

MUNSTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL RULES

2007-08 Season

Title

1. This Association shall be called “Cumamm Peile na Mumhan” or in the English language “The Munster Football Association”.

Headquarters

2. The Office of the Association shall be in the city of Cork.

Objects of the Association

3. The objects for which the Association is established are to promote, foster and develop the game of Association Football in the Province of Munster, and to take all such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringement of the Rules of the game or other improper practices in the game, and for protecting it from abuses and to do such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them as the Council may determine.

Affiliation to F.A.I.

4. This Association shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland and be bound by its rules and regulations.

Interpretations

5. In the interpretation of these rules the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings unless excluded by the subject or context:
 - (a) “Association” shall mean the Munster Football Association.
 - (b) “Council” shall mean the Council of the Munster Football Association.
 - (c) The words “The Association” and “This Association”, except where otherwise stated, shall include the Council of this Association as constituted under Rule 12.
 - (d) Days shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.
 - (e) Associate Members shall not have the right of representation and voting at Special or Annual General Meetings of the Association.
 - (f) Clubs in these rules shall include teams of clubs, which teams shall be eligible to membership.
 - (g) For the purpose of these rules any reference to Hon. Secretary shall mean Administrator when appointed.

Association Power to Deal with Breaches of Rules etc.

6. The Association shall have jurisdiction in all matters concerned with the game in the Province of Munster, and the Council shall have power to deal with, as they deem fit, any League, Club, Club Official, members or players of clubs in membership of the Association guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules, or in any way acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

Membership of Association.

7. All clubs playing Association Football in the Province of Munster and other such counties or Districts as may be agreed with other Divisional Associations concerned, subject to the approval of the Football Association of Ireland and M.F.A. shall be eligible for membership. On admission each club, their respective officials, representatives, players and members shall be bound by the decisions of the Council, and such decisions shall be final and binding on all concerned, subject to all existing rights of appeal. All such clubs, Officials, representatives, players and members shall be subject to the Rules, for the time being of the F.A.I. and such rules shall be read and held as part of these rules.

Affiliation of Teams

8. The Hon.Secretary shall give clubs 14 days notice through their League Secretaries of subscriptions being due on the 30th September.
- 8(a) In addition to affiliation fee, each team shall be required to pay an Annual Levy of €6 for Youths and €13 for Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams for the development of football.

Information to be furnished by Clubs

9. Each club shall forward to the Hon.Secretary of their League, with its subscription, the names and address of its Secretary and all committee members along with distinguishing colours and situation of its dressing room and ground, stating whether ground is public or private. Clubs shall be required to keep minutes of their meetings, showing the names and dates of election of new members, etc. and when members leave, transfer or resign.

Clubs changing Secretaries etc.

10. Leagues and clubs changing their Secretaries or Secretaries of clubs and Leagues changing their addresses, and telephone numbers are required to advise the Hon.Secretary of the Association of the alteration at once. Failure to do so will render such League or Club liable to a fine, suspension or expulsion as Council may deem fit.

Office Bearers

11. The Hon.Officers of the Association shall be Hon.Treasurer, Hon.Secretary, Hon. Asst. Secretary, Hon. Asst. Treasurer, to be elected at the AGM by a clear majority of the representatives in attendance, together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the first meeting of Council. A person must be a member of Council, for a minimum of three (3) years before he/she can be nominated as an Officer bearer.
- 11(a) The Association may appoint a full-time Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) for such period as may be agreed by Council. In such instance a Hon. Secretary will not be elected. The Administrator shall assume the role of Hon. Secretary of the Association and will be charged with all the duties and responsibilities hither to assigned to the Hon. Secretary. The Administrator will be entitled to be a non-voting member of Council and any sub-committees or commissions established by Council and will be entitled to represent the Association (in accordance with the role of Hon. Secretary) at external committees, commissions and conferences.

Constitution of Council

12. The Council of this Association shall consist of the Hon.Secretary, Hon. Asst. Secretary, Hon.Treasurer and Hon. Asst. Treasurer, together with three (3) members to be nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Every candidate for election must send to the Hon.Secretary of the Association, on or before 31st March in each year by registered post, a nomination paper signed personally and containing his full name and address and the club if any to which he belongs, together with the names of nominators who must be members of the Association. Every candidate shall be nominated by at least four (4) clubs in membership of the Association, signed by the Secretary of the committee or on behalf of their respective clubs. One selected person to represent all N.L. clubs affiliated to the MFA and one (1) representative from each of the following League Management committees: Munster Senior League, Cork Athletic Union Football League, Cork Business & Shipping League, Waterford District League, Limerick District League, Kerry District League, Tipperary Southern & District League, North Tipperary & District League, Limerick Desmond Football League, Clare District League, West Waterford/East Cork League and the West Cork League. Any League which had more than 100 teams affiliated for the preceding season shall be entitled to a second representative on the Council. In the event of any representative being unable to act through illness or otherwise, he may be replaced by the respective body concerned.
13. No person, not being a retiring Hon.Secretary, Hon. Asst. Secretary, Hon.Treasurer, Hon. Asst. Treasurer, shall be eligible for election to the office of Hon.Secretary, Hon. Asst. Secretary, Hon.Treasurer, Hon. Assistant Treasurer, unless he has not later than the 31st March each year, sent by registered letter to the Hon.Secretary of the Association, a notice in writing signifying his candidature for the office, giving the names and addresses of his proposer and seconder (who shall be the Secretaries of affiliated clubs), which notice shall be signed by the candidate, his Proposer and Secunder.
- 13 (a) The Council shall have the right to nominate persons as Hon.President and Hon.Vice President of the Association not later than the 30th April.

Power to fill vacancy in Council.

14. The Council of this Association may fill any vacancy in the Office of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon.Secretary, Asst.Hon. Secretary, Hon.Treasurer, Asst. Hon.Treasurer, Auditor or Auditors, which may occur during the season.

Election of Chairman etc.

15. At the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting they shall elect from their number a Chairman and Vice Chairman to act for the season. The Chairman or in his absence the Vice Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Council at which he is present, and shall conduct the business in accordance with the ordinary rules of procedure of which he shall be judge.
- In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman they shall appoint a member from amongst those present to act as Chairman. In the case of votes on any motion the presiding Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative one.

Council may delegate its Powers

16. The Council shall have power to appoint such committees or commissions as it may be considered necessary and may by resolution of Council or standing orders delegate all or any of its powers to such committee or commission. The Council shall make such regulations for the

control of the game for Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Youth football, by the setting up of Sub Committees or such other bodies as may be deemed desirable or directed by the Council of the Football Association of Ireland. The Council shall make such regulation for the control and remuneration of referees and for Cups and club competitions as they may from time to time consider necessary.

- 16 (a) The Association shall be entitled to hold, occupy, sub lease, licence, hire, charter and grant rights and privileges in respect of or otherwise deal with lands, hereditaments, houses, buildings and all property of every nature, kind, description and tenure belonging to the Association or in respect of which the Association may have any estate, interest, rights or licences, to deal with same commercially and to purchase lands and buildings and to borrow monies for such purposes and or levy members of the Association for such purposes. Any levy to be subject to approval of the membership at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

Disqualification of Members

17. The office of an officer or a member of Council shall be vacated:

1. (a) If he absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Council or any committee or commission of same, without special leave of absence from or reason satisfactory to the Council, or any Committee or Commission respectively.

(b) If he receives payment for services either directly or indirectly (beyond out of pocket expenses for assistant referee, referee or otherwise in matches.) Payment of professional fees for professional service shall not be deemed payment within the meaning of this rule.
2. (a) Any officer or member of Council or member of a League Committee shall be at liberty to contract with the Association and shall not be disqualified by reason of his having so contracted, and such officer or member of Council or member of League Management Committee shall not be bound to account to the Association from his having so contracted with it provided that at the time the contract is entered into he discloses his interest therein and does not vote on the matter.

(b) A non-amateur 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.

(c) Nominated representatives from The Irish Soccer Referees Society shall be permitted to represent the Society on the referees committee as provided for by the rules of the FAI.

(d) Amateur and Associate Referees are also exempt from this rule.

Power of Council

18. The management of the business and the control of the Association shall be vested in the Council, who may exercise all such powers and carry out all such objects of the Association as are not by these rules expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Association in General Meeting.
- 18 (a) The Council may appoint and remove solicitors, bankers, agents, officials or servants and confer on them respectively, such powers or duties as they may consider fit.

19. The Annual General Meeting which shall consist of the office bearers of the Association, members of the Council, members of League Management Committees, and one representative from each affiliated team shall be held no later than the 3rd Monday in June. Seven days notice of such meetings shall be given. Clubs with two or more teams must have different representatives for each team. The President and Vice Presidents, members of League Management Committees shall be entitled to speak at all General Meetings of the Association but shall not be entitled to vote except as a club representative. Notification for AGM and SGM shall be through the various League Secretaries.

19 (a) The venue and date of the Annual General Meeting be decided at the March Council meeting.

Special General Meeting

20. Special General Meetings may be called by the Council as they deem necessary. A Special General Meeting shall also be called upon receipt by the Hon. Secretary of the Association of a requisition signed by the Secretaries of one third of the total affiliated clubs in membership accompanied by a deposit of one hundred and twenty seven euro (€127) to be paid by the clubs signing the requisition, to defray expenses incurred; balance if any to be refunded. No business shall be conducted at such meeting except that specified in the requisition to or contained in the Agenda issued by the Hon. Secretary of the Association.

Ineligibility to attend General Meeting

21. No club shall have a right to a representative to the Annual General Meeting unless the Club's subscription has been paid on or before the 30th September preceding. No club shall have a right to a representative to a Special General Meeting unless the Club's subscription has been paid at least fourteen days before the date fixed for such Special General Meeting, and in no case later than 31st October in any season. In the case of clubs formed after the 31st October such clubs shall be entitled to a representative at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting provided their subscription has been paid within twenty one days of election to membership.

Protests, Appeals and Investigations

22. Clubs, players or members of clubs and all others dissatisfied with the decisions of any League, combination of Leagues or similar organisations under the jurisdiction of this Association shall have the right to appeal to this Association against such decisions. Appeals must be sent to the Hon. Secretary by registered post within four days of the date on which the notification of the decision to appeal was received in the first place and must be accompanied by a fee of €100 for all grades, otherwise protests or appeals will not be entertained. 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. 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. A period of four days after the receipt of the protest shall be afforded the club protested against to lodge a cross protest.

The body against whom the appeal is made, must forward to the Hon. Secretary no later than 7 days after receipt of the appeal, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting which made the original decision and any other requested documentation relevant to the appeal. Failure to comply with the correct procedure as outlined above will result in disciplinary action being taken by the appeals committee against either party. All fees must be forwarded by Postal Order or Draft. Orders and Drafts to be made payable to this Association and crossed. The appellant must set out clearly the grounds on which the appeal is based. The appeals committee shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal and / or to vary the sanction and / or fine. In the event of an appeal being deemed frivolous or out of order, a fine up to a maximum of €150 may be imposed.

Protest and Investigations

23. In cases of protests, appeals or investigations of any kind, members of the club or clubs concerned who may be members of Council, and members of the League of which the club are members shall not have the privilege of being present (except in the capacity of a witness) and such members shall not be entitled to vote at any subsequent meeting of Council on matters arising from such previous protest, appeal or investigation.

Mode of Voting

24. At the Annual General Meeting all questions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a demand be made by a member of the meeting, supported by at least a fourth of the representatives in attendance and voting, for a ballot.

Delegates

25. The Council shall have power to appoint representatives to the Football Association of Ireland, to any League or like body under its control, or delegates to any conference of Association.

Duties of Hon. Secretary

26. The Hon. Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Association and shall present a report of the season's work at the Annual General Meeting.

Duties of Hon. Assistant Secretary

27. The Hon. Assistant Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the Council in the mode presented by them and undertake other duties as the Council directs.

Duties of Hon. Treasurer

28. The Hon. Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Association and keep regular accounts of same. He shall submit statements of receipts and disbursements to the Annual General Meeting and to the Council at all finance meetings. He shall audit his accounts on the 31st March each year and shall submit audited statement thereof to be available to each club seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Council may order intermediate audits at any time.

Checking Gate Receipts

29. All gate receipts of the Association shall be checked at the conclusion of the game by the Hon. Treasurer and a member of the Finance committee, or in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer by three members of the Council and at the first meeting of the Council thereafter a report of the receipts shall be made and inserted in the minutes.

Funds and Accounts of the Association

30. The funds of the Association shall be lodged in such bank as may be approved by the Finance committee. All accounts shall be submitted to the Finance committee and if approved, be paid; all cheques to be signed by the Hon. Treasurer and Chairman or Hon. Secretary.

Members of Council's Rights of Access to Books

31. Every member of Council shall have the right of access at all reasonable times to the books, documents, accounts and vouchers of the Association, and shall be entitled to receive from the Council and Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer such information and explanations as he may consider necessary in connection with any items of receipts and expenditure.

Clubs & Players cannot play under any Rules other than this Association's

32. No club or player shall be permitted to play in any matches with clubs not affiliated to the FAI except with the special permission of the latter body.

Clubs or Players infringing these Rules

33. Any infringement of any rule of the Association or the Laws of the Game shall render the offending club and any member of same and offending player of a club liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or such other penalty as the Council may think fit.

Suspended Person or Player ineligible to hold Office etc.

34. A player or member of a club or League shall not during the period of the suspension, play or take part in any match or fixture under this Association, hold any office in his club or act in any capacity under this Association.

Objectionable Conduct

35. In the event of ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any player in any match under the jurisdiction of this Association, such player shall be cautioned by the referee and the incident and player reported to the Council. In the case of violent conduct the referee shall rule the offending player out of play and order him off the ground, transmitting his name and address and official card to the Council of this Association, but such player shall be at liberty to assist his club in any subsequent matches until his case has been dealt with by the Council. It is recommended in accordance with FAI Guidelines that any player reported by the referee for committing an assault on the referee or assistant referee shall have his case heard within five days of the incident happening. The Council shall have the power to suspend, fine or otherwise deal with any player proved guilty of ungentlemanly behaviour or violent conduct on the field of play.

Appeal against Punishment

36. Clubs, players or members of clubs and all others dissatisfied with decisions of the Council of this Association shall have the right of appeal to the FAI and such appeal must be made in accordance with the Rules of that body.

Suspension of Clubs

37. The suspension of a team shall mean the particular team concerned, and officials of such team from participating in any way under the jurisdiction of the Munster Football Association. The suspension of any such team shall not affect any other team from the club.

Suspension of Members or Officers

38. The Council shall have power to suspend or otherwise deal with as they consider fit, any of its members or any Hon. Officer of the Association who in its opinion may be deemed guilty of conduct likely to bring discredit on the Association, the Council or the game. Divulging information regarding business transacted or to be transacted by the Council shall be deemed misconduct under this rule. Members or Officers who may feel aggrieved by the result of a decision under this rule shall have the right of appeal to the Council of the FAI.

Suspension of Member of Club

39. Any member of a suspended club who may be on the Council of this Association shall not act in such capacity or any other capacity under the Association during the period of his suspension. A person may be elected in his stead to the Council or committee affected, but the person so appointed shall only act during the period of suspension, and not in any case beyond the time the member of Council or committee would have acted under these rules.

Players at Disposal of Council

40. Each club shall be bound to place its players at the disposal of the Council for representative and other matches arranged by Council.

Powers to deal with Players refusing to play in Representative Matches

41. Any player selected to play in any Inter Provincial or other match arranged by this Association and without good and sufficient cause, failing to comply with the arrangements of the Council for playing in the match or failing to play in such match, may be adjudged by the Council to be guilty of misconduct, and shall be dealt with as the Council thinks fit. The Council shall also deal with (as it thinks fit) any Club or Clubs that may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated such player in the breach of instruction of Rules.

Clubs Responsible for actions of its players etc.

42. Every club is responsible to Council of this Association for the action of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials during or at the conclusion of matches.

Dates Reserved by the Council

43. Leagues or clubs must not arrange fixtures on the date of Semi-Finals and Finals of Munster Senior, Junior & Youth Challenge Cups, Inter-Provincial or other representative games arranged by the MFA except by special permission from the Association. This prohibition applies only to towns or cities in which such matches are played.

Cup Competitions

44. Cup-ties shall take precedence over all other matches in their respective grades.

Protests relating to Ground etc.

45. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game, shall not be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible club to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the match. When an objection has been lodged with the referee a protest must be made to the Association accompanied by a deposit of €15. If in the opinion of the Council, the complaint is frivolous the deposit shall be forfeited.

Transfers

46. No player, either non-amateur or amateur, shall play for two clubs during the same season without first getting a transfer from his original club and satisfying all the valid claims of that club. "Original" shall mean the club which the player first registered for.
- 46 (a) The closing date for the transfer of players from one club to another, or from one League to another, shall be 31st January.

Referees to be Neutral and Pass Examination / Referees Fees

47. All referees shall be neutral and shall be appointed by the Council. All referees before appointment must have satisfactorily passed a qualifying examination held by the Examination Committee. Referees fees and expenses to be paid prior to the commencement of each match.

Professional Referees or Players ineligible to attend Meetings

48. A non-amateur player or non-amateur referee is ineligible to act as a representative at any meeting of this Association or at any meeting of its constituent bodies, or of any League combination etc. subject to the rules of the FAI.

Complaints against Referees

49. All complaints against referees, giving full details, must be received by the Hon. Secretary of the Association within four days from the cause of such complaint, and the Council will not entertain any complaint against referees unless made in accordance with the foregoing.

Indemnity

50. Every Officer, member of the Council, Hon. Secretary or other officials or servant of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them, respectively, in or about the discharge of their respective duties, except such as may happen from their own respective wilful acts or defaults.

Members of Council entitled to Free Admission to Grounds

51. Members of the Council of this Association shall be entitled to free admission to all grounds under the jurisdiction of the Association on producing their card of membership.

Expenses allowed to Members

52. Members of the Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Commissions shall be allowed such expenses as may be incurred in the performance of their duties as this Association shall approve.

Chairman & Hon. Treasurer, Owners of Cups, Money etc.

53. The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer for the time being of this Association shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owners of the cups, monies and the property of the Association and shall deal with same, according to the direction of the Council.
- 53 (a) All the property of the Association shall be vested in Trustees. The Trustees shall consist of not more than five or less than three and shall be appointed by the Council at a special meeting of the members to be called by Council after the passing of the resolution. They shall hold office until death, resignation or removal by the Council. They shall carry out all directives of Council in connection with requisition or disposal of property and in respect of all dealings relevant to the use of property. The Council shall have power to appoint or replace Trustees at its absolute discretion. Such a decision shall require a minimum of two-thirds of the Council members to so vote.
54. That while Association Football in the entire Province of Munster is to remain as heretofore under the ultimate control of the Munster Football Association, nevertheless the right is conceded to the committees of Waterford District League, Limerick District League, Limerick Desmond Football League, Clare District League, Kerry District League, Cork Athletic Union Football League, Tipperary Southern & District League, North Tipperary & District League, Munster Senior League, Cork Business & Shipping League, West Waterford/East Cork League and the West Cork League to organise and control the Leagues and similar competitions in their respective areas. No team or club in these areas may enter any Leagues or competitions of the other areas without sanction of the Munster Football Association. This rule to apply to all clubs under the control of the MFA.
- 54 (a) Applications for permission to organise Summer League, tournaments etc., must be made to Council before the 1st June in each year. Council shall at the commencement of each season fix the amount of Associate fees to be paid by each club. A financial statement of accounts shall be submitted to Council in respect of all tournaments and competitions, players officials and referees participating in unauthorised competitions shall be liable to be fined, suspended or otherwise dealt with by Council. (*Associate fees €13 per team.*)

Rules to be furnished to each Club

55. Each League shall be furnished with a copy of any amendments to these rules to be distributed to all clubs in membership of that League, not later than 1st October each year and shall be bound thereby.
- 55 (a) The Hon.Secretary of Council shall appoint all referees relating to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Munster Football Association involving teams of different leagues and must advise the Fixture Secretaries of the Leagues concerned not later than the Tuesday preceding the game.

Amendments to Rules

56. Any alteration or addition to these rules being deemed necessary, notice of the proposed alteration shall be sent in writing per registered letter to the Hon.Secretary of the Association by the 10th April in each year, signed for and on behalf of the Club or other constituent body by the Secretary. Particulars of all such proposed alterations or additions to the Rules shall be available on request to the clubs and Leagues not later than 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Such alterations shall not be made unless supported by a two-third majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Production of Books etc.

57. The Council shall have power to call upon clubs, Leagues, Alliances and other organisations, members of same and players of a club, to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence the Council may desire.
58. Leagues must receive the approval of the Association annually. All Leagues and other bodies under the control of this Association shall submit their rules annually for sanction through this Association for submission to the Football Association of Ireland. Applications to this Association for the approval for the formation of new Leagues or the approval of alterations in the constitution of rules of existing Leagues, or other bodies, must be made by the 15th July or 10 days after formation, or they may not be entertained. Leagues or other bodies seeking sanction for alterations shall call attention of their amendments therein. Alterations to rules or the approval of new formation of rules will not have binding force until passed by the Football Association of Ireland. Any League or other body not complying with the provision of this rule may be dealt with as the Council shall think fit. Any club taking part in a competition not so sanctioned will be liable to be fined, suspended, expelled or otherwise dealt with as the Association shall think just. The Association shall have power at any time to make enquires into the working of such Leagues etc., and to deal with same.

Council to deal with matters not provided for

59. The Council shall have power to deal with matters not provided for in these rules.
60. In the event of any discrepancy between the rules of the FAI and the MFA or its affiliated Leagues, the rules of the FAI shall prevail.