The Council to be guilty of misconduct, and such player, or any Club which may be deemed to have encouraged such player to such misconduct, may be dealt with as The Council shall deem appropriate.

RULE 56. CLUBS AND PLAYERS CANNOT PLAY UNDER RULES OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) All Clubs and Players in membership of The Association shall play under the Rules of The Association and Clubs or players playing under Rules other than those of The Association or playing with Clubs and players not members of The Association, without permission, shall be liable to be expelled, suspended, fined or otherwise dealt with as The Association shall deem fit.
- (b) In cases of emergency, the Chief Executive Officer may - after consultation, where feasible, with the Board - grant permission to a player or players wishing to play outside the jurisdiction of The Association, but all such cases must be reported at the next ensuing meeting of the Board.

RULE 57. ASSOCIATIONS AND LEAGUES TO BE SANCTIONED BY COUNCIL

- (a) Associations, Leagues or other Combinations of Clubs, Players or Officials, shall not be formed without the consent of The Association.
- (b) All applications for formation shall be made through the Divisional Associations or on application to the relevant National Bodies.

RULE 58. MEMBER'S AGM.

No affiliate of The Association may hold its AGM later than the 3rd Monday in June of each year unless by special permission of The Association.

RULE 59. FREE ADMISSION TO MATCHES

- (a) Members of Council and Junior Council of this Association, Members of Council and Junior Council of Leinster, Munster, Connaught & Ulster Football Association shall on production of current membership card be admitted without payment to all matches under the jurisdiction of this Association.
- (b) Leagues, Clubs and others organising matches in the Republic of Ireland must provide seating accommodation if available, for all members as enumerated above.

RULE 60. KEEPING OF BOOKS

Councils, Leagues, Divisional Associations, National Affiliates, The Society and/or Clubs and similar organisations shall keep minutes of their meetings and the election of members and shall enter in detail in their cash books all financial transactions.

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RULE 61. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Association at the AGM shall appoint a firm who are members of a recognised body of Accountants and they shall hold office as Auditors until the next AGM.

RULE 62. AUDITOR'S FEES

The remuneration of the Auditor shall be agreed by the Finance Committee and the Board.

RULE 63. PRODUCTION OF BOOKS

- (a) The Association shall have power to call upon Councils, Clubs, Divisional Associations, Leagues, National Affiliates, The Society and other Organisations, Officers and members of same and players of a Club to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence which The Council may desire.
- (b) Affiliated Leagues and Divisional Associations and the Society must notify the Football Association of Ireland of the date on which their financial year ends and must submit to the FAI a copy of their certified audited accounts within three months of the end of their financial year together with a relevant tax clearance certificate.

RULE 64. MEMBERS TO VARIOUS BODIES

The Council shall elect each year from their number:

- (a) 3 members to the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland.
- (b) 1 member to the Women's Football Association of Ireland.
- (c) It may elect members to other affiliates, as it may deem desirable from time to time.

RULE 65. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

- (a) The Council or any member shall have the right to submit alterations to the Rules of The Association which must be formally proposed and seconded and sent by registered post, to the Chief Executive so as to reach him not later than the 31st March preceding the AGM.
- (b) These proposed alterations to Rules shall be circulated to Council and to members for their consideration within 14 days of the 31st March. It shall be open to the Council and members to submit amendments to the Chief Executive by registered post on or before 30th April.
- (c) The Board shall have the right to submit alterations to the Rules to the AGM of the Association or to an EGM convened for the purpose of amending the Rules.
- (d) The Rules Commission of the FAI shall meet within 14 days of the 1st May, to consider any proposed changes and shall report thereon to the next Board meeting and thereafter to the next Council meeting for the information of members constituting The Association.
- (e) Proposed alterations, amendments and addenda shall be submitted to the members by post with the notice convening the AGM/EGM no later than one calendar month before the AGM/EGM. It shall be the responsibility of Council members to notify their representative body of such proposed changes.
- (f) No alteration of Rules shall be made unless supported by at least two-thirds of those present and voting at the AGM/EGM.
- (g) When the AGM/EGM has considered and voted on the proposed changes, the President shall announce that the changes shall take effect eight days after the AGM/EGM.
- (h) The Rules Commission/Chief Executive shall organise the printing of a supplement of the agreed changes and shall notify the members by post or electronic mail within fourteen days of the AGM/EGM.

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RULE 66. RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS

Every club is responsible to the Council, through the Divisional Associations, for the actions of its players, officials and spectators. Clubs are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and/or players while in the vicinity of their playing ground.

RULE 67. INDEMNITIES

The Board shall, be empowered to provide indemnities ,where it sees fit, to any Officer, Member of Council, Commission or Committee, Secretary or other Official or Servant of The Association in pursuit of the discharge of the objectives and functions of the Association by them, such indemnity to be recorded in a Register of Indemnities of the Association.

RULE 68. SMALL SIDED MATCHES

- (a) Small-Sided Matches and Competitions, Indoor or Outdoor, can only be arranged provided permission is obtained from The Association, through Divisional Associations or Affiliates.
- (b) The Association may from time to time give directions in relation to the participation of teams at under age level in small-sided games. The Association may also direct in relation to the Rules under which small-sided games are to be played.

RULE 69. FRIENDLY MATCHES

Friendly matches involving clubs outside the jurisdiction of The Association must be sanctioned in advance by the FAI.

1. International Match Calendar

The FIFA Executive Committee shall compile an international match calendar that shall be binding upon the Confederations, Members and Leagues, after conferring with the Confederations.

2 International matches and competitions

(a) The FIFA Executive Committee shall be responsible for issuing provisions for organising international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or club teams. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA.

(b) The FIFA Executive Committee may draw up further technical provisions.

3 Approval

The Association, League or club that is affiliated to the Association cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of its current and prospective Association and of FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances

RULE 70. LEGAL ACTION

No affiliated members of The Association may take legal action against The Association on any issue relating to the application of The Association's Rules, until all the possibilities of sports jurisdiction within The Football Association of Ireland have been exhausted.

RULE 71. LEAGUE TRANSFERS

- (a) A team or club desiring to transfer to a different league at the end of a season must obtain a transfer on an official form (supplied by the Divisional Association) and signed by the Club, the League from which they are departing and the League they propose to enter. Such a request must be made on or before 1st May in any year.
- (b) Clubs and teams shall not be unreasonably refused such a release and they shall have the statutory rights of Appeal to their Divisional Association and/or the FAI, in accordance with the Rules of Appeal of these bodies.

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RULE 72. MANDATORY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE INSURANCE

- (a) The Association accepts no responsibility for any member of the public (which shall be deemed to include members of The Association) for any personal injury or damage to property sustained at any football ground whatsoever, unless arising directly from an actual match organised by this Association.
- (b) Every affiliated club must have in force Public Liability Insurance including, where appropriate, Property Owners Insurance providing insurance cover in respect of all the clubs activities. In addition, where a club engages any person under a contract of service or apprenticeship, the club must have in force an appropriate Employers Liability Policy.
- (c) No team/club/affiliate shall be admitted to membership of The Association or to any affiliate of The Association that fails to comply with (b) above. Where a team/club/affiliate are already in membership but subsequently allow the insurance referred to in (b) above to lapse or discontinue they are liable to be expelled from membership at the discretion of the Board.

RULE 73. THE DOPING CONTROL REGULATIONS

The Anti-Doping Rules of the Football Association of Ireland are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.

RULE 74. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR FOOTBALL

- (a) As the Governing Body of Association Football in Ireland, The Association is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the game at every level. Football belongs to, and should be enjoyed by everyone equally. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.
- (b) The Association is an equal opportunities employer. They are committed to equality of opportunity within the organisation and to encouraging similar commitment for every organisation or individual acting within the game.
- (c) Equality of opportunity at the FAI means that in all our activities we shall not discriminate of in any way treat anyone less favourably, on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability. This includes:
 - (1) The advertisement of jobs
 - (2) The selection of candidates for employment or promotion
 - (3) Job location or working environment
 - (4) Pay and employment terms and conditions
 - (5) Internal training and development activities
 - (6) external coaching and education activities and awards
 - (7) Football development activities
 - (8) Selection for representative teams
 - (9) Appointment to honorary positions
- (d) The FAI shall not tolerate sexual or racially-based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, and shall work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate disciplinary action in whatever context it occurs.
- (e) The FAI is committed to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness –raising events and activities to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organisation and, in the wider context within football as a whole.

RULE 75. THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN

- (a) In line with recent legislation and Government Guidelines (The Child Care Act 1991 and the Protection for Persons Reporting Abuse Act 1998) in relation to child protection and welfare, it is mandatory that all National Associations, Divisional Associations and Affiliated Leagues should operate to the FAI

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recommended codes of conduct and best practice guidelines (see FAI Code of Ethics for Under Age Soccer for Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators).

- (b) 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.
- (c) Breaches shall become a disciplinary offence.

RULE 76. RACISM

- a) Any player or member of the technical staff who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a derogatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and / or contemptuous act, shall be subject to match suspension for at least five matches at every level. The relevant disciplinary body shall consider and have the power to impose a fine and / or other sanction as deemed appropriate.
- b) Any club official or spectator who commits such an infringement shall be subject to a stadium ban for two years.
- c) If spectators display banners bearing racist slogans at a match, the relevant disciplinary body shall sanction the affiliate or club which these spectators support with a monetary fine. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or other club/affiliate the host club/affiliate shall be sanctioned accordingly.

RULE 77. FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE

- (a) The FAI National League is the annual League competitions owned, run and promoted by the FAI.
- (b) The policy and operations of the FAI National League shall be the exclusive responsibility of the FAI National League Executive Committee.
- (c) The FAI shall convene an Annual Convention for the FAI National League Clubs at which all current participant FAI National League Clubs shall be entitled to attend and participate. At this Annual Convention, the FAI National League clubs shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the FAI National League Executive Committee.
- (d) The FAI National League Executive Committee shall comprise the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson as elected at the participating Clubs' Annual Convention, the Chief Executive Officer, one nominee of the FAI Council who shall not be an active member of any of the participating clubs and two external specialists to be co-opted by the Committee and approved by the FAI Board.
- (e) The Terms of Reference of the FAI National League Executive Committee shall be established by the FAI Board in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and the Chief Executive Officer.
- (f) At its opening meeting each year, the Committee shall consider its terms of reference as handed down by the FAI Board. In the event that a change is required, such changes must be approved by the FAI Board.
- (g) The Chairperson of the FAI National League Executive Committee shall report on the work of the Committee to the FAI Board.
- (h) In the event of any discrepancy between the FAI National League Rules or the Participation Agreement and the FAI Rules, the FAI Rules shall prevail.
- (i) Clubs accepted as participants in the FAI National League are deemed to be Members of the FAI.

Football Association of Ireland Rules effective from 23rd May 2007

INTRODUCTION

The FAI lists among its objectives the promotion, development and fostering of the game of Association Football within Ireland. It also confirms its affiliation to UEFA and FIFA and its commitment to be bound by the rules and regulations of both bodies.

An essential aspect of the promotion, development and fostering of the game is the promotion and implementation of best practices and pursuits by all involved in the game at every level, permeating down through each of the affiliates, thereby ensuring that the rules of the game are upheld in spirit and in fact and that the manner in which those associated with the game do business, is a positive advertisement for the game in the wider community.

To this end the Association has endorsed the following as its Code of Best Practice for all involved in every level of the game and has enshrined it within the rules of the FAI. The purpose of the code is to assist in attaining the objectives of the Association, to promote and foster the continued development of right relationships between those involved in the game and to promote and safeguard a positive image for the game in the wider community.

Where it is alleged that a body, a person or persons have by virtue of an act or utterance violated the Code of Best Practice, an injured or interested party may make a complaint pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of the Association and the matter shall be dealt with by the Rules Compliance Commission. Where the complaint is upheld, the body, person or persons shall be deemed to have brought the game into disrepute.

APPENDIX 1

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Administrators at all levels in the game be they committee members in a league or members of Senior Council, have a responsibility to act to uphold the highest standards of integrity within the game and to ensure that the reputation of the game and the Association and each Affiliate is and remains beyond reproach. It is their duty to ensure that the game is run in an orderly and seemly manner, thereby encouraging the maximum levels of participation and enjoyment by all players and spectators, regardless of the level of the game at which they compete or support. It is further the duty of Administrators to ensure that the Association maximises the earning potential which the game enjoys, thereby providing the finance required to improve standards and facilities throughout the entire game.

1. An Administrator must appreciate that football is an important part of the community at large and accordingly must take into account community feelings when making decisions.
2. An Administrator must emphasise that the Association is opposed to discrimination of any form and promote whatever measures are necessary to prevent discrimination, either direct or indirect from infiltrating the game.
3. When called upon to represent the game in the wider community an Administrator should seek to promote a positive view of the game.
4. Administrators are there to firstly serve the interests of the game and not their own self interests or any particular sectional interest.
5. Administrators must be constantly mindful of the best interests of the game in the decisions they make.
6. The appropriate Administrators must ensure that monies spent in the name of the game and in the pursuit of the interests and objectives of the game are monies well spent.
7. All monies spent must be fully accounted for within the game.
8. Administrators must carry on the business of the game in a seemly and orderly fashion.
9. Meetings must be carried on in a cordial and businesslike manner through the chair.
10. An Administrator must abide by the standing orders regulating the conduct of meetings.
11. It is the duty of the appropriate Administrator to ensure that a complete and accurate set of minutes is available in respect of all meetings held in the name of the game.
12. An Administrator must recognise the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels in the game including players, mentors, those who help out in many different ways, those who officiate as well as supporters.
13. An Administrator must acknowledge that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative propriety within the game and accordingly shall not tolerate corruption or improper practices of any kind at any time.
14. An Administrator must seek to foster and uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game.
15. An Administrator must abhor and reject the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.
16. An Administrator must be committed to fairness in dealing with all involved in the game.
17. An Administrator must set a positive example for others particularly players, supporters and mentors.
18. An Administrator must promote and develop the game of Association Football, having particular regard to the interest of players, supporters, mentors and the reputation of the game in Ireland.
19. An Administrator must share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interests of the body that has requested these rather than personal or sectional interests.
20. An Administrator must show due respect to others involved in the game.
21. An Administrator must avoid all forms of inappropriate behaviour and must be seen to challenge the use of inappropriate behaviour within the game.
22. An Administrator must refrain from making contributions to the media which are likely to lead to unfair criticism of other people within the game.
23. An Administrator must refrain from making contributions to the media which are likely to portray the game unfairly, incompletely or inaccurately.
24. Administrators must safeguard the confidentiality of information imparted to them in the exercise of their functions.
25. Administrators should promote adherence to the Code of Practice by those within the game with whom they come into contact.

APPENDIX 2

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR MENTORS

Managers/Coaches are key to the establishment of good practices in football. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision. Mentors must speak and act in a manner consistent with this reality.

1. A Mentor must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. A Mentor must not subscribe to the ethos of “win at all costs”.
3. A Mentor must place the health, well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations.
4. A Mentor must abide by the rules of the game.
5. A Mentor must strive to develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
6. A Mentor must have particular regard for the code when working with young players in the game.
7. A Mentor must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
8. A Mentor must guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
9. A Mentor must ensure that the activities and strategies they direct and advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players involved.
10. A Mentor must at the outset of each season, clarify with the players (and where the players are under the age of 18, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from the Mentor.
11. A Mentor must co-operate with specialists within the game e.g. other coaches, officials, sport scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists etc. in the best interest of players.
12. A Mentor must honour the terms of the agreement with his/her club and shall eschew any interest in alternative employment within the game whilst under contract, save insofar as such interest enjoys the consent of that club.
13. A Mentor must not act or speak (directly or indirectly) so as to induce a mentor or an employee of any other club to breach the terms of their agreement with that other club.
14. A Mentor must be conversant with the laws of the game and the rules of any competition in which a team under his/her stewardship is participating.
15. A Mentor must exercise authority and control over the players under his/her stewardship particularly whilst on the field of play and with regard to the decisions of match officials.
16. A Mentor must observe the highest standards of integrity and fair dealing.
17. A Mentor must always promote a positive approach to the game e.g. fair play, honest endeavour and genuine teamwork.
18. A Mentor must not encourage or condone violations of the laws of the game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game, or the use of questionable strategies or tactics.
19. A Mentor must not encourage or condone the use of prohibited substances.
20. A Mentor must consistently display high standards of behaviour and comment.
21. A Mentor must not use or tolerate the use of inappropriate language.
22. A Mentor must demonstrate due respect towards match officials.
23. A Mentor must accept the decisions of the match officials.
24. In making public comments on a particular fixture or on the game in general a mentor must be mindful of upholding and promoting the good name of the game and others involved in it the wider community.

APPENDIX 3

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR PLAYERS

As players are constantly in the glare of public attention and are widely recognised as the most important people in the sport, there is a considerable onus upon them to speak and act in a manner which promotes all that is good about the game.

1. A Player must make every honest effort to develop their sporting ability, to include fitness, skill, technique and tactical ability.
2. A Player must strive to set a positive example for younger players and supporters.
3. A Player should safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and where possible help injured opponents.
4. A Player must give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during each game.
5. A Player must avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time wasting.
6. A Player must refrain from using inappropriate language particularly to referees/officials and other players during games.
7. A Player must make every effort consistent with fair play and the laws of the game to help their own team win.
8. A Player must resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question their commitment to the team winning.
9. A Player should know and abide by the laws, rules of the game and of any given competition, both in fact and in spirit.
10. A Player should accept victory and defeat with equanimity.
11. A player must resist any temptation to consume or otherwise imbibe any banned substances.
12. A Player must treat opponents with respect at all times, irrespective of the outcome of any game.
13. A Player must demonstrate due respect towards match officials.
14. A Player must accept the decisions of the match officials without protest.
15. A Player must avoid words or actions which may mislead a match official.
16. A Player must abide by the lawful instructions and directions of mentors and team officials.
17. A Player must act towards the mentors and officials of the opposing side in a respectful manner.
18. A Player must demonstrate due regard for the interest of supporters.
19. A Player must not act or speak so as to incite or encourage supporters to act in a manner that may endanger the safety of anyone attending or participating in the game.
20. A Player should not either directly or indirectly place a bet on the outcome of any game in which he is involved.
21. A Player must always have regard to the best interests of the game when publicly expressing an opinion on the game or on others involved in the game.
22. In making public comments on a particular fixture or on the game in general a Player must be mindful of upholding and promoting the good name of the game and others involved in it in the wider community.

APPENDIX 4

*Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct
for
Referees
of the
Football Association of Ireland*

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Referees should guide all registered referees¹, assessors², association officials³ and members⁴ of the Football Association of Ireland with regard to ethical behaviour and professional conduct. The Code should be read in conjunction with the FAI Rules.

Preamble

Integrity in sport is a core value underpinning the notion of 'Fair Play.' Integrity is also a fundamental and core value underpinning the task of refereeing. Failure to uphold this value can result in the principles of objectivity, honesty and independence breaking down. Consequently everyone associated with the sport has a duty and responsibility to ensure that the core values associated with fair play are upheld.

It is not alone the practise and art of refereeing a football game that these values apply but also to all administrative, training and development functions.

The code equally applies and should be adhered to by all personnel immediately associated with these functions and also to all participants in the sport both actively and administratively.⁵

¹ Referee refers to a registered match official regardless of duties assigned in a particular game.

² Assessor refers to all personnel involved in instruction, training and development of referees.

³ Association Official refers to all administrative personnel including appointments officers, disciplinary committee members, league officials and employees of the FAI.

⁴ Members of the FAI refers to registered players, technical staff, managers, directors and administrators of teams and clubs.

⁵ For ease of writing the term 'referee' is used throughout the code but all of the values principles and standards of behaviour referred to apply equally to the personnel mentioned in footnotes 1, 2, 3 &4.

Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Referees

This Code consists of four overall ethical principles, which subsume a number of specific ethical standards.

1.0 Integrity

Principle: *Referees are obliged to be honest, impartial, objective and professional in carrying out their duties as outlined in the Laws of the Game and in terms of representing the Football Association and the League to which they are assigned.*

Specifically, referees shall: -

- 1.1 Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and carry out their duties to the best of their ability
- 1.2 Seek support/ guidance advice from peers, colleagues, mentors and / or assessors with regard to issues that may hamper their performance as a referee.
- 1.3 Avoid situations or engage in activities or behaviour, which might oblige them or lead to them contravening the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- 1.4 Ensure that they and others accurately represent and reflect the body of knowledge and training of their profession.
- 1.5 Not accept or attempt to secure fees or benefits over and above those agreed with the Football Association of Ireland and their representatives.
- 1.6 Honour all refereeing commitments except in the case of serious illness or unexpected circumstances whereby their ability to perform their duties would be impaired and in such circumstances to notify, in a timely manner, the appropriate personnel or where appropriate to make alternative arrangements.
- 1.7 Not exploit any relationship to further their own or others personal or professional interests including the soliciting of appointments.
- 1.8 Be aware of the nature of dual relationships and where possible avoid such positions that could lead to the undermining of the *Integrity of Refereeing* or the good name of the Football Association of Ireland.
- 1.9 Act to stop or limit the activities of a colleague, assessor or official that is clearly harmful or unethical and bring such actions to the attention of the association.

2.0 Competence

Referees shall strive to ensure and maintain high standards in the application of their duties. They shall adhere to the professional standards and attain the relevant competencies required appropriate to the level of football at which they are qualified to officiate. They must maintain and update their professional knowledge and skills in accordance with the licensing system. They shall recognise the limits of their competence in the context of the licensing system and take care not to exceed these limits by officiating at games outside the parameters of their particular license.

Specifically referees shall: -

- 2.1 Comply with the rules of the licensing system and develop the skills and knowledge required appropriate to the level they wish to officiate at.
- 2.2 Engage in continuing professional development in terms of all aspects of refereeing, e.g. physical fitness; knowledge, application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- 2.3 Accept the obligation to know, understand and to operate the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- 2.4 Recognise the limits of their competence and take care not to exceed these limits by officiating at games outside the parameters of their particular license.
- 2.5 Participate in and contribute to the continuing development of refereeing.
- 2.6 Refrain from officiating when their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner is impaired by physical, medical or other reason.
- 2.7 Seek relevant, competent and professional assistance to ameliorate and remedy any difficulty that prevents or inhibits their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner.

3.0 Respect

Referees shall honour, respect and uphold the fundamental rights, dignity and worth of all participants, officials and spectators of the sport. They shall be mindful and respect difference based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference.

Specifically, referees shall: -

- 3.1 Treat all players, coaches and officials as persons of intrinsic worth and respect any difference based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference.
- 3.2 *In the course of their duties safeguard the respect of players and coaches based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference and deal with any infringements of these rights in the context of the Laws of the game or the rules of the Football Association of Ireland.*
- 3.3 When involved with children adhere to Child Care Legislation, 'codes of conduct' and the policy and procedures of the Football Association of Ireland.
- 3.4 Take the necessary preventative actions so as not to allow themselves to be compromised by events or situations where individuals respect or dignity could be undermined in the context of age, gender, disability etc.

4.0 Responsibility

The 'Laws of the Game' and the Football Association of Ireland bestows authority and power on Referees. Thus this privileged position must be taken seriously and managed with dignity, respect, responsibility and professionalism. Referees carry responsibility to themselves, their profession, the Football Association and the League in which they operate.

Specifically, referees shall: -

- 4.1 Be aware of their professional responsibilities to the players and teams in the game at which they are officiating and to the League to which they are assigned and to the Football Association of Ireland.
- 4.2 Shall be responsible for their actions, and assure themselves, as far as possible, that they carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- 4.3 Shall carry out their duties in a responsible, professional and respectful manner.
- 4.4 Behave in professional activities in such a way as not to undermine public confidence in their profession.
- 4.5 Protect the reputation of the profession and the Football Association of Ireland by ensuring that all professional activities carried out conforms to the provisions of this Code of Ethics & Conduct.

APPENDIX 6

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR PARENTS

Parents have a powerful influence on the level of fun and enjoyment which children derive from the game and on the degree of enthusiasm with which they participate in it. Positive encouragement is the key to a child's enjoyment of the game, their sense of personal achievement, the development of their skill levels and their self-esteem.

1. Parents should avoid coaching their child during the game.
2. Parents should not shout and scream.
3. Parents should respect the decisions of the match officials.
4. Parents should give attention to each participating child, and not just to the most talented.

APPENDIX 7

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR SPECTATORS

Spectators convey to the wider community the values of the game.

1. Spectators should appreciate the opposition as well as their own team.
2. Spectators should be respectful towards all players whilst on the field of play, regardless of nationality, race, religion or other affiliations.
3. Spectators should show appreciation of the efforts of all players who are substituted.