



# Return to Play 2021-22

## Notes for All Schools

Hi all,

We hope all is well with you as we embark on what will hopefully be a successful return to schools soccer competitions in 2021-22, following an 18-month hiatus in competitions. Please read all contents below, which outline all issues related to a safe return to play:

### [Outline plan for the year, as decided as the National Meeting 6/9/21 & Leinster Branch Meeting 9/9/21:](#)

- Competitions will start with **Senior Cup (A & B, Boys & Girls)**, possibly before October mid-term if entries are high enough – to go to National level if possible.
- Remainder of cup competitions to commence in November/December, starting with **Minor, then Junior, then First Year**. The feasibility of completing these to National level to be decided later in the year, due to tight timescale involved.
- **Regional/provincial leagues to be run at the discretion of each provincial branch**. It is highly unlikely that there will be a Leinster Champions League competition in 2022, but that will be kept under review.
- **Leagues** are not to overlap with the early stages of the cups.
- An updated **FAI Return to Play Protocol (Grassroots)** was released last Friday. This document will be e-mailed to all members on our e-mail lists & is also available on the FAI Schools website.

### [Proposed Entry Process:](#)

- Online entry only through Survey Monkey – links given below & also e-mailed/available on website.

Three-stage entry process:

- **Deadline 1: Senior Cups only by Friday 24/9**

The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeniorCups>

- **Deadline 2: Senior League, Junior & Minor League & Cups by Friday 1/10**

The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SenLgeJLgeCupsMLgeCups>

- **Deadline 3: First Year League & Cup by Wednesday 13/10**

The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYLgeCups>

No entries allowed after these deadlines.

### Provisional Timescale of Competitions:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Cup Timeline</u>	<u>League Timeline</u>
Senior (U-19)	October-February	Late November-March
Junior (U-17)	Late November- March	December-March
Minor (U-15)	Early November-March	December-March
First Year (U-14)	December-March	January-April

Girls competitions may work on a slightly different timescale – any queries can be directed to Girls Section Secretary Maura Gaffney – [maura.gaffney@faischools.ie](mailto:maura.gaffney@faischools.ie)

### Age Groups for Season 2021-22

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Date Criteria</u>
Senior Boys (U-19)	Born on or after 1/1/2003
Senior Girls (U-20)	Born on or after 1/1/2002
Junior (U-17)	Born on or after 1/1/2005
Minor (U-15)	Born on or after 1/1/2007
First Year (U-14)*	Born on or after 1/1/2008

\*must be First Years – underage Second Years are not eligible

### Payment of Fees

- All schools will be invoiced, by e-mail, in early November, once all entries are finalised.
- Any school that is currently in arrears to the Branch will not be allowed to affiliate until all outstanding monies are paid.

### Outstanding Suspensions

- All suspensions incurred during Season 2019-20 & previous seasons are deemed null & void. However, all suspension records will be retained on file.

### Outstanding Competitions

- All competitions not finished in Season 2019-20 are deemed null & void.

### Queries:

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me – e-mail is always the quickest – [declan.mcgrath@faischools.ie](mailto:declan.mcgrath@faischools.ie)

Many thanks & best wishes

*Declan McGrath*

Affiliation & Competition Entry Secretary

FAI Schools, Leinster Branch