




Procedural, Competition & Match Guide (Season 2023-24)


FAI Schools Leinster Branch Boys Section





FAI Schools Rulebook


 The information contained in this document is intended as a guide only – it is the responsibility of all mentors to familiarise themselves with the contents of the *FAI Schools Rulebook* which is available on our website (<http://faischools.ie/national/rules>)

Communication & Queries:

 General Boys Section & Affiliation/Competition Entry queries should be addressed to declan.mcgrath@faischools.ie


 General Girls Section queries should be addressed to maura.gaffney@faischools.ie


 Player registration queries of a technical nature (can't see players, cant log-in etc) should be addressed to fainet@fai.ie

 Competition queries should be addressed to the relevant competition organisers, as per the details provided.


Communication to You:

 The primary communication method used by both sections is e-mail.

 It is your responsibility to provide a working e-mail address & to check your e-mail regularly to keep up-to-date with events.


 Our website (www.faischools.ie/leinster) will also provide you with a huge amount of information that you may need over the course of the season.


Changes of Mentor


 Notify the relevant Section secretary, so that all opposition schools & competition organisers can be notified.

Competition Organisers


 All of our competitions are run by **voluntary competition organisers**.


 They are your first port-of-call with results, queries etc. It is **your responsibility to keep in touch with them, not them with you**.

 All organiser details are on the various draw e-mails or on the various competition mentor contact sheet (except for Metropolitan Leagues, where they are listed on a separate attachment).

 The list is also available on faischools.ie – click on Leinster/Post-Primary Boys/Competition Administration/Competition Organiser Details.

B Cup Letters

 As part of the affiliation & entry process, schools wishing to enter the various 'B' Cups are required to provide a 'letter of eligibility' detailing their student numbers.


 A template letter will be provided (also available on the website) which is to be printed on school headed paper, filled out & signed by school management. Once completed, this letter must be forwarded to the Affiliation & competition Secretary before the requested date, otherwise, entry to the B Cup competitions cannot be processed.


Player Eligibility


 Qualifying dates for competitions for Season 2021-22 are as follows:

Age	Age	Born on or after...
Senior	U-19	On or after 1/1/2005
Junior	U-17	On or after 1/1/2007
Minor	U-15	On or after 1/1/2009
First Year	U-14	On or after 1/1/2010


Player Registration


 The registration & checking of players (to ensure eligibility) is part & parcel of all areas of the game.

 Our registration is done through the Comortais system.


 Full details of how to use the system will be sent to all entrants before the end of September each season.


Girls on Boys Teams


 This is permissible, on the basis that there is no girls team available in the school.


 Also, girls may 'play down' an age group (i.e. an U17 girl may play U15 boys), except for First Year competitions, which are for First Year students only.


Competition Structures – Cup & League

 Cup competitions are knockout & regionalised loosely into north & south Leinster sections (with the exception of the First Year Cup) as far as possible up to the round of 16 ('A' Cups) & Quarter-Finals ('B' Cups). Quarter-Final & Semi-Final draws take place at the December meeting & are circulated asap.


 We have National deadlines (circulated as the National Calendar) to meet, so cup fixtures always take priority. Schools who don't meet deadlines will be removed from competition.


 League competitions are organised on a regional (geographical) basis & co-ordinated by a regional (competition) organiser or committee.


 The initial stage of the league is a group stage, played on a round-robin basis, where teams attempt to qualify from a 3, 4 or 5 team group (depending on competition entry).

 Generally, the top two teams qualify for the play-off stages, which may comprise of any or all of play-offs/quarter-finals/semi-finals/final (depending on the number of qualifiers).

League Competitions – Bonus Point Trial & Closing Groups

 Both sections will continue to use the 'bonus point' system in the group stages.

 All teams playing a fixture will be giving one point for playing that fixture. This initiative is designed to reward schools that play their matches.


 The bonus point system will work alongside the 'criteria for closing groups' laid out in the Rulebook & partially detailed below:

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


Competition Priority

 If there is a clash of fixtures, the following priority applies;


- 1) Cup
- 2) Leinster Champions League (if competition is underway)
- 3) League
- 4) Shield


 If needed, you may need to cancel a prearranged league or shield match to facilitate a match of higher priority.


Straight to Penalties?


 In games that are played to a finish on the day (all league play-offs, cup matches, & champions league matches & if agreed by both schools/mentors, extra time may be skipped & the match may go straight to penalty kicks for decision.

Referee Appointments


 Referees must never be directly appointed by schools.


 Referees can be organised by contacting the Referees Allocator for your area – as much notice as possible is needed.


 Allocator details are given when fixtures are circulated – they are also available under the ‘Referees Information’ tab on the Leinster page on the faischools.ie website.


 Schools are also never to contact any referee directly over any match related matter – all queries must be directed via the respective section Honorary Secretary.


Match Preparation & Match Day

 Once fixtures are released, you need to contact all opponents immediately. In the case of league group matches, arrange as many as possible.


 Kick-off dates & times are to be negotiated between schools, with cognisance given to travel time, if significant travelling distance is involved.


 Please keep to the schedule of dates outlined with the competition draws as far as possible – unnecessary delays will result in removal from competition/s.

 It is the responsibility of the home school to ensure that the home pitch or hired venue is available, properly marked, with appropriate netting & corner flags.

 If the home school pitch is unavailable, for whatever reason, then the game automatically switches to the away school.









 Two appropriately weighted Size 5 footballs are to be provided by both teams.

 Both teams should have a fully equipped first aid kit with them.



 It is recommended that both teams have two adults with them at all stages.

 As soon as the match is over, inform the competition organiser immediately with the result.



Match Cards/Match Day Squads/Substitutions

-  A match card must be completed & signed by the mentor (not by students) **before** the game commences & must be given to the referee.
-  A maximum of **18 players** may be named on the match card.
-  The names on the match cards must match the names submitted to Comortais.
-  Five from seven substitutes may be used in Senior & Junior competitions. The fixed substitution rule applies at Senior & Junior age groups.
-  Seven from seven substitutes may be used in Minor & First Year competitions, with Roll-on, roll-off substitutions applying to the Minor & First Year age groups.
-  Any non-playing squad members (i.e. not named on the match card) must be under the supervision of school personnel at all times.
-  Match cards must be returned by the match referee – they are never to be retained by mentors.
-  Hard copies of match cards can be posted – contact declan.mcgrath@faischools.ie - & a printable version is available on the website – faischools.ie – got to the Leinster section, click on ‘referees information’ & it is available to download there.



Minimum Playing Time

-  At First Year (U14) & Minor age groups, the minimum playing time recommendation (from the FAI Player Development Plan) is in force.
-  All players named on the match card should play a minimum of between 25% & 50% of the match time.



League Group Deadlines

-  Vitaly important – we need to bring all regional league competitions (all 52 of them!) across Leinster to a conclusion, so therefore group closing deadlines are issued with these Leinster deadlines in mind.
-  It is the responsibility of the school to organise all group matches before these deadlines. If you are experiencing genuine difficulties in getting matches played, contact your competition organiser to seek an extension. It may/may not be granted, depending on circumstances.



Reminder of LCL Commitments:

-  All of our regional league competitions, at all four age groups & at both divisions, get played to Leinster level, so all regional league winners represent their region in the Leinster Champions League competition.
-  Qualifiers for this competition will be contacted directly by e-mail once the draw is completed.









LCL Deadline:

-  Senior, Junior & Minor competitions:
 - Group Closing Deadline: Friday 1st December 2023
 - Regions must have a winner/nominee by Thursday, February 1st 2024.
-  First Year competitions:
 - Group Closing Deadline: Friday 2nd February 2024.
 - Regions must have a winner/nominee by Friday March 15th 2024.
-  The LCL draw will take place at the December meeting & will be circulated to all schools at the earliest opportunity.

Metro Final 6 Structure


-  In the Metropolitan League competition, at Division One & Two levels, there will be three regional finals (North, South & West) held in order to get qualifiers for the Champions League competition.
-  All six regional finalists will be asked (you can opt out if they wish) if they wish to them compete for the Metropolitan League title proper. A draw will then take place, involving a play-off & quarter-final for the losing regional finalists & the regional league winners will join the competition at the semi-final stage.


Player Suspensions


-  If a player is dismissed during/after a match, the suspension applies immediately.
-  Upon receipt of the referees report, you will be contacted with the suspension notice by the relevant section Honorary Secretary.
-  This notice will indicate the offence committed & the term of the suspension. If further investigation is required, this will be notified at the time.
-  If the suspension notice appears to name the wrong player, you must contact the section Honorary Secretary immediately upon receipt of the notice. Only the referee, in line with FIFA/UEFA/FAI guidelines, can change the content of their match report.
-  If a player accumulates four cautions during the course of a season, they will receive a one-match suspension. Schools/mentors will be notified when three cautions have been logged.
-  If you are not sure of the status of a player vis-à-vis suspension, get in contact with the respective section Honorary Secretary – reports can be delayed in the post – don't assume that just because you haven't heard, no suspension is going to be imposed – think of point one above.
-  It is the responsibility of the mentor/school to notify the Section Honorary Secretary once the suspension has been served.
-  If a suspension cannot be served/completed during the current season, the suspension carries

over to the following season.


Garda Vetting for Mentors


 In accordance with Vetting Legislation (National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012) anyone working with minors must be vetted for every role they undertake, including coaching.


 This means the teachers taking teams have to be vetted several times for their various separate roles with separate organisations – don't blame us, blame the legislation!


 Once you have completed your FAI Garda Vetting, please complete the details here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GardaVetting>


Trophy Return


 Trophies remain the property of the Leinster Branch at all times. They should be treated with respect & any damage that occurs will be paid for by the school that is in possession of the trophy.

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


 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 season's final commences.


 Details of trophy returns will be enclosed along with the pennants that are issued to competition winners.


 If trophies are not returned, engraved & undamaged, in adequate time for finals, a trophy fine of €25 per item will be levied on that school for the subsequent season.

 If trophies are lost or misplaced, schools will be liable for the full replacement costs. Replacements will be sourced from the Branch trophy supplier, not by the school concerned.



Final Presentations

 Please remember that all of our competition organisers are full time teachers, scattered across the province.


 Therefore, it is not always possible for them to be present for presentations at the finals of their competitions.

 Where possible & where available, FAI Regional Development Officers (RDO's) or match officials may do the presentation on behalf of the organiser.


Medals

-  18 medals will be provided at all finals, for the 18 players named on the match card.
-  Additional medals can be ordered, at the schools own expense, from our medals supplier – details are available on the faischools.ie website – click on Leinster/Post-Primary Boys/Competition Administration/Medals Supplier.



Three Officials

-  It is FAI Schools policy that, where available, three officials be appointed for:
 - All regional league finals
 - Cup Semi-Finals & Finals
 - Shield Semi-Finals & Finals
 - Leinster Champions League Semi-Finals & Finals


Neutral Venues

-  It is FAI Schools policy that, where available, neutral venues (roughly equidistant between the competing schools) be used for:
 - All regional league finals
 - Cup Semi-Finals & Finals
 - Shield Semi-Finals & Finals
 - Leinster Champions League Semi-Finals & Finals

Recordings:

-  Recordings of matches may be made for use within the school, for coaching purposes etc. but as a courtesy, the other school must be notified in advance of the fixture.
-  No images/clips can be used in any promotional or social media posts for the school in possession of the recording, unless express written permission has been sought from the opposition school.

Lodging Complaints:

-  If a school wishes to lodge a complaint regarding the alleged actions of supporters or alleged racism incidents, any such complaint must be lodged within 48 hours of completion of the match concerned.