

**Kildare and District Football League**  
**CLUB HANDBOOK**  
**Rules & Constitution**  
**(As amended 1st March 2017)**

**Rule 1 Title**

The League shall be called “The Kildare and District Football League” hereinafter referred to as “The League.”

**Rule 2 Affiliation**

The League shall be affiliated to The Leinster Football Association and The Football Association of Ireland.

**Rule 3 Objects**

The objects of the League shall be to co-operate with The Bodies mentioned in Rule 2 in their efforts to promote, foster and develop the game of Association Football in The Kildare & District Football League area, and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable to prevent any infringements of the rules of the game or other improper methods or practices in the game and to protect it from abuse and to do all such things as are incidental or inductive to the attainment of these objects.

**Rule 4 Membership**

- a) Clubs having their own grounds, public grounds, or use of, shall be eligible for membership subject to the approval of the League. On admission to the League each club, their respective officials, representatives, players and members shall be bound by the decisions of the League which shall be final and binding on all concerned, subject to all existing rights of appeal to the Leinster Football Association, in the first instance and then to the Football Association of Ireland and or independent arbitration thereafter.
- b) A club shall not be admitted to the League if it cannot provide a permanent home venue for its fixtures. The League will inspect these facilities in order to ensure that they are of the required standard. The league may in exceptional circumstances allow a club to play its’ home games at the away venue on a temporary basis. All new teams/clubs wishing to enter the league must ensure they have adequate internal structures in place within their clubs (ie. Committee/security of grounds/finalancial)
- c) Senior division clubs must have suitable dressing facilities in place by the commencement of the 2015 season and must have suitable dressing room and showering facilities in place by the commencement of the 2018 season.

**Rule 5 Application for Membership**

Application from intending Clubs for admission to the League, which must be made in writing on the Official Club Registration Form, not later than February 15<sup>th</sup> each year should include the following particulars:

- a) Situation of grounds and whether public or private
- b) Club colours
- c) Names and addresses of club secretary and members of the committee
- d) Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of officers.
- e) Proof that the club holds a current Public Liability Insurance Policy.

Teams changing secretaries or secretaries changing their addresses must notify the Hon. Secretary of The League, Hon. Secretary of each League Club and the Secretaries of The L.F.A. and the F.A.I. immediately. Failure to do so may render a team liable to removal from competition.

#### **Rule 6 Control of League**

- a) The control of the League shall be vested in the Executive Committee, hereinafter called The Executive, which shall consist of President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar and other Committee members as shall be deemed necessary, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Any five of the Executive shall form a quorum.
- b) The Executive shall appoint a manager and / or other technical staff to select, manage, train and coach all teams representing the League.

#### **Rule 7 Vacancies in Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall fill by co-option any vacancies arising in the Committee during their term of office. Should there be no nomination for a vacant position on the Executive Committee to the League Annual General Meeting the incoming Committee may fill the position by appointing one of its number or by co-option.

#### **Rule 8 Access to Books etc.**

Every member of the Executive shall have the right of access, at all reasonable times, to the books, documents, accounts and vouchers of the League and shall be entitled to receive from the Committee and the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer such information and explanation as he/she may consider necessary in connection with any item of items of expenditure.

**Rule 9 Meetings**

a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month for the purpose of transacting any business that may arise and to receive a monthly financial statement from the Hon. Treasurer.

b) A Meeting of Club Representatives, hereinafter referred to as the League Council, shall be held bi-monthly or as often as necessary at which the business to be transacted will consist of the reading of minutes, correspondence, financial statement and any other business that may arise. These meetings shall be held on Wednesday. Each affiliated Club must send a representative to these meetings and only those bearing the authorisation of the Club will be allowed to attend. A deputy delegate may be appointed in writing but in no case may two or more Clubs be represented by the same delegate.

c) The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the League at which he/she is present and shall conduct the business in accordance with the ordinary rules of procedure of which he/she, shall be the judge. Should a vacancy occur in the Office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy from amongst its members. In the absence of both Chairman and Vice-Chairman they shall appoint a member of the Executive Committee to act as Chairman. In the case of equality of votes on any motion the presiding Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as an original one.

**Rule 10 Non Attendance at Meetings**

Should any member of the Executive Committee absent himself/herself for three successive meetings without special leave of absence or reason, deemed satisfactory to the Committee, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned. In the event of a member of the League Council absenting himself/herself from a League Management meeting his/her club shall be fined an amount as prescribed in the standard Schedule of Fines.

**Rule 11 Annual General Meeting**

a) Notification of the date of the Annual General

Meeting and all matters which it is intended to include in the agenda, together with details of resolutions and proposed alterations and/or additions to the Rules must be sent in writing to each club by the League Hon. Secretary not less than 7 calendar (seven) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each affiliated club shall be entitled to representation at the Annual General Meeting by 3 (three) delegates but no two or more clubs may be represented by the same delegate. The AGM shall take place, where possible, on the fourth Thursday of February each year.

b) Members of the outgoing Executive Committee shall be present at the Annual General Meeting and shall have full voting powers.

c) A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee as may be deemed necessary or a Special General Meeting shall also be called upon receipt by the Hon. Secretary of the League of a Requisition signed by the secretaries of at least half of the affiliated Clubs. The only business to be transacted at such meeting shall be that specified on the requisition or contained in the agenda issued by the Hon. Secretary of the League. 7 calendar (seven) days notice of any such meeting shall be given to the secretaries of all clubs in the League.

d) Any alteration or addition to these rules being deemed necessary, notice of the proposed alteration/addition must be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the League, bearing a postmark not less than 21 calendar (twenty-one) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, signed on behalf of the club concerned by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Chairman of that club. Such alteration/addition shall not be made unless supported by a two-third majority of those present and voting at the A.G.M.

e) The Hon. Treasurer of the League shall furnish to the secretary of each club an audited statement of accounts with the League for the previous year not less than 7 calendar (seven) days prior to the date of the A.G.M.

f) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1) To receive a report from the

Committee of the working of the League during the Season.

2) To consider the Statement of Accounts

3) To elect an Executive Committee for the following Season.

4) To transact any other business that may arise.

5) To debate all motions (which are deemed in order by the Executive Committee) which have been submitted by clubs or the Executive Committee.

6) Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the League Secretary not less than 21 calendar (twenty-one) days before the date of the A.G.M. such nominations must be signed by at least 2 (two) officers of the nominating Club.

7) The League Secretary shall issue a list of outgoing and retiring officers and Committee personnel at least 30 calendar (thirty) days in advance of the A.G.M. Outgoing personnel need not be nominated by Clubs.

8) The A.G.M. shall elect the patrons (Not more than eight) from the nominations put forward through the Executive Committee at least two months (61 days) in advance of the A.G.M. They shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee before the A.G.M.

9) Any Club whose account is not paid in full prior to the AGM shall not have any voting right at the AGM or subsequent meetings until their account is clear.

**Rule 12 Matches for League Purposes**

The Executive Committee may arrange a match/matches each season, the proceeds of which will be devoted to League funds.

**Rule 13 Competitions**

a) The Executive Committee shall have the power to organise competitions and to frame such rules as may be necessary for these competitions.

b) The finals of the League and the Senior Division cups shall be held in the best available ground. The Committee shall decide on this issue.

**Rule 14 Sub-Committees**

All sub-committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

**Rule 15 Inducement to act contrary to rules**

Any club, team, official or player deemed guilty of inducing or attempting to induce other clubs, teams or officials to act contrary to the rules and decisions of the Kildare and District Football League may be liable to expulsion from the League. Or be otherwise dealt with as the Executive may decide.

**Rule 16 Suspension**

Any club or team suspended from the League shall not take part in any competition under the auspices of the League.

**Rule 17 Notification of suspensions**

Clubs shall be notified by email of notice of suspensions affecting them except in the case of serious misconduct where the decision will be delivered by hand to a member of the executive of the club involved the suspension becomes effective on delivery.

All clubs shall be notified of the names of all players suspended by the Disciplinary Committee after the player's own club has been first notified.

**Rule 18 Finance**

a) The Finances of the League shall be controlled by the Executive Committee and audited by recognised auditors who are approved by the A.G.M.

b) The Financial year of the League shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and end on 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year.

c) The Annual Player registration fee shall be decided by the incoming Executive Committee at their first meeting after the AGM, the player registration fee shall incorporate the League affiliation fee/s.

d) All financial commitments to the League must be paid in the timeframe decided by the Executive Committee. Any club in default may be liable to forfeiture of ties or removal from the League. All Club's financial Commitments to the League for the previous season must be paid on or before the end of the financial year 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. Failure to do so will result in their application for membership being refused.

e) A player stands suspended until any fines attaching to him are paid in full.

**Rule 19 Banking**

The Hon. Treasurer shall take control of all funds. All monies received must be lodged in an approved

Bank/s to the account/s of the K.D.F.L. Lodgements to be made immediately so that no cash remains on hand except outside of banking hours. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall operate the account/s. All drawings save as hereinafter provided, must be made by cheque with the exception of authorised petty cash expenditure in respect of postage and such like. Any two of the above signatories are necessary to operate the account/s.

**Rule 20 Books**

The Treasurer shall keep such books, which shall be audited, as required by the Executive Committee. He/She shall enter in a proper Analysis cashbook the date of receipt of such monies as may be handed to him/her, together with details of each withdrawal from the bank.

**Rule 21 League Secretary's Expenses**

The Hon. Secretary of the League shall be allowed such sums as may be considered necessary to meet his/her expenses during the season. He/she must keep a true record of his/her receipts and expenditure in a recognised account book complete with the dates on which the expenditure was incurred. He/she must submit his/her accounts to the Treasurer as and when required but not later than 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

**Rule 22 League Trustees**

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall for the time being be for all intents and purposes owners of all Cups, Trophies, Monies and Property of the League and shall deal with the same in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee.

**Rule 23 Club Accounts/Records**

- a) Clubs shall keep minutes of their meetings, showing names and dates of election of members and enter details in their cashbooks of all financial transactions.
- b) The Executive Committee of the League shall have power to call on clubs, their officers, members or players to produce any books, letters or documents and/or other evidence, which may be desired.
- c) All clubs in the League shall supply a true copy of the Minutes of their A.G.M. and also a copy of the club's financial report to the Executive Committee each Season.

**Rule 24 Vacancies in the League**

The Executive Committee alone has power to elect clubs and to fill vacancies, which may arise and may curtail or extend competitions at their discretion.

**Rule 25 Right to Refuse Application**

The Executive Committee reserve the right to refuse an application for membership and to suspend, fine, expel or otherwise deal with any club or members or officials of a club for failing to comply with any order or decision made by the Executive Committee or whose conduct is considered prejudicial to the interest of the League.

**Rule 26 Notice of Suspension**

The League Secretary upon approval of the Disciplinary committee shall be empowered to inform any Club, which is in breach of Rule 25 of immediate, notice of suspension (per hand, post or email).

**Rule 27 Conduct of League Officials**

The Committee shall have power to investigate charges against League Officials and to remove from office any person whose conduct in the management of League affairs has been proved objectionable.

**Rule 28 Registration of Players**

- a) Players shall be registered on a form supplied by the League. This form shall be returned to the Registrar by post or by hand. Clubs must ensure that forms are in the possession of the Registrar before a player/players take part in competition.
- b) The Registration Period shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup>. of December to the 30<sup>th</sup>. of September inclusive.
- c) The Transfer Period shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> of June to 30<sup>th</sup>. September inclusive.
- d) If a player's Registration expires naturally at the end of the current season (i.e 31<sup>st</sup>. May for the Winter Season / 30<sup>th</sup>. November for the Summer Season )a transfer is not required for the player to register with another club in another League. Players registered with clubs whose fixtures extend beyond the above dates are committed to these clubs until their fixtures are completed.
- e) A player who is registered with a club playing a Winter Season and who wishes to transfer to a club playing a Summer Season must receive a transfer from his club before 31<sup>st</sup>. January.
- f) An Amateur player may be signed on a



Professional Contract for the Professional game during the Professional Registration periods.

g) A bona-fide player of a club is one who otherwise being eligible is registered with the Registrar of the League.

h) The League Registrar will furnish the Club on request with a dated receipt of same.

A player cannot sign for a second club without receiving a transfer from his first.

Clubs should note that a player who intends to transfer cannot be registered unless he has first received a transfer.

i) In accordance with FAI Rules all players must be registered at least one calendar day between the date of receipt of the registration by the league and the date of the match and at least 14 days before a domestic cup/shield/play off game. For purposes of this rule Cup and Shield games carry the same status.

j) A minor signing for the first time must complete the country of birth section of the form and also the date of birth section. Players wishing to compete in the under 19 section or Under 17 section must complete the date of birth section in the Registration form.

#### **Rule 29 Transfers**

All transfers shall be requested on the Official Form supplied by the League and shall be granted or rejected by the Executive Committee. The relevant transfer fee to be paid to the Treasurer with the transfer request.

#### **Rule 30 Player Inducement**

Any Club/Team deemed guilty of inducing or attempting to induce a player from another Club/Clubs may be liable to removal from the League or otherwise dealt with as the Executive Committee see fit.

#### **Rule 31 Ineligible Players**

Clubs proved guilty of playing ineligible players in any competition under the auspices of K.D.F.L. shall be fined an amount to be decided by the Executive Committee for each offence and be otherwise dealt with as the Executive Committee may determine. (eg points deduction etc). Clubs have the right to purchase from the League a "Signature Check Sheet". This Sheet may be used at the club's games to prove the identity / eligibility of up to four players on the opposing team via the Match Official. Each Signature Check Sheet can be used for one game only. Extra Sheets can be purchased from the League if required. The completed Signature Check Sheet

should then be lodged with the Protest in accordance with Rule . The cost of the Signature Check Sheets shall be Decided by the League Committee from time to time.

**Rule 32 Fixtures**

a) Clubs will be notified of fixtures by publication of the same in a National and/or Provincial newspaper, for the time being the fixtures carried in The Leinster Leader are deemed to be the official fixtures. The Fixtures Secretary will advise clubs of any alteration to this arrangement. The Fixtures Secretary at his/her discretion may order teams to play evening games if necessary.

**Rule 33 Regrading**

If a player has played five or more games for a team of his Clubs/Club in a high Division he can no longer play for a team competing in a lower Division without being re-graded. Not more than 5 (five) players can be re-graded to a team in any one Season. The final date for such re-grading shall be 30<sup>th</sup>. September each year. Requests for re-grading must be made on the official form supplied by the League.

**Rule 34 Power to Alter Fixtures**

The League Secretary/Fixtures Secretary shall arrange all matches and he/she shall fix the time and kick-off. No club shall have the power to postpone or break a fixture or change the venue or time without the prior consent of the League/Fixtures Secretary. Postponements may not be granted.

Note: The kick-off time indicated by a club in its Application for Membership of the League is a preferred kick-off time only and may be altered by the Fixtures Secretary if the need arises.

In the event of a game being cancelled a club should be notified of the cancellation by phone (not by email)

**Rule 35 Refusal of Clubs to Fulfil Fixture**

a) Any Club refusing to fulfil a fixture as directed by the League Fixtures Secretary may be adjudged to have lost the match and be otherwise dealt with as the Executive Committee may determine.

b) A team failing to fulfil a fixture in the Senior division, without having a reason acceptable to the committee, shall be deducted three points

c) A team in the Senior division which causes the cancellation of a game, due to an inadequately prepared ground shall be deducted three points.

d) Any team conceding a walkover shall be deducted three points.

**Rule 36 Abandoned Matches**

If for any cause whatever a match has been abandoned before the completion of the full period of time the Executive Committee shall have power at its discretion to:

- a) Order the match to be replayed in its entirety
- b) Leave the result stand.

**Rule 37 Requirements for Match Day**

All clubs must provide the following requirements on match Day:

Proper pitch markings

Regulation goalposts and nets

Four corner flags, (minimum five feet high)

Suitable playing surface

Proper access to the ground

and any other items the Executive Committee may deem necessary

Both clubs must provide:

Two playable match balls, which must be FIFA approved.

First aid kit

Eighteen numbered shirts.

The match card must be properly and legibly completed giving the

Full first names and surnames of all players.

The match card must be completed prior to kick off.

The referee must receive prompt payment prior to kick off of the fees laid down elsewhere in this booklet.

**Rule 38 Choice of Colours**

In the event of the two clubs registering the same colours the home club shall change when the clubs meet in competition. In the event of such clubs having to play a test or other match on neutral grounds the choice of colours shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

**Rule 39 Tournaments**

Clubs/Teams/Players/Organisations or Firms wishing to run/organise or participate in Tournaments must seek the permission of the Executive Committee and The Leinster Football Association. Parties taking part in unauthorised tournaments may be suspended and otherwise dealt with as directed by the League, The L.F.A. and/or the F.A.I.

**Rule 40 Referees: Appointment of**

The League Secretary or the Fixtures Secretary shall appoint referees, at the discretion of the League.

In the absence of the appointed Referee the two clubs may agree to the appointment of an Official at the Venue and such referee shall be considered a League

official for the time being. In the event of an appointed Referee being unable to attend he / she shall notify the League / Fixtures Secretary of the League as early as possible.

**Rule 41 Referees: Complaints Against**

Any complaints against Referees must be lodged with the Referees committee of the Football Association of Ireland and a copy sent to the League Secretary within 4 (four) days of the cause of the complaint.

**Rule 42 Referees to decide fitness of ground**

In the case of unfavourable weather the Referee must inspect the ground previous to the advertised time of kick off and on appeal by either of the competing teams must give a decision as to whether the ground is playable, his decision being final. The Hon. Sec. of the League shall also be empowered to authorise a delegate to visit the ground in order to obviate the necessity of a team travelling. The League shall pay the cost of such inspection.

**Rule 43 Referees: Fees**

Referees fees shall be laid down by the F.A.I. Referees Committee from time to time. Each team shall pay 50% of the fees for all games under the jurisdiction of the League except for cup and shield finals and playoff finals, where the cost will be borne by the League. The referee's fee should be paid in advance of the game.

**Rule 44 Referees: Duties**

All Referees officiating in the K.D.F.L. shall be obliged to carry out the instructions on the official match card and return same to the League Hon. Secretary by first post on Tuesday. The card is the property of the league and must be produced by the match official on demand to any member of the Executive Committee. A detailed report of cautions, dismissals and any other incident/s before during or after the game must be furnished to the League with the match card.

**Rule 45 Referees: Appointment for Major Matches**

The League Fixture Secretary and the area Referees Inspector shall appoint all referees for semi-finals and finals, two weeks in advance of the match date.

**Rule 46 Representative Games**

Each club when required shall place its players and grounds at the disposal of the Executive Committee.

Any player selected to play in a match arranged by the Executive Committee, The L.F.A. or F.A.I. who without good and sufficient cause refuses to comply with the arrangements of the Committee for the playing of the match, or fails to play in such a match, may be adjudged by the Committee to be guilty of misconduct and any player or club which may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated such player to such miss-conduct may be dealt with as the Committee sees fit.

**Rule 47 Intimidation by Spectators**

When it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that the supporters of a club which has choice of ground systematically interfere with the play of the opposing club by using obscene language or inciting the home team to use violence towards their opponents etc. the Executive Committee on the application of the visiting club shall have power to order the match to be replayed at another ground, neutral if possible, and shall deal with the offending club as they see fit.

**Rule 48 Suspended Players & Clubs**

Clubs playing against suspended clubs shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee, who shall have power to suspend, fine or otherwise deal with such offence.

**Rule 49 Protests**

a) Protests must be received by the Hon. Secretary of the League per registered mail bearing a post mark within 4 (four) days (Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays excluded) after the cause of the protest and must be accompanied by a deposit, in the form of a money order or bank draft, the amount of which shall be laid down by the League from time to time. This fee will be returned only in the event of the protest being upheld or not heard. A copy of the protest must be sent by registered mail to the secretary of the club protested against, within the period aforesaid. A period of 48 hours after the receipt of protest shall be afforded to the club protested against to lodge a cross protest. A protest may not be withdrawn without the consent of the Executive Committee.

b) If the Executive Committee has any doubt as to the qualifications of a player his club may be required to prove that he qualified

according to the Rules and failing satisfactory proof the Executive Committee may deal further with the offending player/club.

c) In cases of protests or investigations of any kind members of the Executive Committee concerned with the interested clubs shall not have the privilege of voting thereon. A member of the Committee shall not vote or take part in any discussion on any matter affecting a club or player with which he himself may be concerned.

d) Clubs concerned in a protest must receive 48 hours notice of the hearing and the protesting club must produce all evidence at the first meeting. The protester has the right of personal attendance provided he advises the League Secretary accordingly.

**Rule 50**

Disciplinary measures are under the control of the Executive Committee who may delegate powers to a Disciplinary Committee of the Kildare and District Football League.

**Rule 51 Appeals to the LFA / FAI**

Decisions of the KDFL Executive/Disciplinary Committee on all matters shall be final

and binding but clubs shall have the right to appeal firstly to the Leinster Football Association and then to the Football Association of Ireland. Any such appeal must be forwarded to the Secretary of such association per registered letter, bearing a postmark within four clear days of the date on which the notification was sent to the appellant and must be accompanied by the appeal fee the amount of which shall be the same as that laid down in the rules of the Association being appealed to. A copy of such appeal must be sent per registered post within the same period to the Hon. Secretary of the League and/or club or clubs concerned.

**Rule 52 Free admission to matches**

Members of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to free admission to all matches under the jurisdiction of the League.

**Rule 53 Receipt of Trophies**

All Clubs winning trophies will be required to sign a receipt on behalf of their Club for such trophies (Collection & Return of Trophy Form).

**Rule 54 League Competitions**

- a)** The League Competition shall be divided into sections as decided by the Executive Committee each Season.
- b)** All Youth / underage League and Cup Competitions shall be confined to players who are under age on the dates as set down by the Football Association of Ireland.
- c)** Each club in the Senior Division shall be circulated with a fixture list for the First half of the season prior to the start of the season. These fixtures shall be reversed the second half of the season where possible (allowing for domestic, Provincial National and Inter League competition).
- d)** The Fixtures Secretary shall arrange all matches and venues and teams shall play home and away matches except as otherwise directed.
- e)** Midweek fixtures shall be played on a day stipulated by the fixtures Secretary.
- f)** In the event of a fixture postponement being granted to a Club the onus is on the Club to notify the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match official.
- g)** Any Club failing to fulfil a match, unless such Club has withdrawn from the competition, shall be fined a sum equivalent to the amount of travelling and other reasonable expenses incurred by their opponents. Such fines shall be paid through the Executive Committee to the Club, which has incurred such expenses.
- h)** The League Shield shall be an optional competition for clubs with teams in the Senior Division
- i)** Any club that has not satisfied its financial commitments to the League to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee may not be considered for entry into the Divisional / League Cup and Shield competitions.

**Rule 55 Club Withdrawing From League**

- a)** In the event of a team withdrawing from competition before the end of the season, their club may be required to lodge a bond (Amount to be decided by the Executive Committee) before being allowed to compete in the following season. The amount of this bond will be refunded to the club on the satisfactory completion by that team of their full compliment of fixtures.
- b)** If the club/clubs have played one half or more of their League fixtures their record in the League shall stand. Points for un-played matches shall be credited to other clubs as they accrue. If clubs have not completed one half of their League fixtures their record shall be expunged from the League table.

c) Players of a club, which has withdrawn from the League may sign for another club, subject to the normal rules of registration / regarding. In addition to the registration fee the club shall pay a levy, which shall be calculated as follows. An amount equal to the total debts to the League (if any) of the disbanded club divided by the total number of players registered by that club in the season in question.

**Rule 56 Sharing of Gate Receipts**

The home team shall retain all gate receipts in all League matches, but in knockout competitions the gate receipts shall be equally divided after expenses have been deducted. Where it is evident that the financial circumstances of the League warrant it the Executive Committee in agreement with the Clubs shall the power to review the question of gate receipts.

**Rule 57 Points System**

The League Tables shall be calculated on the basis of 3 points per win and 1 point per draw. In the event of two or more clubs being equal on points at the conclusion of the Championship the Clubs concerned must play off to decide the winner. In the event of a tie for runners-up the position may be decided on goal difference.

**Rule 58 Cups and Shields**

Cups or such Trophies as may from time to time be available shall be competed for annually as may be determined by the Executive Committee. Such competitions shall be restricted to Clubs, which are members of The Kildare and District Football League.

All KDFL Cup and Shield Finals should, where possible, be played at grounds that have changing room and shower facilities.

**Rule 59 Promotion/Relegation**

The Executive Committee shall decide the format from time to time and publish their decision before competition commences.

**Rule 60 Knock-out competitions**

Any cup Knock-Out competition under the auspices



of the Kildare and District Football League may be open to all member Clubs or may be confined to a particular Division/s as may from time to time be determined by the Executive Committee.

**Rule 61 Cup tied players**

A player, who plays in a lower division Cup, shall not be “cup tied” and shall be able to play in a higher Divisional Cup for the same Club. A player who plays in a higher divisional cup shall not be permitted to play in a lower Divisional cup for the same team.

**Rule 62 Cup Draws etc.**

The names of the Clubs entered for these competitions shall be drawn in couples and in drawn matches the Club last drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground in the second match and so on alternately. The Committee may draw subsequent rounds before the winners of the previous rounds have been declared. The Committee shall have the power to exempt any number of clubs from any number of rounds and byes may be given so that for clubs may compete in the semi-final rounds.

**Rule 63 League Cup Semi Finals**

The League Cup Semi Finals shall be played over One leg at a suitable neutral venue.

**Rule 64 Byes**

In the event of a Club getting a bye in any of the drawings the Executive Committee at the subsequent drawing shall first draw a Club to play against it from the lot. The two shall again be put in the ballot box and drawn again and the Club first out shall have choice of grounds but the Committee must arrange for four Clubs to compete in the semi-final rounds. The semi-finals and finals of all Cup & Shield matches and test matches shall be played at a ground to be selected by the Executive Committee.

**Rule 65 Competition Winners**

When the winners of a competition have been declared the Executive Committee will present them with the Cup. Medals may also be awarded to the winners and runners-up in all League Cup and shield competitions.

**Rule 66 Presentation of Cups / Shields**

Where a League Division can be won exclusively at one venue the trophy should be available for presentation to the winning team following the final whistle.

**Rule 67 Prize Money**

Prize money for League winners shall be presented to the winning club in the form of a cheque made payable to the winning club, provided that clubs account with the League is in order. The prize money shall be paid not later than fourteen days after the final game in the Senior division is played. All other Divisional League prize money shall be credited to the Club involved prior to the commencement of the following season.

**Rule 68 Public Liability Insurance**

All clubs must have a current Public Liability Insurance policy. If proof of cover is not provided to the league within seven days of the expiry date of the policy fixtures will be cancelled and the tie will be forfeited.

Rule 69 (From the Football Association of Ireland Rules of the Association – as amended 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017)

**(RULE 77) THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN (PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18)****1. General**

- a) The protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance to the FAI. 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. The FAI Child Welfare Policy sets out how all matters pertaining to the protection and welfare of children are governed.
- b) It is mandatory that all Members and Participants shall comply with all FAI rules, regulations, codes, policies and guidelines in respect of child protection and welfare.
- c) It is mandatory that all Members and Participants shall comply with all legislation and guidelines issued by any Statutory Authority in respect of child protection and welfare.
- d) All Members and Participants are responsible for ensuring that their members are made aware of and understand their legal and football obligations in respect of child protection and welfare.

**2. Designated Persons (Child Welfare Officers)**

- a) All Affiliated Members shall appoint a person to be responsible for all child protection and welfare matters within their organisation. In accordance with legislation this person shall be known as the “Designated Officer” and under the auspices of the FAI shall be known as the “Designated Child Welfare Officer”. The Designated Child Welfare Officer shall be the person holding the highest office within the football body however day to day duties may be delegated to a suitable person who shall be known as a “Designated Liaison Officer” and under the auspices of the FAI shall be known as the “Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer”.
- b) The Designated Child Welfare Officer and/or Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer shall ensure that they discharge their duties in accordance with any legislation and all FAI rules, regulations, codes, policies and guidelines in respect of child protection and welfare.

**3. Vetting Obligations**

- a) All those engaging with persons under the age of eighteen (18) and/or vulnerable persons shall be Garda Vetted.
- b) All Designated Child Welfare Officers, Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officers, Chairpersons and Secretaries of each Affiliated Member involved with teams that are competing in any age group up to and including Under 18's and/or vulnerable persons shall be Garda Vetted.
- c) All coaches or those involved with the management of any team that are competing in any age group up to and including Under 18's and/or vulnerable persons shall be Garda Vetted.
- d) Any other person working or volunteering with children and/or vulnerable persons in any capacity on behalf of an Affiliated Member shall be Garda Vetted. It is the responsibility of the football body concerned to determine the relevant persons within their organisation who this applies to subject to the relevant legislation and guidelines.
- e) Failure to ensure that the relevant persons are vetted in accordance with Rules and/or legislation may result in disciplinary action against the individual and/or Affiliated Member and may also constitute a legal offence under relevant legislation.
- f) Affiliated Members shall not accept confirmation of the Garda Vetting status of any individual prior to confirmation being received from the FAI that the Garda Vetting of the individual is in order.

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g) In addition to carrying out Garda Vetting, all Affiliated Members shall follow safe recruitment practices, as outlined in the FAI Child Welfare Policy, when engaging persons to work or volunteer with children and/or vulnerable persons within their organisation.

#### **4. Vetting Applications**

a) The FAI shall provide a Garda Vetting service to all Members. Applications for vetting may be made through the Designated Child Welfare Officer and/or Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer of the relevant football body or directly through the FAI.

b) The FAI shall be solely responsible for the approval of all vetting applications and final determination on disclosures provided by the Gardai in accordance with the FAI Child Welfare Policy.

c) All persons shall complete their vetting application in good faith and shall ensure all information provided is accurate, complete and up to date.

d) All matters disclosed as part of the Garda Vetting application shall remain confidential to FAI authorised personnel, the applicant and Statutory Authorities. However, approvals and rejections shall be notified to all relevant football personnel in accordance with the FAI Child Welfare Policy.

#### **5. Education and Training**

a) All coaches or those involved with the management of any team that are competing in any age group up to and including Under 18 shall complete an FAI approved “Basic Awareness” training course.

b) Any person working or volunteering with children in any capacity on behalf of an Affiliated Member shall complete an FAI approved “Basic Awareness” training course. It is the responsibility of the football body concerned to determine the relevant persons within their organisation who this applies to, subject to the relevant legislation and guidelines.

c) Failure to ensure that the relevant persons have completed the FAI approved training course may result in disciplinary action against the individual and/or Affiliated Member and may also constitute a legal offence under relevant legislation.

d) Affiliated Members shall not accept confirmation of completion of an approved FAI training course from any individual prior to confirmation being received from the FAI.

#### **6. Stand Down Orders**

a) Any person who is the subject of a complaint or inquiry by a Statutory Authority in relation to any child welfare concern shall be issued with a stand down order from all football activities. This order shall be issued by the Designated Child Welfare Officer or Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer of the FAI or any Affiliated Member, pending the outcome of any inquiry and any subsequent internal disciplinary proceedings. Terms of a stand down order must be complied with.

b) Affiliated Members shall immediately notify the FAI of any stand down order issued.

c) The FAI may also issue a stand down order in circumstances where concerns are raised with the FAI outside of a Statutory Authority investigation.

d) Stand down orders shall be issued, managed and lifted in accordance with FAI Child Welfare Policy.

**Football Association of Ireland Rules effective from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

## **7. Disciplinary**

Anyone who breaches these Rules or commits any other offence relating to child protection and welfare may be subject to sanction, up to and including a ban from membership, by the FAI Child Welfare Committee and/or FAI Disciplinary Bodies.

### **(RULE 78) DATA PROTECTION**

All information collected by the FAI shall be held and maintained in accordance with legislation and the FAI Data Protection Policy. This policy shall be available from the FAI on request.

#### **Rule 70 General**

- a) All questions of eligibility or qualification of competitors or of the application of these rules or the laws of the game shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final, subject to the right of appeal to the Leinster FA and / or the Football Association of Ireland.
- b) The Executive Committee shall have power to decide on all matters not provided for in the rules of the League and Cup competitions (subject to the right of appeal to the Leinster FA and / or the Football Association of Ireland) but must submit a proposal for a rule change at the next AGM.
- c) Each Club shall have a least 5 current Rule Books in its possession each Season and shall be bound thereby.
- d) The foregoing Constitution and rules shall not be amended, suspended or added to except at the A.G.M. of the League Management committee or at a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the League and any proposal to do so must be notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the League bearing a postmark not less than 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting or the proposed date of a Special General Meeting (SGM)
- e) The Kildare and District Football League is subject to any Rules of the Leinster Football Association and the Football Association of Ireland, which are not contained in the foregoing. Each club must have at least one current copy of both L.F.A. and F.A.I. Rule books in their possession and shall be bound thereby. Each Club shall also have at least one current copy of the "Laws of the Game", which is available from the FAI.

These Rules shall be reprinted and updated as often as

the Executive Committee deem necessary, but at least every five years.

Any rule in this book, which contravenes a rule of the L.F.A. or the F.A.I. shall be declared null and void.

For your guidance:

In the interpretation of these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings so defined and words importing the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa. Words importing the masculine include the feminine and words importing persons shall include bodies corporate.