

FAI Schools

New Mentors A-Z



A is for **Affiliation & Competition Entry**: takes place in late August/early September each year – your school will be contacted by registered post; **Age Groups**: we offer competitions at four ages – Senior (U-19), Junior (U-17), Minor (U-15) & First Year (U-14); **Allocators**: look after the appointment of referees in your region – contact details will be sent with the fixtures – schools must never arrange their own referees, ever; **Astro Pitches**: can be hired for use for schools matches, but must be FAI-approved surfaces – a list will be given out at season start; **Administrator**: Diane Fay, based in FAI HQ, runs the Interpros & National Cup Competitions & much more besides...

B is for **Balls**: all match balls are to be Size 5, with different weights, depending on the age group – see ‘w’ below – both teams should have at least 2 match balls with them at every match; **‘B’ Cups**: offered to schools with 250 boys or less, a chance for smaller schools to taste Leinster & National success.

C is for **Cups**: our main knockout competitions – regionalised (as far as possible) to the Last 16 stage, open draw from then on, winners represent the province in the National competitions; **Communication**: absolutely vital – with other mentors, with our voluntary organisers, with the Honorary Secretary, with any queries that you may have.

D is for **Discipline**: we expect the highest standards of behaviour from all mentors, players & supporters – infractions will be dealt with – players dismissed are automatically suspended until the term of suspension is notified; **Deadlines**: due to the size of our organisation, we operate tight deadlines – for entry, group closing, player registration, national qualifiers, LCL qualification etc; **Duration of matches**: Senior 90 minutes, Junior 80 minutes, Minor 70 minutes, First Year 60 minutes; **Development**: we listen to our members suggestions on an annual basis for development ideas.

E is for **Eligibility**: make sure that only eligible (i.e. underage & not suspended) players are named on a match card; **Executive Committee**: a voluntary body, made up of 3-40 members, that runs the Boys Section; **Extra Time**: used in any match where a result is needed, 10 minutes each way or, if both sides agree, you can go straight to penalties.

F is for **Fees**: Affiliation & Competition Entry Fees must be paid by all schools – this is our only income – there are also Referees Fees, the amount of which will be notified at season start & are shared equally between schools; **Fixtures**: Cup & League fixtures are issued in late September, with guideline dates attached – competition organisers release subsequent/later round fixtures; **FUTSAL**: a First Year indoor tournament organised by the FAI; **FAInet**: the online portal system for player registration – log-in details will be provided to all school registrars early in the season.

G is for **Games Played**: the first criteria to be met when group tables are compiled; **Goals Scored**: the main separator when teams are level on points; **Group Closing Dates**: will be set for league competitions & will be notified when fixtures are released.

H is for **Honorary Secretary**: the person who runs the respective sections (Boys, Girls, Primary) – your first port of call for all soccer-related queries; **Home Team**: responsible for the main arrangements of the match – contacting opposition, arranging venue, arranging referee, avoid clash of jerseys etc.

I is for **Information**: our primary means of providing information is via e-mail, so ensure you check it (& your spam folder) regularly for updates – also keep an eye on www.faischools.ie/leinster for information; **Interpros**: an annual provincial tournament that brings together the best schools players in each province; **International Team**: the schools international team, that competes in international schools competitions, such as the Centenary Shield.

J is for **Jerseys**: ensure there is no clash of colour with your opponents – if there is, the home team should change.

K is for **Kit & Kaboodle**: make sure you have everything you need for matches – first aid kits, water bottles, bibs – from time-to-time, we will inform you of offers from our kit & equipment partner Umbro.

L is for **Leinster Champions Leagues**: this brings together the winners of the eight regional league competitions in a knockout competition – second only to the Leinster Cups in terms of prestige.

M is for **Match Card**: must be accurately completed prior to the match & given to the referee – naming a player is deemed an ‘intention to play’ – cards available for print online or by post from me; **Minimum Playing Time**: applies at Minor & First Year levels – minimum of 25% playing time for all 16 players on the card; **Medals**: we supply 16 winners & runners-up medals at all finals – if you need more, they can be ordered at the school’s own expense.

N is for **National Competitions**: all 8 ‘A’ & ‘B’ cups go to national level, where the four provincial winners meet; **Neutral Venues**: used for all cup, shield & champions league semi-finals & finals & for all league finals – hire fees are shared equally by the schools.

O is for **Organisers**: the person in charge of your competition/s – communication with them is vital – they should not be chasing you for results – it is your job to keep in touch with them.

P is for **Proof of Eligibility**: schools entering 'B' cups have to provide proof of eligibility with their entry – no proof = no entry; **Protests & Appeals**: all decisions taken by us are open to appeal – details will be provided at the appropriate time.

Q is for **Questions**: if you have any, contact your section Honorary Secretary.

R is for **Registration**: player registration is an essential & is done via an online platform called FAInet – details are sent every September; **Regional Leagues**: for travel purposes, we regionalise Leinster into 8 regions for league competitions; **Red Cards**: if a player is shown a red card, they are automatically suspended until you received notification of the term of suspension – if you haven't heard anything, make contact with your section secretary; **Referees**: must be appointed through the referees allocators only – their details will be provided with the fixtures; **RDO's**: FAI staff that may be available to assist with the development of soccer in your school – please enquire for details.

S is for **Shields**: a competition offered to Preliminary/First Round losers in the A cup draws; **Substitutes**: 5 from 5 in all competitions – roll, on, roll-off in Minor & First Year, fixed in Junior & Senior; **Squad Size**: a maximum of 30 players can be selected per team – all players/squads must be registered using the online portal system, FAInet.

T is for **Trophies**: Trophies are provided for all of our competitions – if you win one, get it engraved asap & return it to the appropriate competition organiser as notified. **Timetable**: all Leinster Cups (apart from TY) go to National level – once agreed by the National Committee, the timetable for competitions is circulated to all cup entrants. If our cups are not finished in time, we have to nominate.

U is for **Umbro**: our equipment partners & generally the best quality gear around – when we are made aware of special offers, we will pass them on.

V is for **Value**: our affiliation & competition fees have remained the same since 2008 – we also cap fees at a maximum of €340 per school – not bad for an entirely self-financing organisation!

W is for **Weighted Balls**: under the FAI Player Development Plan, Size 5 weighted balls are to be used for all matches – 370g up to U-14, 450g for all other ages.

X is for **Xavi**: why not?

Y is for **Yellow Cards**: an accumulation of four bookings can lead to an automatic one-match suspension, so player discipline is key.

Z is for **Zidane**: brilliant player, not a bad manager either...