



FAI
SCHOOLS

FAI SCHOOLS RULEBOOK
SEASON 2024-25

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Section 1: Administration

1.1: Name, Object & Function:

1.1.1: Name:

The name of the Association shall be the Football Association of Ireland: Schools or FAI Schools.

1.1.2: Objectives & Principles:

To promote, foster and develop, in all its branches, the game of Association Football in Ireland, and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Rules of The Association and the Laws of the Game, or improper methods or practices in the game and for protecting it from abuses and to do such things as are conducive to the attainment of the objects herein before mentioned as the Council may determine.

1.1.3: Protection & Welfare of Children:

1.1.3.1: In line with legislation and Government Guidelines (The Child Care Act 1991 and the Protection for Persons Reporting Abuse Act 1998) in relation to child protection and welfare, it is mandatory that all participants, clubs, leagues, divisional associations and other football bodies shall be bound by the FAI recommended codes of conduct and best practice guidelines.

1.1.3.2: 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.

1.1.3.3: Breaches shall become a disciplinary offence. Any member issued with a ban from football activity shall have their name notified to all League Secretaries for onward dissemination to all Club Secretaries. The notification shall state the name of the individual and the fact a ban has been issued.

1.1.3.4: Any participant who is the subject of a Statutory Inquiry in relation to any child welfare concern must stand down from all football activities pending the outcome of that inquiry and any subsequent internal disciplinary proceedings.

1.1.3.5: Any member convicted of an offence by the Irish Courts or Courts of any other jurisdiction involving the welfare of children shall be automatically banned from membership of the Association. For the avoidance of doubt no disciplinary or other hearing shall be necessary in order to implement this automatic ban.

1.1.3.6: At all times, the FAI Schools operates in accordance with guidelines & policies issued by the FAI regarding Child Welfare & Safety. As a school-based organisation, our mentors are also subject to the guidelines & polices issued & operated by our member schools & the various school management bodies.

1.2: Entitlement to Membership:

1.2.1: Eligibility:

1.2.1.1: Affiliation to the Association shall be confined to either: Primary Schools or Post-Primary Schools providing full-time classes or courses leading to certification by the Department of Education, up to and including the Leaving Certificate.

1.2.1.2: All competitions of the Association shall be open to all schools in membership of the Association acting, where necessary, through its Branches & Sections.

1.2.1.3: Branch competitions shall be open to all schools in membership of the respective Branch, subject to a due division between Primary, Post-primary Boys and Post-primary Girls.

1.2.2: Members' Obligations:

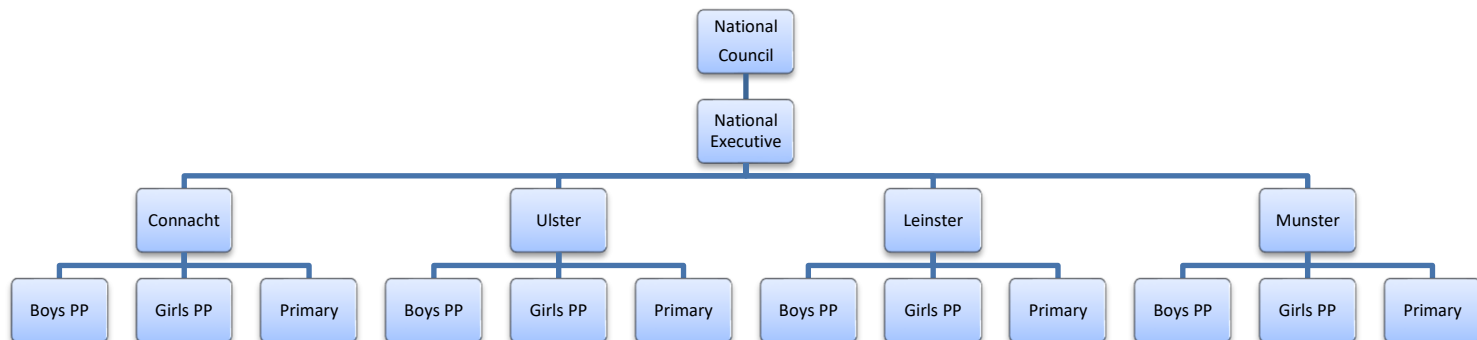
The Members of the FAI Schools have the following obligations;



To comply fully with the statutes, rules, regulations, codes, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the Football Association of Ireland at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members.

1.3: Structure & Governance:

1.3.1 Structure of the FAI Schools:



1.3.2: Membership of the FAI Schools Committees:

1.3.2.1: *Only persons who are currently teaching in, or who have taught in, an affiliated school may serve as members of the National Council, the National Executive of the Association, any Branch Council, Branch Executive or any Section Committee of the Association.*

1.3.2.2: *Members of the Association, having retired from full-time teaching, may continue to serve as the Association at Section or Branch level, subject to the approval of the National Executive.*

1.3.2.3: *A member of the Association, having retired from full time teaching may continue to serve the Association at National Executive level subject to ratification by the National Council of the Association.*

1.3.2.4: *No person, while in the employment of the Association, may hold elected office within the Association.*

1.3.3: The National Council

1.3.3.1: *The Association shall be governed by the National Council of the Association, hereinafter referred to as "The National Council".*

1.3.3.2: *The National Council shall be comprised of five groups:*

a) *The Honorary Officers:*

- 1) *The National Honorary Chairman;*
- 2) *The National Honorary Vice-chairman;*
- 3) *The National Honorary Secretary;*
- 4) *The National Honorary Treasurer;*
- 5) *The Honorary Delegate to the Football Association of Ireland.*

The Officers shall be ex-officio members of all committees of the Association.

The immediate past-Chairperson shall be an ex-officio officer of the Association.

b) *Delegates:*

Delegates as appointed by the Branch Councils at the Annual General Meeting of each Branch, in the following numbers:

- 1) *LEINSTER shall be entitled to send not more than eighteen delegates;*
- 2) *MUNSTER, CONNACHT and ULSTER shall be entitled to send not more than nine delegates;*

Not more than one third of each Branch Delegation shall be from any one Section.



- c) *Public Relations Officer:*
The National Public Relations Officer, who shall not be entitled to vote.
The National Public Relations Officer may not simultaneously serve in any other capacity on the National Council or the National Executive.
- d) *FAI Delegates:*
Not more than two Delegates nominated by the Football Association of Ireland.
- e) *FAI Schools President:*
The President, who shall not be entitled to vote.

1.3.3.3: Quorum:

A quorum for a meeting of the National Council shall exist, if within thirty minutes of the stated time of the meeting, there are present:

- a) *not less than two Honorary Officers; -and-*
- b) *not less than twelve Branch Delegates, representing not less than three Branches.*

1.3.3.4: Annual General Meeting:

The National Council shall hold its first meeting of each academic year not later than the last day of May in that year. The Agenda for this meeting shall be :

- a) *Read the Notice of the Meeting;*
- b) *Apologies;*
- c) *Election of a Chairman for the meeting in the absence of the National Chairman and the National Vice-chairman;*
- d) *Correspondence;*
- e) *Minutes of Council meetings held in the previous year to be read;*
- f) *Matters arising from the minutes, and adoption of the minutes;*
- g) *Honorary Secretary's annual report to be read and adopted;*
- h) *Honorary Treasurer's annual report to be read and adopted;*
- i) *Audited accounts for the Branches and the Association to be presented and adopted;*
- j) *Honorary Delegate to the Football Association of Ireland's written report to be read and adopted;*
- k) *Ratification of the Council's decisions of the previous year;*
- l) *Ratification of the appointment of any delegate to the National Executive who is the subject of Article 1.3.3.2 of the Constitution.*
- m) *Election of President;*
- n) *Election of Vice-Presidents;*
- o) *Election of Honorary Officers;*
 - 1) *Chairperson*
 - 2) *Vice-chairperson*
 - 3) *Secretary*
 - 4) *Treasurer*
 - 5) *Delegate to the Football Association of Ireland*
- p) *Nomination of national Public Relations Officer;*
- q) *Nominations to sub-committees of the Football Association of Ireland;*
- r) *Notice Motions;*



- s) *Any Other Business.*

1.3.3.5: Nominations & Motions for the Annual General Meeting:

- a) *Nominations for positions as National Honorary Officers must be forwarded through Branch Secretaries, and be received by the National Honorary Secretary not less than ten clear days prior to the date of the meeting.*
- b) *The National Honorary Secretary shall forward to each Branch Secretary the list of nominations not less than seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.*
- c) *Outgoing Honorary Officers may be nominated from the floor of the meeting.*
- d) *Should more than one candidate be proposed for any position, four tellers shall be appointed from the floor of the meeting, and voting by secret ballot shall take place. Decision shall be by simple majority.*
- e) *No one person shall hold more than one National Honorary Officership at any one time.*
- f) *Notice Motions for any National Council meeting must be received by the National Honorary Secretary not less than ten clear days prior to the date of the meeting and shall be forwarded to the Branch Secretaries for circulation, not less than seven days prior to the date of the meeting.*
- g) *To be successful, Motions to amend any article of this Constitution must be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.*

1.3.3.6: Extraordinary General Meetings:

- a) *A meeting of the National Council shall be convened if requested by the National Executive of the Association.*
- b) *A meeting of the National Council shall be convened if requested in writing, by not less than two Branch Executives.*
- c) *The Notice of Motion shall accompany the request. It shall be the duty of the National Honorary Chairman, or such other persons as may be acting in his stead, to convene such a meeting within 21 clear days of receipt of such a request.*
- d) *The Agenda for meetings of the National Council convened shall be:*
- i) *The election of a Chairman in the absence of the National Honorary Chairman and Vice-chairman.*
- ii) *Notice of the meeting to be read.*
- iii) *Notice Motion to be read and decided upon.*
- e) *Discussion and voting shall be confined to the Notice Motion.*
- f) *Motions shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.*

1.3.4: The National Executive:

1.3.4.1: The Role of the National Executive:

The day-to-day affairs of the Association shall be administered by the National Executive. The National Executive shall comprise:

- a) *The National Honorary Officers of the Association &*
- b) *Branch delegations appointed by each Branch Executive. Branch delegations shall be comprised of not more than three members from each Branch, with not more than one delegate from any one Section of that Branch.*
- c) *Ex-officio members can be added to the Executive by way of a simple majority vote at any National Executive meeting.*



- d) *The Executive can also nominate additional delegates, if necessary, to the Executive in order to comply with the FAI Constitution.*
- e) *The National Public Relations Officer may be invited to attend part, or all of any meeting of the National Executive, but shall not vote.*

1.3.4.2: Quorum:

A quorum shall exist at a meeting of the National Executive, if there is present within thirty minutes of the stated start time of the meeting:

- a) *Not less than two National Honorary Officers &*
- b) *Not less than five Branch delegates representing at least three Branches.*

1.3.4.3: Meetings:

The National Executive shall meet not less than on one occasion in each school term, and shall at these meetings, in addition to what other business is on the agenda, receive:

- a) *From the National Administrator, a report of the activities of any employees the Association may have.*
- b) *A Statement from the National Treasurer for the period since the previous meeting.*

1.3.4.4: Powers:

- a) *The National Executive shall have all necessary powers to take such decisions as it deems appropriate for the proper, seemly and efficient running of the affairs of the Association.*
- b) *Such decisions shall be open to appeal, and are subject to ratification by the National Council as outlined in Article 1.3.2 of this document.*

1.3.4.5: Devolution of Powers to Branch Executives:

The National Executive may devolve to the Branch Executives such powers as it deems necessary for the proper, seemly and efficient running of the Branches.

1.3.4.6: Review of Rules:

- a) *The National Executive shall annually review these Rules.*
- b) *Rules may only be changed at an AGM or EGM.*

1.3.4.7: Decisions:

All decisions shall be taken by simple majority unless otherwise provided for in this document.

1.3.4.8: Voting:

- a) *Any vote at National Council or National Executive shall be taken by secret ballot if so requested by any one Branch.*
- b) *All members properly entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Association or any of its Committees or Sub-committees, shall have one vote each, excepting the Chairman of that meeting, who shall not vote, other than in the event of a tie, when the Chairman shall have a casting vote.*

1.3.4.9: Financial:

- a) *The National Executive shall be entitled to reimburse from the funds of the National Council all legitimate expenses incurred in connection with the projects or activities of the Committee.*
- b) *At such time as shall seem appropriate a current bank account shall be opened with a recognised banking institution for the funds of the National Executive.*
- c) *The cheques of the National Executive may be signed by any two Honorary Officers, to include the Honorary Treasurer, or alternatively by the Honorary Treasurer & any two National Executive members.*



- d) *The financial year shall run from August 1st to July 31st.*
- e) *Audited accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting for the next preceding financial year.*
- f) *The National Executive shall have the power to invest the funds of the National Council in stocks & shares of recognised trustee status & in prize bonds.*
- g) *The National Executive shall be empowered to open a deposit account for the National Council funds if they consider this to be an advantage to the National Council.*

1.3.5: Provincial Structure:

1.3.5.1: Division:

For administrative purposes the Association shall be divided into Branches.

1.3.5.2: Number of Branches:

There shall be four branches; Connacht, Leinster, Munster & Ulster.

1.3.5.3: Subdivision of Branches:

Each Branch shall be subdivided into three Sections as follows:

- a) *A Primary Section;*
- b) *A Post-primary Girls Section;*
- c) *A Post-primary Boys Section.*

1.3.5.4: Affiliation & Conditions of Affiliation:

- a) *Schools shall affiliate to the Association through the Section of the Branch to which the National Executive of the Association shall assign them.*
- b) *Conditions of affiliation shall be decided by the appropriate Branch or Section Executive.*

1.3.5.5: Refusal of Affiliation:

Approval to refuse affiliation to a school must be given by the National Executive of the Association, upon request from a provincial branch/section.

1.3.6: Branch Structure:

1.3.6.1: Composition of Branch Executive:

Each provincial branch shall be comprised of nine members.

1.3.6.2: Membership:

- a) *The nine members shall be nominated by each of the three Branch sections.*
- b) *Members shall be nominated by each of the Branch Sections at their respective Annual General Meetings.*
- c) *Three members from each respective section shall be nominated to Branch.*

1.3.6.3: Notice of Annual General Meeting:

The notice convening the meeting shall be issued not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting.

1.3.6.4: Annual General Meeting:

- a) *The Annual General Meeting of each Branch shall be held no later than the end of May of each year.*

Agenda:

- 1. Notice of Meeting.*
- 2. Apologies.*
- 3. To elect a Chairperson of the Meeting in the absence of the Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson of the Branch.*



4. *Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising.*
 5. *Receive the Branch Honorary Secretary's Report*
 6. *Receive the Branch Honorary Treasurer's Report & Financial Statement.*
 7. *Election of Branch Chairperson for the ensuing year.*
 8. *Election of Branch Vice-Chairperson for the ensuing year.*
 9. *Election of Branch Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year.*
 10. *Election of Branch Assistant Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year.*
 11. *Election of Branch Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year.*
 12. *Election of Branch Assistant Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year.*
 13. *Election of Branch Public Relations Officer for the ensuing year.*
 14. *Ratification of the decisions of the Branch in the previous year.*
 15. *To consider and decide on any notices of motion duly submitted according to rule.*
 16. *A.O.B.*
- c) *All affiliated schools are entitled to ONE vote at this meeting.*
- d) *All schools are welcome to send as many observers as they wish.*
- e) *Notices of Motion:*
1. *Notices of Motion, duly proposed & seconded by Affiliated Schools, must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary by the first day of May immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting at which it is intended to propose them.*
 2. *The Executive Committee may propose notices of motion by notification in the agenda for an Annual General Meeting &/or Extraordinary General Meeting.*
 3. *Such notices must be circulated to all members of the Branch incorporated in the agenda for the Annual General Meeting at which they are to be discussed.*
 4. *All motions, except those requiring a change in the Rules, require a simple majority of the total votes cast; motions affecting the Rules require a two-thirds majority of the total votes cast.*

1.3.6.5: Extraordinary General Meeting & Meetings:

- a) *A meeting of the Branch Executive shall be convened if;*
1. *Requested by any of the Branch Sections of the Association. This will be deemed an Extraordinary General Meeting & can be attended by representatives of all Affiliated schools.*
 2. *It is deemed necessary by any of the elected officers of the Branch. This will be deemed a Meeting & will only be attended by Branch Executive Members.*
- b) *1. The Notice of Motion shall accompany the request.*
- 2. It shall be the duty of the Branch Chairperson, or such other persons as may be acting in their stead, to convene such a meeting within 21 clear days of receipt of such a request.*
- c) *The Agenda for meetings of the Branch Executive convened shall be:*
1. *The election of a Chairperson in the absence of the Branch Chairperson and Vice-chairperson.*
 2. *Notice of the meeting to be read.*
 3. *Notice of Motion to be read and decided upon.*
- d) *Discussion and voting shall be confined to the Notice Motion.*
- e) *Motions shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.*



1.3.6.6: Voting:

- a) Any vote at Branch Executive shall be taken by secret ballot if so requested by any one Branch.*
- b) All members properly entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Branch Executive shall have one vote each, excepting the Chairperson of that meeting, who shall not vote, other than in the event of a tie, when the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.*

1.3.6.7: Quorum:

A quorum for a meeting of the Branch Executive shall exist, if within thirty minutes of the stated time of the meeting, there are present:

- a) not less than two Honorary Officers; -and-*
- b) not less than three Section Delegates, representing not less than two Sections.*

1.3.6.8: Officers:

The officers of the Branch shall be;

- a) Chairperson*
- b) Vice-chairperson*
- c) Honorary Secretary*
- d) Assistant Honorary Secretary*
- e) Honorary Treasurer*

1.3.6.9: Powers:

- a) The Branch Executive Committee shall consider all applications for membership of the Branch and decide thereon.*
- b) The Branch Executive Committee shall appoint such delegates to the Council of the FAI Schools as are required by the rules.*
- c) The Branch Executive Committee may appoint from its numbers, or by co-option, the members of those sub-committees which they may consider necessary to form from time to time.*

1.3.6.10: Accounts:

- a) The Branch shall be entitled to reimburse from the funds of the Branch all legitimate expenses incurred in connection with the projects or activities of the Committee.*
- b) At such time as shall seem appropriate a current bank account shall be opened with a recognised banking institution for the funds of the Branch.*
- c) The cheques of the Branch may be signed by any two Honorary Officers, to include the Honorary Treasurer, or alternatively by the Honorary Treasurer & any two Branch members.*
- d) The financial year shall run from May 1st to April 30th.*
- e) Accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting for the preceding financial year.*
- f) The Branch shall have the power to invest the funds of the Branch in stocks & shares of recognised trustee status & in prize bonds.*
- g) The Branch shall be empowered to open a deposit account for the Branch funds if they consider this to be an advantage to the Branch.*



1.3.7: Sectional Structure:

1.3.7.1: Composition of Sectional Executive Committee:

Each Section Executive Committee shall be comprised of those members elected at the Annual General Meeting.

1.3.7.2: Membership:

Each school affiliated to the Section shall be entitled to have two members on the Section Executive Committee.

1.3.7.3: Notice of Annual General Meeting:

The notice convening the meeting shall be issued not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting.

1.3.7.4: Annual General Meeting

a) *The Annual General Meeting of each Section shall be held no later than the end of May of each year & in advance of the Branch Annual General Meeting.*

Agenda:

1. *Notice of Meeting.*
2. *Apologies.*
3. *To elect a Chairperson of the Meeting in the absence of the Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson of the Section.*
4. *Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising.*
5. *Receive the Section Honorary Secretary's Report*
6. *Election of Section Chairperson for the ensuing year.*
7. *Election of Section Vice-Chairperson for the ensuing year.*
8. *Election of Section Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year.*
9. *Election of Section Assistant Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year.*
10. *Election of one ordinary member to serve on the Executive Committee for each six schools or part thereof in membership of the Section at the meeting. (No school shall have more than two voting representatives on the Executive Committee)*
11. *Election of delegates to the Branch.*
12. *Ratification of the decisions of the Executive Committee of the Section in the previous year.*
13. *A.O.B.*

c) *All affiliated schools are entitled to ONE vote at this meeting.*

d) *All schools are welcome to send as many observers as they wish.*

1.3.7.5: Extraordinary General Meeting:

a) *On the demand in writing, signed by the Honorary Secretaries, of not less than 8 member schools, or by order of the Executive Committee, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called.*

b) *Not less than two weeks' notice shall be given of such an Extraordinary General Meeting & not more than five weeks may elapse before such a meeting is held in case of a demand for such a Extraordinary General Meeting duly requested.*

c) *The Agenda for such an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be the following:*

1. *Notice convening the Meeting*
2. *Apologies*
3. *To elect a Chairperson of the meeting in the absence of the Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson of the Branch.*



4. *To discuss & decide on the matter for which the Extraordinary General Meeting has been called.*
- d) *There shall be no further business conducted at the Extraordinary General Meeting.*
- e) *An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be deemed to be part of the Annual General Meeting next preceding & the minutes thereof shall be taken in conjunction with those of the Annual General Meeting immediately following the holding of the Extraordinary General Meeting.*
- f) *Motions shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.*

1.3.7.6: Meetings:

- a) *Notice of convening of a Section Executive Committee Meetings shall be issued not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting.*
- b) *Agenda:*
 1. *Attendance & Apologies:*
 2. *Minutes & Matters Arising:*
 3. *Correspondence:*
 4. *Discipline:*
 5. *Competitions:*
 6. *Branch Treasurer's Report:*
 7. *Branch Management Report:*
 8. *National Report:*
 9. *A.O.B.:*
 10. *Date of next meeting:*
- c) *Attendance at Section Executive Meetings shall be open to members only.*
- d) *Mentors may be summoned to make representations to the Section Executive Committee Meeting, should the need arise.*

1.3.7.7: Quorum:

A quorum for a meeting of the Section Executive shall exist, if within thirty minutes of the stated start time of the meeting, there are present:

- a) *not less than two Honorary Officers; -and-*
- b) *not less than five Section Executive Members, representing not less than three schools.*

1.3.7.8: Officers:

The officers of the Section shall be;

- a) *Chairperson*
- b) *Vice-chairperson*
- c) *Honorary Secretary*
- d) *Assistant Honorary Secretary*

1.3.7.9: Powers:

- a) *The Section Executive Committee shall be responsible for all arrangements in connection with competitions & all fixtures made for these competitions by the Section or its Honorary Officers*
- b) *The Section Executive Committee shall be vested with all powers to take such decisions as they deem necessary for the proper & seemly running of the Section & its matches & competitions, subject to the possibility of appeal, as hereinafter mentioned & subject to ratification of all their actions by the next following Annual General Meeting.*



1.3.8: National Administrator:

The role of the National Administrative Officer will be to;

- a) *Co-ordinate all aspects of the administration of football at schools level & to provide quality administrative support to the FAI Schools National Executive & National Officers, & when necessary, Branch Executives.*
- b) *Ensure effective organisation & operation of FAI Schools programmes & competitions in accordance with the Policies & Objectives of the FAI.*

1.4: Rules:

1.4.1: Validity of Rules:

1.4.1.1: The Rules of the FAI Schools must be in conformity with the Rules of the FAI & the statutes & regulations of FIFA & UEFA.

1.4.1.2: The FAI shall have the power at any time to make enquiries into the working of any affiliates & to deal with same as it deems fit, provided that all proper procedures are followed.

1.4.2: Alterations to Rules:

The Rules of the FAI Schools may only be altered at an AGM or EGM of the National Council.

1.5: Financial:

1.5.1: Affiliation & Competition Fees

1.5.1.1: Affiliation & competition entry fees shall be determined by the appropriate Branch Executive.

1.5.1.2: Affiliation & competition entry fees must be paid in full to the Branch with application for inclusion in a competition.

1.5.1.3: If payment to the Branch is to be made by a third party (e.g. ETB) the proof of payment request must be forwarded with the application for inclusion in competition.

1.5.1.4: Any payments processed by a third party must be paid to the Branch before the end of October.

1.5.1.5: No school will be included in the draw for a competition until it has paid in full all charges levied on it by the Branch, this to include fines, even if under appeal.

1.5.1.6: If competitions have commenced, the Branch/Section reserves the right to remove active teams for unpaid fees, in the following order – a) Senior Cup; b) Senior League; c) Junior Cup; d) Junior League; e) Minor Cup; f) Minor League; g) First Year Cup; h) First Year League.

1.5.1.7: Schools may be removed from competitions in accordance to the fee amount outstanding.

1.5.2: Insurance

1.5.2.1: Students playing in inter-school FAI Schools matches are covered under the terms of their own school's insurance policy.

1.5.2.2: Students playing representative football under the auspices of the FAI Schools are covered under the terms of the FAI Player's Insurance Scheme.

1.5.3: Fines

1.5.3.1: The use of fines as a sanction for minor transgressions of rules is at the discretion of each Branch Executive.

1.5.3.2: Any fines levied on schools must be paid along with Affiliation & Competition Entry Fees due for the next season in which the schools affiliates & enters.



1.5.4: Refunds

1.5.4.1: Refunds will be issued to schools where;

- a) A competition offered & paid for does not take place.*
- b) Overpayment has taken place. Schools will be given the option of having overpayments paid off the following season's fees.*

1.5.4.2: Refunds will not be issued to schools where;

- a) Removal from competition has taken place as a result of the school's own actions.*
- b) Schools enter competitions & are issued fixtures but do not compete.*

1.5.5: Outstanding Monies Due

If there are any fees outstanding, related to any Branch or Section activities, at the end of a particular season, then the Branch reserves the right to withhold affiliation & competition entry from that school until all outstanding monies are paid.



Section 2: Competitions

2.1: General Competition Rules – Administrative:

2.1.1: Schools Undertaking:

2.1.1.1: *The school undertakes that by entering FAI Schools competitions, it is committed to contribute to the running of FAI Schools competitions to the highest possible standards & with the utmost integrity.*

2.1.1.2: *Schools participating in FAI Schools Competitions accept and agree to be bound by these Rules and the FAI Rules.*

2.1.1.3: *The school shall ensure that its mentors, players, representatives & members of staff;*

- a) *Behave with the utmost good faith and honesty.*
- b) *Do not publicly criticise or disparage another school participating in FAI Schools competitions.*
- c) *Do not publicly criticise or disparage the FAI or FAI Schools.*
- d) *Comply with the laws of the game and follow each of the rules contained in these FAI Schools rules in not only to the letter of the law but also to the spirit.*
- e) *Are persons of good character, consistent with the image and ideals of football & are not persons whose association with the school does or could bring the game into disrepute.*
- f) *The home school team is liable for any improper conduct among all spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight & depending on the situation, may be sanctioned.*
- g) *The visiting school team is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight & depending on the situation, may be sanctioned.*

2.1.1.4: *Each School entering the competition must forward to their respective Affiliation & Competition Entry Secretary on or before the closing date in September in each season, the following particulars:*

- a) *The name, contact number & an active e-mail address of all team mentors.*
- b) *Name & full address of ground & whether the ground is public or private.*
- c) *Details of school playing kit including 1st & 2nd choice colours.*

2.1.1.5: *Schools changing team mentor or team mentor changing their e-mail address must notify the respective Branch/Section Honorary Secretary/Fixtures Secretary/Competition Organiser immediately.*

2.1.2: Friendlies

2.1.2.1: *Friendly matches between member schools must be notified to the relevant Section/Branch Honorary Secretary.*

2.1.2.2: *Friendly matches can only proceed once sanctioned by the relevant Section/Branch.*

2.1.2.3: *Proposed friendly matches involving member schools playing non-member schools will not be sanctioned.*

2.1.2.4: *Once sanctioned, friendly matches must be officiated by an FAI registered official, appointed by the method used in the region/province.*

2.1.3: Competition Rules:

2.1.3.1: *These rules apply primarily to competitions at post-primary level, organised by the Association & its Branches.*

2.1.3.2: *Rules which apply to competitions or matches arranged by the Association are specifically so indicated.*

2.1.3.3: *Rules for primary school competitions shall be as for post primary, except where special rules are included, and so denoted.*



2.1.4: Control of Competitions:

2.1.4.1: All competitions shall be under the control of & carried out under the Rules of the Association acting, where necessary, through its Sections and Branches.

2.1.4.2: The Section/Branch shall:

- a) Approve the composition of the Competition;*
- b) Ensure the draw for each round of the Competition is correctly supervised;*
- c) Agree the programme of fixtures;*
- d) Appoint other sub-committees as required;*
- e) Allow for the investigation of any complaint, which may be made in writing by any person;*
- f) Deal with all disciplinary matters arising within the Competition;*
- g) Have the power to withhold or withdraw the trophy & medals;*
- h) Make decisions in relation to the Competition which shall be final unless otherwise provided for by these Rules.*

2.1.5: Competition Organisation:

2.1.5.1: The Branch/Section shall arrange all matches in the competitions in its area.

2.1.5.2: It may delegate this duty to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch/Section or to a deputy, or a fixtures secretary or sub-committee appointed for this purpose.

2.1.5.3: In the event of a competition run by a Branch/Section being divided into regions, the Branch/Section may appoint a sub-committee, or a person to arrange the fixtures, e.g. draws for cups, dates, venues, times, referees etc. on its behalf, in any or all of such regions.

2.1.5.4: Any such sub-committee, or person, shall be vested with all control, conferred by these rules otherwise to the Branch, except that protests & appeals shall only be made in accordance with these rules.

2.1.5.5: Games shall be played by the dates set, at the venues appointed, if applicable.

2.1.5.6: In exceptional circumstances, the Section/Branch may arrange for the rescheduling of a fixture.

2.1.5.7: Arrangements for such shall be made only in conjunction with the teachers in charge in the schools concerned.

2.1.6: Role of Competition Organiser:

2.1.6.1: Conduct all such administration as is necessary for the management of the Competition e.g. collate results, compile tables & complete play off draws, as per fixture schedule.

2.1.6.2: Implement and carry out the policy decisions of the Committee, including;

- a) Remove schools that are holding up competitions without reason.*
- b) Communicate removals to Branch/Section Honorary Secretary/Fixture Secretary so that formal letters can be issued.*
- c) Deal with all disciplinary proceedings involving the affairs of the Competition as required.*
- d) Take such steps, impose such restrictions, penalties, sanctions & take such measures as determined by the Committee against any person or school, without prejudice to any disciplinary proceedings & where not otherwise provided for in these Rules;*

2.1.6.3: Enforce cut-off deadlines (group tables, play-offs) where applicable.

2.1.6.4: Inform all schools involved of any changes of cut-off dates e.g. league deadlines, national competition dates.

2.1.6.5: Inform schools involved in play-off fixtures of play-off draw.

2.1.6.6: Arrange venues for semi-finals & final (Cup) or final (League).

2.1.6.7: Arrange match officials for neutral fixtures.



2.1.6.8: *Be present to make presentation of medals & trophy. If unavailable, make arrangements for other Committee member to be present.*

2.1.6.9: *Inform Honorary Secretary/Fixture Secretary & FAI Schools Administrator (if applicable) of competition winners.*

2.1.7: Competition Integrity:

2.1.7.1: *The Branch/Section, through its' Competition Organisers, shall be responsible for the maintenance of competition integrity.*

2.1.7.2: *If a school is reported for being unwilling to fulfil their fixtures before notified deadlines, the competition organiser must contact them for clarification.*

2.1.7.3: *Walkovers can only be granted in Cup competitions.*

2.1.8: Players on Representative Duty:

2.1.8.1: *A school with one (1) player engaged in an International match for an official Republic of Ireland team may apply for a postponement of a fixture.*

2.1.8.2: *Application for permission to postpone such arranged fixture must be made to the National Administrator in advance of the fixture.*

2.1.8.3: *All applications will be dealt with on a case by case basis. There is no guarantee that a postponement will be granted.*

2.1.8.4: *No postponements will be granted for trials or training.*

2.1.9: Notice & Service of Documents

2.1.9.1: *All correspondence, including disciplinary matters in relation to competitions will be forwarded to the respective mentor by e-mail and it is the responsibility of the team mentor to obtain the information from the e-mail address provided at the time of affiliation & competition entry.*

2.1.9.2: *Competition correspondence may be issued by the Honorary Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Competition Organiser of the respective Branch/Section or all.*

2.1.9.3: *The correspondence shall be addressed to the respective team mentor, as identified on the competition entry form completed by the school.*

2.1.9.4: *Any notices or communications which are required to be given shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, be given in writing and may be delivered personally or sent by email, post or fax.*

2.1.9.5: *Any notice or communication shall be deemed to have been served if emailed at the time of delivery.*

2.1.10: Definition of a Schoolboy/Schoolgirl

2.1.10.1: *A bona fide schoolboy/schoolgirl for the purposes of the competitions of the Association must satisfy the following criteria:*

- a) *A boy/girl who has not attained his/her 20th birthday before the first day January immediately preceding the start of the Academic Year in which the competitions in question commence; &*
- b) *A boy/girl who is pursuing a full course of study leading to sitting for the Leaving Certificate, or an equivalent level examination; &*
- c) *A boy/girl who is continuously in full regular attendance during school hours (except in case of illness) at the school for which he/she is playing from the start of the Academic Year in which the competitions in question commence.*

2.1.10.2: *Notwithstanding the foregoing, a boy/girl changing his/her school during the Academic Year may play for his/her new school, provided that he/she may not play for two schools in one and*



the same competition during any Academic Year, without sanction in writing from the Branch/Section to his/her school.

2.1.11: Age Limits:

The age limits for competitions shall be:

- a) Senior: Under 19 (Under 20 for girls competitions) on the 1st day of January of the year in which the season ends.*
- b) Junior: Under 17 on the 1st day of January of the year in which the season ends.*
- c) Minor: Under 15 on the 1st day of January of the year in which the season ends.*
- d) First Year: First Year & Under 14 on the 1st day of January of the year in which the season ends.*

2.1.12: Data Protection Policy:

2.1.12.1: The FAI Schools Data Protection Policy is in line with the FAI Data Protection Policy (2018)

2.1.12.2: All data provided by schools to the FAI Schools will be stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) legislation (2018):

2.1.12.3: The FAI Schools will act in accordance with the following data protection principles:

- Accountability: We are committed to the principles of the GDPR by adopting the concept of 'data privacy by design' within our operational model. We remain accountable by having detailed policies & systems in place including the management of access rights requests.*
- Transparency, Fairness & Lawfulness: We process data with data subjects' interests in mind & ensure that we approach processing activities with transparency to maintain fairness in what we do. This way we can be sure that we are processing data lawfully. We have a robust process in place to allow us to deal efficiently with any access requests we may receive.*
- Data Minimisation & Data Storage: We will not keep data for longer than is necessary & only keep data if there is a basis which allows fair retention.*
- Data Accuracy: Keeping data accurate is very important to us & we maintain data to a high quality & with all the facts available.*
- Purpose Limitation: We use the data we attain for a specific purpose. This means that data is not processed for any alternative reasons other than what the data was originally collected for.*

2.1.13: Trophies:

2.1.13.1: Trophies remain the property of the National Body or Provincial Branch at all times.

2.1.13.2: Trophies should be engraved with the school name at the earliest opportunity after the trophy has been presented.

2.1.13.3: Trophies should be returned to the respective competition organisers before the end of November each season, This allows time for their checking/cleaning etc. before the seasons' finals commences.

2.1.13.4: If trophies are not returned, or are returned & not engraved, in adequate time for finals, a trophy fine of €50 per item will be levied on that school for the subsequent season.

2.1.13.5: If trophies are damaged, lost or misplaced, schools will be liable for the full repair or replacement costs, as applicable. Repair work must restore the trophy to its original condition, or a replacement may be needed. Replacements will be sourced from the National/Branch trophy supplier, not by the school concerned.



2.1.14: Medals:

2.1.14.1: *Eighteen (18) medals will be presented at all finals, for the eighteen (18) players named on the match card.*

2.1.14.2: *Additional medals can be ordered, at the schools own expense, from the medals supplier used by the National Body/Branch – details will be provided upon request.*

2.2: General Rules – Operational:

2.2.1: Home School Responsibilities:

2.2.1.1: *Make contact with the opposing school to arrange the game. The home school is primarily responsible for the arrangements for the game.*

2.2.1.2: *Ensure that the home pitch is available, properly marked, with appropriate netting & corner flags.*

2.2.1.3: *If the home school's pitch is unavailable, for whatever reason, then the game automatically switches to the away school's pitch, no exceptions.*

2.2.1.4: *Please follow this rule at all times, to ensure smooth running of the competitions.*

2.2.1.5: *Ensure that there is no clash of jerseys. In the event of a clash of jerseys, it is the responsibility of the home school to change.*

2.2.1.6: *Arrange referee at least 72 hours before game, either via FAI Observers or direct appointment.*

2.2.1.7: *Two appropriately weighted Size 5 match balls should be available in accordance with Rule 2.2.5.2 below.*

2.2.1.8: *Provide a Match Card for the Referee.*

2.2.1.9: *Inform the Competition Organiser of the results immediately after the game has concluded.*

2.2.2: Away School Responsibilities:

2.2.2.1: *If the home school has not been in contact, please get in touch with them to agree a match date.*

2.2.2.2: *Please inform the competition organiser of the lack of contact from the home school.*

2.2.2.3: *If the home school pitch is unavailable, for whatever reason, make arrangements for the game to be played at the away school's designated venue.*

2.2.2.4: *Even though the home school is primarily responsible for the arrangements of the game, both schools need to be pro-active in ensuring that the game is played within an appropriate timeframe.*

2.2.2.5: *Inform the Competition Organiser of the results immediately after the game has concluded.*

2.2.3: Grounds

2.2.3.1: *Schools may register grounds for home fixtures provided such grounds belong to, and are under the sole control of the school concerned.*

2.2.3.2: *The Section/Branch reserves the right to permit schools to register grounds not under their sole control.*

2.2.3.3: *The Section/Branch shall decide whether such grounds shall be used for any particular fixture or not.*

2.2.3.4: *The Section/Branch shall have the right to arrange for inspection of such registered grounds, and decide on their suitability or otherwise.*

2.2.3.5: *Grounds must be properly marked, nets and corner flags must be used, in accordance with the laws of the game must be used.*

2.2.3.6: *The referee shall have the power to decide on any objection to the playing area, it's markings or equipment, or any other equipment furnished for a match, subject to any rules or regulations made by the Association from time to time.*



2.2.3.7: *The Referee's decision shall be final and, in the event of his/her being dissatisfied with the arrangements, he/she shall report the cause of his/her dissatisfaction to the Section/Branch, which may then take such action as it sees fit to remedy the defect, or ensure its non-recurrence.*

2.2.3.8: *All FAI approved & certified synthetic grass pitches may be used for FAI Schools games – no agreement between teams is required. Schools do not have the right to refuse to play on these pitches, once they are FAI approved & certified.*

2.2.4: Colours:

2.2.4.1: *Schools must register their colours with the Branch/Section Honorary Secretary, and in case of a clash, the home side shall change.*

2.2.4.2: *Goalkeepers must wear distinguishing colours.*

2.2.4.3: *In the event of two schools with clashing colours playing a match on neutral ground, the choice of colours shall be decided beforehand by the toss of a coin by an Officer of the Section/Branch.*

2.2.5: Equipment:

2.2.5.1: *All matches shall be played with a size 5 football, appropriately weighted.*

2.2.5.2: *It is the responsibility of the home school to provide two match balls at the appropriate size.*

2.2.6: Appointment of Match Officials

2.2.6.1: *Schools are required to appoint their own referees, either through the FAI Referee's Observer for their region or by direct appointment if no observer system applies.*

2.2.6.2: *Referees should be contacted a minimum of 72 hours before a game.*

2.2.6.3: *If games are re-arranged, referees must be informed immediately.*

2.2.6.4: *If changes to dates & times of games are not notified to referees, they are entitled to the match fee &/or travel expenses.*

2.2.6.5: *Neutral referees will be appointed by competition organisers for the following stages of competitions:*

a) *Cups & Shields: Semi-Finals & Final.*

b) *Leagues: In accordance with agreed & notified competition guidelines.*

2.2.7: Match Cards

2.2.7.1: *Match cards can be obtained by contacting the Branch/Section Honorary Secretary. or can be downloaded from the FAI Schools website. A link will be provided to all schools at the start of the season.*

2.2.7.2: *It is the responsibility of the home school to provide a match card for each game. In the case of matches being held at neutral venues, both schools should provide a match card.*

2.2.7.3: *A maximum of sixteen players may be named on the match cards.*

2.2.7.4: *All players named on the match card should play between 25% to 50% of game, at First Year & Minor level.*

2.2.7.5: *Full player names (first & surname) must be listed on the card beside the jersey number the player is wearing.*

2.2.7.6: *The team mentor of each team shall see that the match card is completed before a game commences. Mentors must never retain, or seek to retain, match cards after the match concludes.*

2.2.7.7: *All match cards should be returned by the match official only, to the respective Branch/Section Honorary Secretary/ Fixtures Secretary/Competition Organiser, at the address provided.*

2.2.7.8: *Naming players on a match card is deemed to be an 'intention to play', even if listed substitutes do not play during the game.*

2.2.7.9: *All match cards will be checked for overage/suspended players. Other match cards will only be checked upon receipt of an 'evidence of conformity' check in accordance with Section 4*



2.2.8: Number in a Team:

In accordance with the laws of the game, eleven players are selected to represent the school, except where otherwise stated.

2.2.9: Substitutes:

2.2.9.1: Seven substitutes may be named on the match card.

2.2.9.2: Seven from seven named substitutes may be used in all competitions. Substitutions at Senior & Junior level are fixed. Substitutions at Minor & First Year level are on a roll-on, roll-off basis.

2.2.9.3 Seven from seven named substitutes may be used in all Minor & First Year competitions, on a roll-on, roll-off basis.

2.2.9.4: A maximum of three (3) substitutes per team are permitted to warm up on the pitch perimeter at any one time during a match. Substitutes warming up must wear bibs which clearly differentiate them from all other players, substitutes of the opposing team and the match officials.

2.2.10: Duration of Matches:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Senior	2 periods of 45 minutes	2 periods of 40 minutes
Junior	2 periods of 40 minutes	2 periods of 35 minutes
Minor	2 periods of 35 minutes	2 periods of 30 minutes
First Year	2 periods of 30 minutes	2 periods of 25 minutes

2.2.11: Extra Time:

2.2.11.1: Extra time shall be of two ten minute periods in any Cup or Shield match, or League play-off.

2.2.11.2: In the event of both teams agreeing, the match may be decided by proceeding directly to penalty kicks.

2.2.12: Penalties:

In the event of a cup or shield match or a league play-off being tied at the end of extra time, penalty kicks shall be used to decide the outcome of the match.

2.2.13: Unfinished Matches:

In the event of a match being unfinished owing to darkness, accident or any other cause, the Committee shall have the power at their discretion to declare the match decided according to the goals scored at the time of abandonment, or re-fix the match.

2.2.14: Potential Removal from Competition

2.2.14.2: Delaying Competition: Unnecessary & unexplained hold-ups, without notifying competition organiser.

2.2.14.2: Failing to Maintain Contact with Competition Organiser: Forwarding results, enquiring about fixtures, general communication.

2.2.14.3: Registration Irregularities: Overage players, missing dates-of-birth, too many players registered, failure to respond to registration communication. Please see Section 2.5: Registration.

2.2.14.4: Playing Suspended Player/s: Automatic removal – all served suspensions must be notified.

2.2.14.5: This list is not exhaustive.

2.2.15: Unacceptable Excuses:

2.2.15.1: Extended Cup or Shield Run: An extended cup run should not interfere with a league campaign – league fixtures should be played between cup games.



2.2.15.2: *TY/LCA/LCVP Work Experience: All schools are aware in advance as to when work experience is taking place. Arrangements should be made to play fixtures before affected dates.*

2.2.15.3: *Player Overlap: A panel of up to 30 players can be registered. Fixtures should not be delayed because of overlap of players between age groups.*

2.2.15.4: *Lack of Notice: Schools will be given a minimum of three days' notice for all play-off fixtures.*

2.2.16: Gate Receipts:

Gate monies, where charged at matches in competitions arranged by a Branch, shall be at its discretion, and remain its property.

2.2.17: Cessation of Involvement During A Season:

2.2.17.1: *If any competing team ceases to participate in a league competition for any reason during a season, then its playing record shall be expunged from the record.*

a) *For the avoidance of doubt, expunging the playing record means all points accumulated by & goals for & against recorded by schools competing against the school that has ceased to participate shall be deleted from the records.*

b) *Disciplinary matters are not included & records of mentors or players accruing suspensions &/ or serving suspensions or any other sanction will be retained.*

2.2.17.2: *If any Competing team ceases to participate in a cup or shield competition for any reason during a season, then they shall be removed from the draw & their opponents shall be forwarded to the next stage of the competition.*

a) *Disciplinary matters are not included & records of mentors or players accruing suspensions &/ or serving suspensions or any other sanction will be retained.*

2.3: Cup/Shield Competition Specific:

2.3.1: Competition Format:

2.3.1.1: *All cup & shield competitions may be played on the basis of a regionalised draw (up to Last 16 stage for First Year, Minor, Junior & Senior Cups, up to Quarter-Final Stage for First Year 'B', Minor 'B', Junior 'B' or Senior 'B' Cups & all Shields).*

2.3.1.2: *A league format may be used for the early stages of the competition, as a qualifying tournament for the knockout stage of the competition. This is at the discretion of the relevant Branch/Section.*

2.3.2: Fixture Allocation:

2.3.2.1: *Fixtures for preliminary & first round draws of cup & shield competitions will be at the earliest opportunity.*

2.3.2.3: *Fixtures will then be forwarded by the Honorary Secretary, Fixture Secretary or Competition Organiser to the participating schools.*

2.3.2.3: *Fixtures for subsequent rounds will be forwarded by the relevant competition organisers.*

2.3.2.4: *Cup winners will then be contacted by the FAI Schools Administrator with regard to All-Ireland play-offs.*

2.3.2.5: *In the event of a fixture clash, Cup fixtures will take priority over shield or league fixtures.*

2.3.3: 'B' Cup Criteria:

2.3.3.1: *Schools entering the Senior, Junior or Minor 'B' Cup will be required to provide evidence of the school roll confirming their eligibility for competition (less than 250 boys/girls on the entire school roll).*



- 2.3.3.2: *Schools entering the First Year 'B' Cup will be required to provide evidence of the school roll confirming their eligibility for competition (less than 50 boys/girls in First Year on the school roll).*
- 2.3.3.3: *The general format is a letter on school headed paper confirming numbers. Letter must be co-signed by the School Principal.*
- 2.3.4: Cup/Shield Playoff Venues:
- 2.3.4.1: *Cup & shield playoff venues will be arranged by the respective competition organiser.*
- 2.3.4.2: *Any fees involved in hiring said venue will be shared equally by the competing schools.*
- 2.3.5: Cup/Shield Final Dates:
- 2.3.5.1: *Cup final dates for all Cup competitions will be fixed by the National Executive (National Cups) or Provincial Executives (Provincial Cups & Shields) & cannot be changed.*
- 2.3.5.2: *All cup & shield final dates will be notified to schools in the first term of the school academic year.*
- 2.3.5.3: *All cup competitions must be completed in time (one calendar week in advance) for National Semi-Finals. If not, the Branch will be required to nominate one school to represent the province in the National Cup competition.*
- 2.3.6: Nomination Criteria for National Cup Competitions:
- 2.4: League Competition Specific:**
- 2.4.1: League Groups & Formats:
- 2.4.1.1: *For the purpose of league competitions, each province can be divided into regions, with the allocations of schools to regions decided by the respective Branch/Section Committee.*
- 2.4.1.2: *Each region will be organised by an organiser or sub-committee operating in accordance with instructions issued by the Executive Committee of the Branch/Section.*
- 2.4.1.3: *League competition organisers will be responsible for competition groupings & competition formats.*
- 2.4.1.4: *A league format may be used to decide on qualifiers for the knock-out stages of a cup competition.*
- 2.4.2: Divisional Allocation:
- 2.4.2.1: *In regions where divisional competition is offered, schools shall be allocated to divisions based on a combination of school size & previous competition history.*
- 2.4.2.2: *The decision of the Section Executive Committee on divisional allocation is deemed final, subject to the Appeals & Protests Procedure outlined in Section Four of these Rules.*
- 2.4.3: Fixture Allocation:
- 2.4.3.1: *Fixtures for league competitions will be forwarded by the Honorary Secretary/Fixtures Secretary or Competition Organiser at the earliest possible opportunity.*
- 2.4.3.2: *Fixtures for league competition play-offs will be forwarded by the relevant competition organisers at the appropriate juncture.*
- 2.4.3.3: *In the event of a fixture clash, Cup fixtures will take priority over league fixtures.*
- 2.4.4: Group Deadlines:
- 2.4.4.1: *For the purposes of competition integrity, a group finish deadline can be imposed by a respective Branch/Section.*
- 2.4.4.2: *Group deadline dates will be notified with the sending of fixtures by the respective Honorary Secretary/Fixtures Secretary/Competition Organiser.*
- 2.4.5: Criteria for Closing Groups:



2.4.5.1: General Principles;

- a) *Walkovers cannot be granted.*
- b) *The maximum winning margin that can be recorded for table purposes is five goals.*
- c) *The competition organiser's decision is deemed to be final, subject to the Appeals & Protests Procedure outlined in Section Four of these Rules.*
- d) *The group may be closed without being completed.*
- e) *If a school is reported (by a mentor to the competition organiser) for being unwilling to fulfil their fixtures before notified deadlines, the competition organiser must contact the reported school for clarification.*
- f) *If a school is found to be unreasonably delaying the competition & preventing another school from progressing in competition, the offending schools' entire record must be expunged & the table for that group re-drawn, provided doing so does not inadvertently penalise a third school.*

2.4.5.2: Minimum Matches to be Played for Qualification from Groups:

- a) *In four-team groups, a minimum of two matches must be played in order to qualify for Play-offs.*
- b) *In five-team groups, a minimum of three matches must be played in order to qualify for Play-offs.*
- c) *In six-team groups, a minimum of four matches must be played in order to qualify for Play-offs.*
- d) *In seven-team groups, a minimum of five matches must be played in order to qualify for Play-offs.*

2.4.5.3: Where Teams Are Level On Points:

- a) *Minimum Matches Played*
- b) *Points*
- c) *Head-to-Head Record*
- d) *Goals Scored*
- e) *Goal Difference*
- f) *Play-off* (time dependent – at the discretion of the competition organiser.)*
- g) *Toss of Coin*

2.5: Player Registration

2.5.1: Submission of Playing Squad:

2.5.1.1: *All teams competing shall only play players who are properly registered to play in the competitions.*

2.5.1.2.: *By a date notified by the Branch/Section, the teacher-in-charge shall furnish a list of not more than thirty names, being the panel from whom the team will be selected.*

2.5.1.3: *The method by which the submission of this playing squad takes place shall be decided by each Branch/Section.*

2.5.1.4: *The date of birth of each boy/girl on this list shall be given.*

2.5.1.5: *Any other relevant information deemed necessary by the Branch/Section shall be submitted at the same time as the list of names.*

2.5.1.6: *Only one squad per age group is permitted to be registered. Separate squads for cup & league competitions may not be submitted.*

2.5.2: Maximum/Minimum Number of Players to be Registered:

2.5.2.1: *A maximum of 30 players may be registered on any one squad, at any one time.*

2.5.2.2: *A minimum of 11 players may be registered on any one squad, at any one time.*



2.5.3: Correct Submission of Data:

2.5.3.1: *It is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge to ensure that all information provided for the purposes of player registration is fully correct & accurate.*

2.5.3.2: *Sanctions may be taken as a result of the provision of incorrect information by the teacher-in-charge.*

2.5.3.3: *All players named on the match card will be deemed as active, as naming a player on a match card is deemed as an ‘intention to play’.*

2.5.4: Alterations to Playing Squad:

2.5.4.1: *Alterations to the initial panel submitted may be made, by the method of registration used by the Branch/Section, not less than three days before a match in which the newly registered student is eligible to play.*

2.5.4.2: *Alterations will only be allowed once the maximum size of the playing squad is not exceeded.*

2.5.5: Students Transferring From Another School:

2.5.5.1: *If a school wishes to register a student that has transferred from another school, it must be clarified if he/she has played for his previous school in FAI Schools competitions.*

2.5.5.2: *If the student has played for his previous school, then he/she is ineligible to play for the new school in the same competition.*

2.5.5.3: *In the case of 2.5.5.2 above, the student will become eligible from the beginning of the next academic year.*

2.5.6: Squad Irregularities:

2.5.6.1: *The following squad irregularities may be notified to teachers-in-charge;*

- a) *Too Many/Too Few Players Registered*
- b) *Overage Players Registered*
- c) *Unregistered Players Played in Competitions*
- d) *Players Not Registered in Time (in accordance with Rule 2.5.3 above)*

2.5.6.2: *The teacher-in-charge will be given a defined period in which to address the irregularity. If the irregularity is not corrected within the stated timeframe, then the sanctions outlined in Rule 2.5.8 below will be imposed.*

2.5.7: Sanctions for Player Registration Offences:

BREACH	PENALTY
FAILURE TO REGISTER ANY PLAYERS	REMOVAL FROM AFFECTED COMPETITION/S
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO NOTIFIED REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES – LEAGUE	1 ST OFFENCE – WRITTEN WARNING 2 ND OFFENCE – 3 POINT DEDUCTION (IRRESPECTIVE OF RESULT) 3 RD OFFENCE – REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO NOTIFIED REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES – CUP	REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION
PLAYING UNREGISTERED PLAYER/S – CUP	REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION
PLAYING UNREGISTERED PLAYERS – LEAGUE (GROUP STAGES)	1 ST OFFENCE – WRITTEN WARNING 2 ND OFFENCE – 3 POINT DEDUCTION (IRRESPECTIVE OF RESULT) 3 RD OFFENCE – REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION
PLAYING UNREGISTERED PLAYERS – LEAGUE (PLAY-OFF STAGES)	REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION
PLAYING OVERAGE PLAYERS	REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION

2.5.7.1: *In the case of cup matches or league play-off matches, if a school has progressed in competition & is subsequently removed, as per Rule 2.5.7 above, then the team defeated in the affected match shall be restored to the competition.*



Section 3: Discipline

3.1.: General:

- 3.1.1: *All Disciplinary matters relating to any Branch/Section Competition shall be under the remit of the relevant Branch/Section Committee.*
- 3.1.2: *Every affiliated school is responsible for the actions of its players & spectators. Schools are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent players or spectators threatening or assaulting match officials or players whilst in attendance at schools matches.*
- 3.1.3: *In order to protect the integrity of competitions, amendments made to disciplinary sanctions during the course of any competition shall not apply for the duration of the said competition.*

3.2: Offences

3.2.1: Misconduct by Players:

- 3.2.1.1: *Any player sent off in a match in any competition of the Section/Branch is automatically suspended from further participation in any competitions of the Section/Branch or of the Association, until the school concerned has been notified of the disciplinary decision of the Section/Branch or Association.*
- 3.2.1.2: *Any player cautioned in any four matches of the Section/Branch, or of the Association in any one season, is automatically suspended from further participation in any competitions of the Section/Branch or of the Association. This suspension will commence immediately after the school has been notified of the suspension imposed.*
- 3.2.1.3: *In the case of specific incident reports on player misconduct received, the mentor of the team will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Committee Meeting. The Committee Meeting will then decide on the course of action to be pursued, if any.*
- 3.2.1.4: *The right is reserved to sanction an infringement which has escaped the referee's notice.*

3.2.2: Misconduct by Mentors:

- 3.2.2.1: *Any mentor sent off in a match in any competition of the Section/Branch, or reported in any match of the Section/Branch, or of the Association in any one season, will be subject to investigation by the Section/Branch or of the Association.*
- 3.2.2.2: *Any mentor who unduly causes competition delays will be subject to investigation by the Section/Branch or of the Association.*
- 3.2.2.3: *Any mentor who knowingly plays matches under the guise of competition, following the removal of their team from competition, will be subject to investigation by the Section/Branch or of the Association*
- 3.2.2.4: *Disparaging Comments:*
- Public comment, including e-mail correspondence, of the following nature may result in disciplinary sanction:*
- a) *Comments which are offensive or threatening in any way;*
 - b) *Comments causing damage to the game or bringing the game into disrepute;*
 - c) *Unsubstantiated allegations which question any person or bodies integrity or are disparaging in any way.*
- 3.2.2.5: *The mentor will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Branch/Section Committee Meeting.*
- 3.2.2.6: *The Branch/Section Committee Meeting will then decide on the course of action to be pursued, if any.*



3.2.3: Misconduct by Team:

3.2.3.1: *Each team must be under the full control of a teacher from the school concerned, on and off the field.*

3.2.3.2: *A team that incurs five cautions in any one match will have their conduct investigated by the relevant Committee.*

3.2.3.3: *A team that incurs three dismissals in any one match will have their conduct investigated by the relevant Committee.*

3.2.3.4: *The mentor of the team concerned will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Committee Meeting.*

3.2.3.5: *The Committee Meeting will then decide on the course of action to be pursued, if any.*

3.2.4: Misconduct by Supporters:

3.2.4.1: *The term 'supporter' shall denote all students who are present at a fixture, who are not named on the match card for that fixture.*

3.2.4.2: *Each school shall be responsible for the behaviour of its supporters.*

3.2.4.3: *Where a large number of supporters may be in attendance at a neutral venue, it is recommended that a proportional number of responsible adults accompany all school teams to all fixtures. The recommended ratio is 1:20.*

3.2.4.4: *Where a number of supporters may be present at a school's home pitch, they must be under the supervision of a responsible adult, other than the team mentor.*

3.2.4.5: *If students are attending a game at a school's home pitch over break time, they must be under the supervision of a responsible adult, other than the team mentor.*

3.2.4.6: *If using public playing facilities, every effort must be made, in co-operation with the body hiring out the facilities, to secure the grounds from potential interference by outside persons.*

3.2.4.7: *Schools grounds should be secure, where possible, from potential interference by outside persons.*

3.2.4.8: *If a school wishes to lodge a complaint regarding the alleged actions of supporters, any such complaint must be lodged within 48 hours of completion of the match concerned.*

3.2.5: Abandonment of Game:

3.2.5.1: *All instances where a match is abandoned shall be investigated by the relevant Committee, as soon as is practicable.*

3.2.5.2: *The mentor of both schools involved in the abandoned game will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Committee Meeting.*

3.2.5.3: *The Committee Meeting will then decide on one of the following two courses of action;*

- a) *Declare a result & award a tie/allocate the points according to the goals scored at the time of the abandonment;*
- b) *Order the match to be replayed in its entirety, by a date to be fixed by the Committee.*

3.2.6: Allegations of Racism:

3.2.6.1: *If a school wishes to lodge a complaint regarding allegations of racism, any such complaint must be lodged within 48 hours of completion of the match concerned.*

3.2.6.2: *All instances where allegations of racism are made shall be investigated by the relevant Committee, as soon as is practicable.*

3.2.6.3: *The mentor of both schools involved in the allegations will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Committee Meeting.*



3.2.6.4: *All allegations of racism shall be investigated in accordance with the FAI/FAI Schools Protocol for Reporting Alleged Racial Abuse (see Appendix Seven).*

3.2.6.5: *Any Participant, who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a derogatory manner on account of race, colour, sexual orientation, disability, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous act, shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. The relevant disciplinary body shall consider and have the power to impose a sanction as deemed appropriate.*

3.2.6.6: *If spectators engage in racist or homophobic behaviour, including chanting or displaying racist or homophobic slogans at a match, the relevant disciplinary body shall sanction the affiliate or club which these spectators support. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or other club/affiliate the host club/affiliate maybe sanctioned.*

3.2.7: **Forgery/Falsification:**

3.2.7.1: *All instances where allegations of forgery/falsification are made shall be investigated by the relevant Committee, as soon as is practicable.*

3.2.7.2: *The mentor involved in the allegations of forgery/falsification will be summonsed to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Branch/Section Committee Meeting.*

3.2.7.3: *The Branch/Section shall decide on any action to be taken, if necessary.*

3.2.8: **Playing Suspended/Overage/Ineligible Player/s:**

3.2.8.1: *All players that play in specific games must be eligible for that game.*

3.2.8.2: *All instances where suspended, overage or ineligible players are played will be investigated by the relevant Committee, as soon as is practicable.*

3.2.8.3: *The mentor involved in the playing of suspended, overage or ineligible players will be summoned to make representations, either in person or in writing, at the next applicable Committee Meeting.*

3.2.8.4: *The Committee Meeting will then decide on the course of action to be pursued, if any.*

3.2.8.5: *Teams will be removed from competition in accordance with Rule 3.3.7.1 for playing a suspended, overage or ineligible player.*

3.2.8.6: *Mentors that are responsible for playing suspended players will be suspended for a minimum of two matches.*

3.3: Sanctions:

3.3.1: **Notification of Sanctions:**

3.3.1.1: *All disciplinary sanctions communicated must refer to the relevant applicable section of the FAI Schools Rulebook.*

3.3.1.2: *Disciplinary decisions may be communicated electronically, by fax or by registered post. An electronic or facsimile delivery report or registered post receipt is sufficient evidence that a decision has been properly notified.*

3.3.1.3: *Disciplinary decisions that result in a player receiving an extended suspension or term suspension will be copied to the school Principal.*

3.3.1.4: *Disciplinary decisions that result in a mentor receiving a warning, a match suspension or term suspension will be copied to the school Principal.*

3.3.1.5: *Disciplinary decisions that result in a player or mentor being issued with a term suspension of six months or longer, will be notified to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the Football Association of Ireland.*



3.3.2: Applicable Sanctions:

The Branch or Section can apply any or a combination of the following sanctions, where it is deemed appropriate.

- a) *Warning*
- b) *Suspension*
- c) *Removal from Competition*
- d) *Forfeiture of Match*

3.3.3: Warning:

Warnings as to future conduct may be issued in circumstances where the investigating Committee feels that actions committed by a player, mentor or team did not comply with the standard expected, but did not warrant the issuing of a suspension.

3.3.4: Suspension – Definition & Operation:

3.3.4.1: Suspension refers to any disciplinary penalty imposed on any player, mentor or school.

3.3.4.2: Suspensions will usually be defined in terms of a number of matches.

3.3.4.3: For serious incidents term suspensions (periods of time) may be applied.

3.3.4.4: Term suspensions of more than six months will be notified to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit.

3.3.4.5: Suspensions take effect immediately.

3.3.4.6: All suspension details will be notified by the relevant Committee to the mentor of the concerned player/team.

3.3.4.7: Suspensions apply to all competitions, league or cup, under the auspices of the Association, except for where detailed in Rule 3.3.4.8 below;

3.3.4.8: In the case of provincial cup winners, any player(s) dismissed in a provincial cup final shall serve their suspension only in National Cup competitions. Only when the team's commitment to National competitions is completed may provincial league competitions be used for the purposes of completing the suspension.

3.3.5: Player Suspension:

3.3.5.1: The following terms of suspensions apply, based on the category of caution/dismissal contained in the referees report.

- a) *Four Yellow Cards = 1 game suspension*
- b) *Persistent Infringement (Second Yellow Card in the same match) = 1 game suspension*
- c) *Foul or Abusive Language = 2 game suspension*
- d) *Unsporting Conduct/Denying Obvious Goalscoring Opportunity = 2 game suspension*
- e) *Violent Conduct/Serious Foul Play = 3 game suspension*
- f) *Spitting = 6 game suspension*
- g) *Foul or Abusive Language towards a match official = 4 games*
- h) *Placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a match official = 12 games*
- i) *Assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, striking, elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official = minimum of 12 months from all football related activity.*
- j) *Assaulting (involving head butting, repeated punching, kicking or assaults involving more than one player) a match official = minimum of 36 months from all football related activity.*
- k) *Involvement in a brawl/fight = 6 matches*

3.3.5.2: If a player incurs a second or further suspension within the same season or within a short period of time, additional games may be added to the suspension term.



- 3.3.5.3: *Serious incidents (assaulting, spitting, striking, fighting, butting, elbowing, punching etc.) may be investigated by the Committee, with the player suspended until the investigation is complete. Such investigations will be notified by the relevant Committee to the mentor of the concerned player/team.*
- 3.3.5.4: *Players must serve their suspension in the age group/s for which they are registered at the time of the dismissal. Players cannot be added to other squads for the purposes of serving a suspension.*
- 3.3.5.5: *Where a player/official persists in using foul or abusive language having been sent from the field of play, a further suspension may be applied.*
- 3.3.5.6: *If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator/s of an offence, the association may sanction the school to which the aggressors belong.*
- 3.3.5.7: *A player who has not received a red card but who has been reported for misconduct may be sanctioned in accordance with Rule 3.3.5 above.*
- 3.3.5.8: *The right is reserved to punish an infringement which has escaped the match officials attention.*
- 3.3.5.9: *Where more than one offence is noted in the match report, suspension terms can be combined for sanctioning purposes, where deemed to be appropriate.*
- 3.3.5.10: *Suspensions of twelve (12) months duration or longer must be notified immediately to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the FAI and to all other relevant bodies by any Member or League handing down such a suspension. Such notification shall be accompanied by a copy of the Match Official's Report.*
- 3.3.5.11: *If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of the match.*
- 3.3.5.12: *All of the foregoing suspensions are the minimum penalties. The section, branch or National Executive may impose suspensions above this minimum depending on the nature of the offences committed.*
- 3.3.6: **Mentor Suspension:**
- 3.3.6.1: *Team mentors are acting 'in loco parentis' & must remember that young people need a coach whom they can respect. Team mentors are expected to lead by example & as such, if they fail to do so, serious sanctions may be applied.*
- 3.3.6.2: *Team mentors are required to operate in line with the 'FAI Code of Best Practice for Mentors', as detailed in Appendix Two.*
- 3.3.6.3: *Game/term suspensions can be applied to mentors, if deemed necessary by the Branch/Section Executive Committee.*
- 3.3.6.4: *The conditions of a mentor suspension shall be as follows;*
- a) *The suspension applies to all team/s for which the mentor is registered. No other team can be used to serve the suspension.*
 - b) *If the team has finished in competitions for this season, please note that the suspension carries over to next season. If this is the case, the mentor must register on the affiliation forms for the subsequent season & then serve the suspension. as mentor must be in line with previous seasons i.e. the same number of teams must be mentored in both seasons.*
 - c) *In the case of a term suspension (period of time as opposed to number of games) the school must be affiliated for the period in question. If not, the suspension period will be delayed until such time as the suspension period is served.*



- d) *Non-involvement refers to attendance at the game in any capacity (i.e. as a mentor or spectator) or any arrangements of the game (i.e. arranging fixtures, contacting referees etc.). A mentor serving a suspension shall not attend the area immediately surrounding the field of play and is banned from the dressing rooms and the technical area & shall not have contact with any players and technical officials from sixty minutes prior to kick off until sixty minutes after the final whistle has been blown. Mentors are free to prepare the team for any fixture from which they are suspended.*
- e) *Mentor suspension applies to any match day activity for any team in the school. Whilst the suspension is served with the team/s for which the mentor is registered, a mentor under suspension may not attend any other school fixture, in any capacity, until the term of suspension has expired.*
- f) *Any contravention of the terms of the suspension will be investigated by the Executive Committee & may lead to a further suspension being imposed.*
- g) *Upon completion of the suspension, details of the games missed, including applicable competition, age group & dates, should be furnished to the relevant Committee. This does not apply in the case of term suspensions.*

3.3.7: Removal from Competition:

3.3.7.1: *Teams may be removed from competitions for the following reasons;*

- a) *Playing overage player/s.*
- b) ***Playing suspended player/s.***
- c) *Causing the abandonment of a game.*
- d) *Unacceptable team conduct.*
- e) *Non-payment of fees.*
- f) *Refusal to play games.*
- g) *Registration breaches*

3.3.7.2: *In the case of cup matches or league play-off matches, if a school has progressed in competition & is subsequently removed, then the team defeated in the affected match shall be restored to the competition.*

3.3.7.3: *Defeated teams may only be returned to competition once only.*

3.3.7.4: *Defeated teams may only be returned to competition, if the re-arranged match takes place within 14 days of the original fixture.*

3.3.8: Supporters:

Where supporters have been found to have misbehaved, the following sanctions may apply;

- a) *Supporters may be banned from all matches.*
- b) *The school may lose home ground advantage for a defined number of games or period of time.*

3.3.9: Abandonment of Game:

Where games have been abandoned, the following sanctions may apply;

- a) *The game may be awarded to one of the teams.*
- b) *Both teams may be removed from competition.*
- c) *Sanctions against individuals involved may be taken, in accordance with Rules 3.3.3, 3.3.4 & 3.3.5 above.*
- d) *Any cautions or dismissals incurred in an abandoned or annulled games remain on the player's disciplinary record.*

3.3.10: Racist Abuse:

Where an allegation of racial abuse is substantiated, the following sanctions may apply;



- a) *Sanctions against individuals involved may be taken, in accordance with Rules 3.3.3, 3.3.4 & 3.3.5 above. In the case of individuals, the minimum suspension shall be for a period of five matches.*
- b) *Sanctions against teams may be taken, in accordance with Rules 3.3.6, 3.3.7 & 3.3.8 above.*

3.3.11: Forgery/Falsification:

3.3.11.1: Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive shall be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.

3.3.11.2: If the perpetrator is an official, the body shall impose a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least twelve months.

3.3.12: Appealing Sanctions:

All sanctions, except where otherwise provided for in these Rules, may be appealed through the procedure outlined in Section 4 below & in accordance with the Rules of the FAI, UEFA and FIFA.

3.4: Other Disciplinary Issues:

3.4.1.: Compliance with Sanctions:

Any school failing to comply with these rules for whatever reason shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition concerned. The Section/Branch Committee shall decide on any further action which it may be deemed necessary to take.

3.4.2: Match Officials & Disciplinary Action:

3.4.2.1: Match officials are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the FAI Rules and FAI Referee Regulations.

3.4.2.2: If a school wishes to lodge a complaint about the actions of a match official, they must do so, to the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Section or Branch within 48 hours of completion of a match.

3.4.2.3: The relevant Committee will judge the complaint made &, if deemed necessary, the matter will be referred on to the appropriate FAI Regional Referees Committee.

3.4.3: Unidentified Aggressors:

If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s) of an offence, the Section/Branch may sanction the school to which the aggressors belong.

3.4.4: Bringing the Game into Disrepute:

Any member who has brought the game of football or the FAI/FAI Schools into disrepute by any means, written, verbal, by action or otherwise shall be sanctioned with a suspension &/or fine &/or a ban on performing any football related activity or other sanction deemed appropriate.

3.4.5: Disparaging Comments:

Public comment of the following nature may result in disciplinary sanction:

- a) *Comments which are offensive or threatening in any way;*
- b) *Comments causing damage to the game or bringing the game into disrepute;*
- c) *Unsubstantiated allegations which question any person or bodies integrity or are disparaging in any way.*

3.4.6: Alleged Mistaken Identity:

3.4.6.1: In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player sent off in a match, the Player concerned & their school must, within 24 hours of receiving the suspension notice, submit in writing to the relevant Committee, particulars upon which the claim is founded including the identity of the person actually responsible.



3.4.6.2: The particulars must also include a signed statement by the Player reported by the Referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported.

3.4.6.3: If the relevant Committee is satisfied that mistaken identity has been proved in a case, the record of the offence will be transferred to the appropriate offender, who shall be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of the current procedures.



Section 4: Protests & Appeals:

4.1: Definitions:

4.1.1: Structure:

4.1.1.1: The FAI Schools is governed by the National Executive.

4.1.1.2: The Association is divided into four branches (Connacht, Leinster, Munster, Ulster).

4.1.1.3: Each Branch is subdivided into three sections as follows:

a) Primary; b) Post-primary Girls; c) Post-primary Boys

4.1.2: Definition of a Protest:

Protests may be made over certain issues, such as rule infringements, possible registration infringements, the result of a match due to mitigating circumstances, concern over age discrepancies etc. This list is not exhaustive.

4.1.3: Definition of an Appeal:

Appeals may be made against decisions imposed by any particular section, branch or the National Executive.

4.2: Protests & Registration Queries:

4.2.1: Process of Submitting a Protest:

4.2.1.1: Registration Queries:

4.2.1.1.1: Any school shall have the right to query the registration of another school/team.

4.2.1.1.2: Any query must be requested, by registered post, within 48 hours of the conclusion of a match, to the Honorary Secretary of the respective section.

4.2.1.1.3: Any query must be accompanied by a fee of €25, which will be refunded if the query highlights actionable registration discrepancies, or will be retained if the query is unsuccessful.

4.2.1.2: Protests:

4.2.1.2.1: Protests must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Section.

4.2.1.2.2: Protests must be made in writing, within 48 hours of an incident (date of postmark to count).

4.2.1.2.3: Protests must be accompanied by a deposit of €50, to be refunded if the protest is upheld, or retained if the protest is turned down.

4.2.1.2.4: An exact copy of a letter of protest must be sent at the same time as posting of the original, to the master in charge of the other school involved, if applicable.

4.2.1.2.5: All correspondence must be made by Registered Post.

4.2.2: The Protest Hearing:

4.2.2.1: A Protest Committee of not less than three persons, who shall be officers or members of the Branch or Section committees, shall be formed by the Section.

4.2.2.2: This Committee will decide on all protests within 5 working days (Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays excluded).

4.2.2.3: The parties concerned shall be notified in writing of such decision within 24 hours of the decision being taken (Saturdays & Sundays excluded), date of postmark to count.

4.2.2.4: A facsimile/e-mail of the decision may be sent to all parties involved in advance of the decision being notified by post.

4.2.2.5: No member of a committee may attend a hearing of a protest in which his school is involved, unless representing the school officially.



4.3: Appeals:

4.3.1: Stage One: Appeal to Branch:

4.3.1.1: Process of Submitting an Appeal:

- a) *Appeals must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch.*
- b) *Appeals must be made within 48 hours of receipt of the decision, (Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays excluded), date of postmark to count.*
- c) *An exact copy of the letter of appeal must be sent at the time of posting of the original, to the Honorary Secretary of the Section & to the teacher in charge of the other school involved, if applicable.*
- d) *All correspondence must be made by Registered Post.*
- e) *Appeals must be accompanied by a deposit of €100, to be refunded if the Appeal is upheld, or retained if the Appeal is turned down.*

4.3.1.2: The Appeal Hearing:

- a) *An Appeal Committee of not less than three persons will be formed, as per the procedure outlined in the formation of the Protest Committee above.*
- b) *No member of the Appeal Committee can come from the Section involved in the appeal.*
- c) *This Committee will decide on all appeals within 5 working days (Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays excluded).*
- d) *No member of the Association may attend the hearing of an appeal concerning their school, unless as the school's official representative.*
- e) *The appeal committee shall only consider evidence that is submitted by way of correspondence received by registered post, in accordance with Rule 4.3.1.1 d) above.*
- f) *If new evidence is submitted to the appeal committee, the appeal hearing shall be adjourned to allow all other parties to the appeal time to respond to the new evidence presented.*
- g) *The parties concerned shall be notified in writing of such decision within 24 hours of the decision being taken (Saturdays and Sundays excluded), date of postmark to count.*
- h) *The decision notified shall contain:*
 - 1) *The composition of the committee*
 - 2) *The names of the parties to the appeal*
 - 3) *The terms of the decision, including the date of the decision coming into force*
 - 4) *Notice of the channels of further appeal*
 - 5) *Where appropriate, a summary of the facts & reason for the decision.*
- i) *A facsimile/e-mail of the decision may be sent to all parties involved in advance of the decision being notified.*
- j) *If the appeal is rejected, then a further appeal can be made to the National Executive, as per Stage Two below. The channels of further appeal will be outlined in the notification of the decision, as per Rule 4.3.1.2 h) above.*

4.3.2: Stage Two: Appeal to National

4.3.2.1: Process of Submitting an Appeal

- a) *Appeals must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the National Executive.*



- b) *Appeals must be made within 48 hours of receipt of the decision, (Saturdays & Sundays excluded), date of postmark to count.*
- c) *An exact copy of the letter of appeal must be sent at the time of posting of the original, to the Honorary Secretary of the Section, the Honorary Secretary of the Branch & to the teacher in charge of the other school involved, if applicable.*
- d) *The appeal committee shall only consider evidence that is submitted by way of correspondence received by registered post, in accordance with Rule 4.3.1.1 d) above.*
- e) *If new evidence is submitted to the appeal committee, the appeal hearing shall be adjourned to allow all other parties to the appeal time to respond to the new evidence presented.*
- f) *All correspondence must be made by Registered Post.*
- g) *Appeals must be accompanied by a deposit of €300, to be refunded if the Appeal is upheld, or retained if the Appeal is turned down.*

4.3.2.2: The Appeal Hearing

- a) *An Appeal Committee of not less than three persons will be formed, as per the procedure outlined in the formation of the Appeal Committee in Stage One above.*
- b) *No member of the Appeal Committee can come from the Section or Branch involved in the appeal.*
- c) *No member of the Association may attend the hearing of an appeal concerning their school, unless as the school's official representative.*
- d) *The parties concerned shall be notified in writing of such decision within 24 hours of the decision being taken (Saturdays and Sundays excluded), date of postmark to count.*
- e) *The decision notified shall contain:*
 - 1) *The composition of the committee*
 - 2) *The names of the parties to the appeal*
 - 3) *The terms of the decision, including the date of the decision coming into force*
 - 4) *Notice of the channels of further appeal*
 - 5) *Where appropriate, a summary of the facts & reason for the decision.*
- f) *A facsimile/e-mail of the decision may be sent to all parties involved in advance of the decision being notified.*
- g) *If the appeal is rejected by the National Executive, a final appeal against a decision of the Association on an appeal may be made to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the Football Association of Ireland. The channels of further appeal will be outlined in the notification of the decision, as per Rule 4.3.2.2 (e) above.*
- h) *If the appeal is granted by the National Executive, the Branch/Section that applied the original decision or sanction have the right to appeal the National Executive decision to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit, in accordance with FAI Governance Regulation 81.*

4.3.3: Stage Three: Appeal to FAI

4.3.3.1: *Appeals must be sent by registered post within 4 (four) working days of the date on which the written notification of the decision being appealed against was received by the appellant.*

4.3.3.2: *For the avoidance of doubt time limits begin from the first working day after the receipt of the notification.*

4.3.3.3: *Appeals must be addressed to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit (DCU).*



4.3.3.4: A letter of notification of the submission of an appeal to the FAI shall be simultaneously sent by registered post to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal.

4.3.3.5: Appeals must be accompanied by a Bank Draft, or Postal Order for the Appeal Fee of €500, made payable to the FAI.

4.3.3.6: This fee shall be refunded only if the appeal is successful.

4.3.3.7: All appeal hearings shall commence within 15 (fifteen) days of receipt of the appeal by the DCU unless there are exceptional circumstances which require an extension of this time period. The DCU shall inform all parties to the appeal of the date, time & venue of the appeal hearing.



Appendices:

Introduction:

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1: Code of Best Practice for Administrators:

Administrators at all levels in the game be they committee members in a league or members of Senior Council, have a responsibility to act to uphold the highest standards of integrity within the game and to ensure that the reputation of the game and the Association and each Affiliate is and remains beyond reproach.

It is their duty to ensure that the game is run in an orderly and seemly manner, thereby encouraging the maximum levels of participation and enjoyment by all players and spectators, regardless of the level of the game at which they compete or support.

It is further the duty of Administrators to ensure that the Association maximises the earning potential which the game enjoys, thereby providing the finance required to improve standards and facilities throughout the entire game.

1. An Administrator must appreciate that football is an important part of the community at large and accordingly must take into account community feelings when making decisions.
2. An Administrator must emphasise that the Association is opposed to discrimination of any form and promote whatever measures are necessary to prevent discrimination, either direct or indirect from infiltrating the game.
3. When called upon to represent the game in the wider community an Administrator should seek to promote a positive view of the game.
4. Administrators are there to firstly serve the interests of the game and not their own self-interests or any particular sectional interest.
5. Administrators must be constantly mindful of the best interests of the game in the decisions they make.
6. The appropriate Administrators must ensure that monies spent in the name of the game and in the pursuit of the interests and objectives of the game are monies well spent.



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



Appendix 2: Code of Best Practice for Mentors:

Managers/Coaches are key to the establishment of good practices in football. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision.

Mentors must speak and act in a manner consistent with this reality.

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



Appendix 3: Code of Best Practice for Players:

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

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



Appendix 4: Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Referees:

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

Preamble:

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

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

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

- 1 Referee refers to a registered match official regardless of duties assigned in a particular game.
- 2 Observer refers to all personnel involved in instruction, training and development of referees.
- 3 Association Official refers to all administrative personnel including appointments officers, disciplinary committee members, league officials and employees of the FAI.
- 4 Members of the FAI refers to registered players, technical staff, managers, directors and administrators of teams and clubs.
- 5 For ease of writing the term ‘referee’ is used throughout the code but all of the values principles and standards of behaviour referred to apply equally to the personnel mentioned in footnotes 1, 2, 3 &4.

Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Referees:

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

1.0 Integrity:

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

- 1.1 Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- 1.2 Seek support/ guidance advice from peers, colleagues, mentors and / or Observers with regard to issues that may hamper their performance as a referee.
- 1.3 Avoid situations or engage in activities or behaviour, which might oblige them or lead to them contravening the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- 1.4 Ensure that they and others accurately represent and reflect the body of knowledge and training of their profession.
- 1.5 Not accept or attempt to secure fees or benefits over and above those agreed with the Football Association of Ireland and their representatives.
- 1.6 Honour all refereeing commitments except in the case of serious illness or unexpected circumstances whereby their ability to perform their duties would be impaired and in such circumstances to notify, in a timely manner, the appropriate personnel or where appropriate to make alternative arrangements.



- 1.7 Not exploit any relationship to further their own or others personal or professional interests including the soliciting of appointments.
- 1.8 Be aware of the nature of dual relationships and where possible avoid such positions that could lead to the undermining of the Integrity of Refereeing or the good name of the Football Association of Ireland.
- 1.9 Act to stop or limit the activities of a colleague, Observer or official that is clearly harmful or unethical and bring such actions to the attention of the association.

2.0 Competence:

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

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

3.0 Respect:

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

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

4.0 Responsibility:



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

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

Appendix 5: Code of Best Practice for Parents:

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

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

Appendix 6: Code of Best Practice for Spectators:

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

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



Preamble:

- It is the responsibility of the team mentor to bring any allegation of racial abuse to the notice of the Executive Committee, via the Honorary Secretary, within 48 hours of the end of the match in which the alleged incident occurred.

Step One: The Complaint

As much detail as possible should be furnished to the Executive Committee, including;

- When & where did the alleged incident(s) take place?
- What exactly happened?
- Who said/did what to whom?
- What are the relationships/roles of the parties involved in the incident?
- Were there any witnesses to the alleged incident?
- How close were witnesses to the incident & did they have an unobstructed view?
- Was the incident reported to the referee?
- Was the incident reported to the mentor in charge of the other team?
- Was the incident reported to the Gardai?
- What are the names/descriptions of those involved in the incident?
- Are there any other relevant factors to the complaint? E.g. past history between the parties etc.

Step Two: The Investigation

- It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee, once it has received a complaint, to investigate the matter thoroughly & expediently.
- As per standard procedure, any member of the Executive Committee whose school is involved in the allegation shall not take part in any discussion or deliberations on the matters at hand.
- A preliminary discussion of the complaint shall take place, with any issues arising or further areas to be addressed highlighted.
- If any further information is required from the complainant, a request will be forwarded.
- All parties involved in the allegation (the opposing player(s), the relevant team mentor, the referee etc.) will be requested to submit, either in person or in writing, a response to the allegation, which will be considered by the Committee.
- In the event of a complaint against a child under 18, the parents/guardians should be informed & advised of the process.

Step Three: The Decision & Notification

- The Executive Committee shall hear the case of all parties involved & decide if a rule or regulation has been infringed.
- The Executive Committee shall then inform all parties involved in writing of any decision taken by the Executive Committee, detailing the reasons for the sanction imposed (if any).
- Any decision taken by the Executive Committee may be appealed, as per Rules 20 & 21 of the Association.

