

Rules for 2014/2015 season

LWFC Cup & Shield Rules

These are rules covering all Cup/shield Competitions organised under the jurisdiction of the Leinster Women's Football Council (LWFC).

1. The official address for the council shall be the address of The Secretary of the (LWFC)
 - a. The entire control, ownership, and management of the competitions shall be vested in the Leinster Women's Football Council.
 - b. It shall cater for all teams as decided by the Officer Board of the LWFC
 - c. All clubs must complete the relevant official entry form and pay the appropriate entry fee in order to be entered into any LWFC cup competition, all such forms and fees must be returned to the Secretary of the LWFC by the specified date.
 - d. The season referred to in these rules shall be the standard winter season commencing 1 August 2014
 - e. The Officer Board shall have the power to deal with any situation or circumstances which arises and may not be specifically covered within these rules.
 - f. The Officer Board may decide to have competitions drawn on a regional basis in preliminary rounds, and then on an open draw depending on Number of teams entered in each group.
 - g. The LWFC Council will appoint a coordinator to each or all of the various competitions who shall, under the jurisdiction of the LWFC Officer Board compile fixtures and assist with the administration of the competitions.
2. No regional coordinator or League official shall partake in any disciplinary hearings or decision making on behalf of the LWFC where any report concerns a club from within their own affiliated League.
 - a. Decisions taken and sanctions imposed by a regional disciplinary committee cannot be appealed to the LWFC and any such appeal must in the first instance be directed to the WFAI subject to the rules governing any such appeal
 - b. All disciplinary reports of a serious nature must be reported and copied to the Secretary and will be dealt with by the LWFC Officer Board or its sub committees.
 - c. Players sent off in any LWFC cup/shield game are automatically suspended from the next game in the cup/shield in which she was sent off. Where such a player's team has been eliminated from a LWFC cup/shield the automatic suspension will take effect for her next competitive game at the age group where she is registered.

Subject to a review of the referee's report the sanction may be increased by the investigating committee.

- d. Players who are under an automatic one match ban for being sent off in a domestic League competition shall be Eligible to play in the LWFC cups/shield, on the basis that the ban is served for a domestic competition game directly following the LWFC cup/shield game.
 - e. Players serving suspensions greater than the automatic one match ban for being sent off in a domestic competition game shall not be eligible to play in the LWFC cups/shield games during this suspension on the basis that being suspended from the LWFC cup/shield shall count as game/s served under that suspension.
 - f. Failure by the player or her club to attend a disciplinary hearing shall result in the case being heard and dealt with in their/ her absence.
3. Medals shall be awarded to the winners and runners-up of all LWFC cup/shield competitions.
- a. The LWFC is the sole owner of all cup trophies, clubs shall be responsible for the safe keeping of trophies whilst in their possession and all trophies shall be returned when requested and in good condition. Clubs returning damaged trophies, or responsible for lost trophies, will be liable for the repair or replacement of same.
4. The competitions shall be open to teams properly affiliated to and participating in affiliated Leagues within the Leinster Region.
- a. All players playing in LWFC underage cup competitions must be registered with an affiliated League of the LWFC and have been born on or after the 1st January of the relevant year to be eligible to play in the relevant age group.
 - b. All players playing in LWFC Senior cup or shield competitions must be registered with an affiliated League of the LWFC
 - c. Teams beaten in their first game in the Senior Cup are automatically entered into the Shield competition.
 - d. Last years four semi finalists in the Cup will be seeded for the first round of this season's Cup.
5. Affiliated League registration forms shall be the official registration forms for teams playing in the LWFC cup / shield competitions. Clubs wishing to view a League registration form can do so by submitting a request in writing to the Secretary who shall procure a copy of same on behalf of the club. A player must be properly registered at least 14 days before competing in any LWFC cup/shield game. Proof of postage will suffice in order to comply with this rule.
- a. Affiliated Leagues must submit to the Secretary, or the LWFC Officer Board or any of its sub committees any and all team and player registration records and details requested.

- b. All players must be properly registered with a team within a LWFC affiliated League before playing for that team in any LWFC cup or shield.
6. Players may only play in 2 LWFC Cups as follows
 - a. Under 12's and Under 14's
 - b. Under 14's and Under 16's.
 - c. Under 16's and Under 18's
 - d. No player born after 1/1/1999 may play in the Senior Cup or Shield
 - e. No player may play across their age group in the LWFC Underage Cups for different teams within the same club.
 - f. A player may only play for one team in any one LWFC cup/Shield competition in the same season
7. Referee's will be appointed by Competition Officer via the Home Team league
 - a. Referees' match cards shall be filled in before the game commences by the official in charge of the team, he/she shall append his/her signature as verification of the eligibility of his/her team's players and accept responsibility for any irregularities.
 - b. A maximum of eighteen players may be named on the referee's match card for any 11-a-side LWFC cup game. Any five substitutes may be used from a maximum of seven named on the referee's match card.
 - c. Once substituted a player cannot re-commence playing in the same 11-a-side cup game.
 - d. In 7 or 9 -a-side games the first seven or nine names entered on the match card shall be deemed to be the team starting lineup, roll on-roll off substitutions are allowed up to a maximum of five substitutes named on the match card.
8. Where a clash of playing colours occurs it shall be the responsibility of the home team to change to an alternative set of playing colours.
9. Any club in doubt as to the eligibility of its opponents shall, by making representations to the referee at half time be at liberty to obtain the signature and dates of birth of any three opposition players. Any team's refusal to accede to such a request will be regarded as an effort to conceal an irregularity in registration and/or over-age and shall be a breach of this rule.
 - a. At the end of a game a club shall be at liberty to obtain the signature and date of birth of any substitute who was introduced to the game after the half-time interval.
 - b. All such signatures and dates of birth shall form the basis of any protest and be produced at any subsequent protest hearing.
 - c. Teams found guilty of playing an over-age player/s shall, if they had won the game, forfeit that game to the opposing team, be removed from the competition from that stage and be removed

from membership of the Association for the remainder of that season.

- d. Teams found guilty of playing an over-age player/s shall, if they had lost the game, be removed from membership of the Council for the remainder of that season
 - e. Teams found guilty of playing an ineligible or unregistered player/s shall, if they had won the game forfeit that game to the opposing team, be removed from the competition from that stage and incur a fine the level of which will be determined by the investigating committee.
 - f. Teams found guilty of playing an ineligible or unregistered player/s shall, if they had lost the game be liable to suspension and incur a fine the levels of both of which will be determined by the investigating committee.
 - g. Following the removal of a team under this rule any player then without a team may make written application to the LWFC Secretary setting out the circumstances of their team's removal and the name of the club she desires to assist.
 - h. No team shall secure the services of more than three such players, but they cannot play for a second team in a LWFC cup competition in which they have played already that season, such players will not be subject to the transfer closing date but must be re-registered to the new team.
10. Protest as to overage or any other cause must be sent by registered post to the Secretary at the office of the LWFC within four days following the date of the game and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as determined by the LWFC Council at its meeting following the AGM, for the purposes of this rule Saturdays, Sundays and Bank/Public Holidays are excluded
- a. An exact copy of the protest must also be sent by registered post within the same time frame to the club against whom the protest is being lodged.
 - b. Counter protests must be lodged within a further four clear days by registered post to the Secretary at the office of the LWFC accompanied by a similar fee and an exact copy sent within the same time frame by registered post to the club which lodged the original protest, for the purposes of this rule Saturdays, Sundays and Bank/Public Holidays are excluded
 - c. Protest fee/s or counter Protest fees/s must be sent by postal order or bank draft only to the office of the Secretary of the Association, any such fees sent by any other method will be declared invalid and nullify the protest or counter protest.
 - d. Protests shall be dealt with by a committee of three current members of the LWFC Council, protest committees decisions shall be final and binding subject to the right to appeal onwards to the WFAI.

11. All matches, venues and times of kick-off shall be arranged by the Secretary in conjunction with the coordinators and the Hon. Secretary of the relevant affiliated League/s subject to 11(b) and 11(c)
 - a. If a team is drawn to play another team outside their league the earliest kick off time allowed will be 12 .00 pm (noon) unless both clubs are in agreement for an earlier time
 - b. If a team is drawn to play another team outside their province the earliest kick off time allowed will be 14 .00 unless both clubs are in agreement for an earlier time.
12. Dates for all rounds of LWFC cup competitions shall be issued by the Competitions Officer
 - a. At all times LWFC national cup games shall take precedence over affiliated League domestic fixtures and LWFC inter-League fixtures.
 - b. No club or affiliated League shall cancel or postpone an LWFC national cup/shield fixture.
 - c. Emergencies will be dealt with by the Competitions Officer whose decision will be final.
 - d. The LWFC Secretary, whose decisions shall be final, has overall control and responsibility.
 - e. Postponements for a certified school tour, may be permitted through the coordinator in consultation with the relevant affiliated League Hon. Secretary/s. Clubs can be required to provide written confirmation, from the organizing body of any such tour, before any such postponement request will be considered.
 - f. Postponements where players are involved in International duties will only be granted when any single team has, at the same time, two outfield players or the goalkeeper on International duties.
 - g. The appointed referee will decide if pitches are playable on the day. If pitch or weather conditions should cause a postponement the home team must find an alternative pitch or the fixture will revert to their opponents' ground.
 - h. Any game started and later abandoned for weather or pitch conditions shall result in loss of home advantage and the game being re-fixed in the ground of the team originally drawn away.
13. All weather playing surfaces shall be used for LWFC cup/shield games provided these are in complete compliance with, and certified as such, the current FAI standards/codes. This certification shall be available for inspection on demand.
14. All visiting clubs must be notified by home clubs 48 hours in advance of the kick off time should there be the possibility that an artificial surface of the required standard and certification will be used. This notification shall include any restrictions on footwear.
15. Reports of teams conceding walkovers must be notified in writing to the Secretary by the coordinator, walkovers will incur a 3 - 0 score line against the offending team.

- a. Claims for the award of a game must be sent in writing by registered post and signed by the relevant club Hon. Secretary to the Secretary at the office of the LWFC within four (4) days following the fixture date, for the purposes of this rule Saturdays, Sundays and Bank/Public Holidays are excluded.
16. Matches must commence at the appointed kick off time. Teams failing to report within fifteen minutes of the kick off time may be deemed to have given a walk-over, subject to investigation of circumstances by the Officer Board or its sub committees. The late start of any match shall be reported by the referee to the Secretary.
 - a. All LWFC cup/shield fixtures from the semi-final stage onwards must be refereed by three officials.
 - b. All LWFC cup/shield semi-final fixtures must be played on a private ground and not a local authority pitch.
 - c. All LWFC cup/shield finals shall be played on a neutral venue.
 - d. The home team shall be responsible for stewarding and marking of the pitch etc, both teams shall supply two footballs of the regulation size and quality.
 - e. All games are to be played in accordance with the laws of the game. If any game at the end of normal time ends in a draw, ten minutes each way extra time will be played and if the game then ends in a draw, the relevant FIFA penalty kicks rule will be used to decide the game.
 - f. Referees fees will be paid by the home team in all LWFC national cup/shield games.
17. All players participating in the Leinster Cup/shield competitions agree that their photographs may be taken by members of the committee and/or any agent working on behalf of the Executive. These photographs may be used to promote girls football by publishing in National and/or local papers or any brochures as the executive may deem suitable at their discretion
18. The Leinster Women's Football council are subject to the Rules of the WFAI and the FAI which are not contained in the foregoing.