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# **DUBLIN AND DISTRICT SCHOOLBOYS'/GIRLS' LEAGUE**



# **COMPETITION RULES**

**Season 2026/2027**

Approved 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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Approved

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# SECTION 1.0 COMPOSITION:

## SUB SECTION 1

### LEAGUE COMPOSITION:

#### **RULE 1. FSMT COMPOSITION.**

1. The Chairman of the Football Senior Management Team shall be independent of clubs in membership of the league and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the League for a three-year period. Nominees to be sent in before 30 days prior to the AGM in the year the position is due for election, with a proposer and a seconder from clubs in membership.  
All nominees will be subject to vetting and safeguarding, and suitability based on the league's suitability criteria.
2. The Football Senior Management Team will consist of members from the Fixture Secretaries, Operations, Referee allocators, Disciplinary, Director of Football and a Board Member plus additional expertise as the league deems appropriate.
3. In the case of the Chairman of the Football Senior Management Team resigning or being indisposed, the Chairman of the Board shall hold the position of Chairman of the Football Senior Management Team as required, or the league may appoint a candidate based on a defined assessment, until the next AGM or EGM.
4. In the event of a position outside of that of the Chairman becoming vacant the league will determine based on a defined assessment, the best candidate to fill the vacant position.

#### **RULE 2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

1. The AGM shall be held no later than August 14th in a calendar year.

#### **RULE 3. LEAGUE TROPHIES**

1. The Board of Directors shall be for all intent and purposes the legal holders of the company's assets including cups in trust for the league. When the winning clubs have been declared the Football Senior Management Team shall hand the various cups to their representatives.
2. They shall make such provision for the safe return of the cups as they consider necessary. Loss or damage to any cup/trophy must be paid for by the club. Winners and runners-up medals will also be presented. All trophies must be returned to the league offices as directed by the above.

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3. All Cups and League trophies must be returned to the league no later than 31st of October every year. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of €100 per week or part of. Clubs in possession of cups shall be notified in writing prior to this deadline to return same. Clubs who fail to return cups within sixty days after the listed return date, in addition to the listed fines, will incur a full replacement cost of the cup or €750.00 whichever is the greater. Clubs failing to make full payment within thirty days of an issued invoice will have all club games suspended pending league action.

#### **RULE 4. LEAGUE FEES AND PAYMENTS**

1. All fees for clubs and players for the season shall be determined by the League and communicated to clubs at the start of each season.
2. All applications must be submitted on the leagues online League Management system.
3. All payments to have commenced and be paid electronically through the leagues online League Management system, prior to the commencement of the league.
4. The League shall have the power to deal with any club as they deem fit whose balance of fees or outstanding dues have not been paid in accordance with League schedules
- 5 League receipts will be issued for all monetary transactions electronically by the online League Management system. All queries relating to payments shall be entertained only on the production of such receipts.

#### **RULE 5. LEAGUE MATTERS**

1. The League shall have the power to deal with any offending clubs, parents, players, or officials as they deem fit, and to deal with any matter, situation or circumstances which arises that is not specifically covered within these rules.

#### **RULE 6. SCOUTS \ REPRESENTATIVES \ AGENTS**

1. It is recognised that people are appointed by association football clubs to assess a player's potential, who in turn might be influenced to sign for such clubs.
  2. These people, known as scouts/representatives are prohibited from acting as directors or in the administration of the league or clubs of the league.
  3. These people must be licensed or act under accreditation from the appropriate regulatory bodies.
  4. It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that all scouts, with whom they engage, have been approved by the FAI or other bodies and vetted prior to allowing them access to their players under the age of eighteen (18).
  5. All requests for players to trial with clubs inside or outside the jurisdiction of the FAI must follow the current FAI procedures and permissions.
  6. Where the League finds evidence of breaches of FAI procedures by, parent's players, clubs, scout's representatives, or agents, the league shall ban those deemed responsible for up to 12 months.
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7. Agents are prohibited from acting in any capacity within member clubs or within the administration of the league.

## **SUB SECTION 2**

### **MEMBER COMPOSITION:**

#### **RULE 7. MANDATORY INSURANCE**

1. Every club must have in force Public Liability Insurance, including, where appropriate, Property Owners Insurance providing insurance cover in respect of all the club's activities, for a minimum limit in excess of €6.5million.
2. Where a club engages any person under a contract of employment, the club must have in force an appropriate Employers Liability Policy.
3. No club or team shall be admitted to membership of the league that fails to comply with 1 and 2 above. A valid Public Liability Insurance Certificate should be submitted as part of the online expression of interest registration stage.
4. Where a club is already in membership and subsequently allows the insurance to lapse or discontinue the League shall, as they deem fit, expel, or suspend from membership the, said club until appropriate insurance is in place.

#### **RULE 8. RETURNING \ NEW \ TRANSFERRING CLUB APPLICATION**

1. Application for membership by clubs that were not registered members of the league in the previous season, or clubs that were removed from membership of the league in previous seasons will be considered by the League for acceptance by way of the online Expression of Interest to the league. Applications will be considered by the League and a dedicated submissions team. Clubs will only be considered for acceptance provided they fulfil the relevant criteria laid down by the League.
2. The Applying Club shall inform all current member clubs in the same local area before such application has been received and these clubs may submit written support or objection to such applications. These shall be considered by the League before acceptance or rejection of any such application.
3. An application to join the league is not a guarantee of acceptance into the league and is subject to the application process of the League.
4. The League shall have the final decision in these matters in accordance with the league's guidelines and application process each year.

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## **RULE 9. COMPLIANCE OF MEMBERS**

1. It is the responsibility of all clubs to assist in every way with the smooth running and operation of the league and to comply with the Terms and Conditions of membership. All entries are conditionally accepted on this basis.
2. Where such co-operation, assistance, or any of the terms of membership are not adhered to, or are withdrawn, the League has the right to refuse entry to such clubs for future competitions or membership.

## **RULE 10. ALTERATION TO RULES BY MEMBERS**

1. Each club in membership of the league shall have the right to submit alterations to these rules. Such proposed alterations must be submitted to the League Administrator on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year and signed for and on behalf of the club proposing such alterations by the Hon. Secretary of the club.
2. Any alterations to rule must be passed by a two thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote.

### **SUB SECTION 3**

#### **DIVISIONAL COMPOSITION:**

## **RULE 11. DIVISIONS**

1. The League shall consist of Age Groups and divisions as the League deems appropriate.
2. Sections of any Competitions will be established at the discretion of the League
3. The top 3 divisions on Saturday for boys from Under 12, to Under 15 inclusive, along with the top 3 divisions on Sunday for boys from Under 16 to Under 18 inclusive, and the top 3 divisions on Sunday for girls from Under 12, to 18 \ Youth inclusive, will be called Premier, Major, and Major 1.
4. No new team may enter the league in a division higher than the 4<sup>th</sup> highest division at any age group. Should a position become available in a higher division, and no current team applies for the position, the relevant league fixture secretary \ or FSMT has the discretion to offer it to a new team as they deem fit.

## **RULE 12. COMPETITION CONTROLS**

1. The League or its designated management teams may organize additional competitions from time to time and shall determine the format of these competitions as they deem fit.

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# SECTION 2.0 PLAYERS:

## SUB SECTION 1

### REGISTRATIONS:

#### **RULE 1. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS**

1. Players must be registered to the league via the Leagues on-line League Management system. The Online form must be completed and processed to ensure the player has been registered correctly with the League.
2. Once a player is correctly registered with the League and Club, the player must be approved and allocated by the club to their appropriate team sheet panel. Players not approved and allocated to an appropriate team sheet panel will be deemed an ineligible player, not available for selection to play.
3. A player is eligible to play, provided they are correctly registered, approved and allocated by the club to their appropriate team sheet panel, and further placed on the team sheet \ match card prior to the start time of the relevant fixture.

#### **RULE 2. PLAYER REGISTRATION PANELS \ PANEL SIZE**

1. 11 a side team. The top 3 divisions on Saturday and Sunday Premier, Major and Major 1, from under 13s to 18s inclusive may register a maximum of 18 players per panel, in line with the current registration \ re-registration windows, or the 31<sup>st</sup> of March for unregistered players.
2. All other teams participating in 11 a side football below the top 3 divisions may register a maximum of 20 players per panel, in line with the current registration \ re-registration windows, or the 31<sup>st</sup> of March for unregistered players.
3. 9 a side teams: Teams participating at under 12 and under 13 age groups, regardless of division can register a maximum of sixteen players per panel in line with the current registration \ re-registration.
4. Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group regardless of day of division, Saturday or Sunday, unless they have been properly re-registered in a re-registration window.
5. A player may play for their club in a higher age group provided they are eligible to do so under rule.
6. For younger players playing up an age level from ages 13 to 17 in Premier, Major, and Major 1 divisions players from these divisions will only be allowed play in corresponding Premier, Major and Major1 divisions at an older age. All other players

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from divisions other than Premier, Major, and Major 1 are free to play in any division at any older age.

7. Players correctly registered to a panel in a younger age level, from divisions other than Premier, Major, and Major 1 are free to play in any division at any older age level to a maximum of three players per game.
8. Players correctly registered to a panel in a younger age level, playing in an older age level can do so to a maximum of three players per game.
9. Once a player correctly registered to a panel in a younger age level plays up for a team in an older age level, they are not permitted to play for another team in that same older age level.
10. Clubs are not permitted to enter teams in two (2) separate age groups with primarily the same registered players/panels.

### **RULE 3. PLAYER REGISTRATION OWNERSHIP**

1. Receipts bearing official league confirmation from the league is the clubs only proof of the player's registration and it is the responsibility of the club to ensure that receipts are stored appropriately by the club.
2. The player registration submission made by the relevant submitter is deemed confirmation of a true and accurate player registration submission, and acceptance of the terms and conditions of registration and membership of the league. The club must approve/reject the registration application, if approved the club must allocate the player to an appropriate team panel.
3. Players who are not registered properly on the leagues Online League Management system and not allocated to team panels will be deemed ineligible to play.

### **RULE 4. PLAYER REGISTRATION PERIOD**

1. The Leagues on-line Management system will allow registrations from the 1st of August each season but will only be effective and valid from the date of registration each season.
2. A Player cannot register after March 31st to play for the remainder of that season.

### **RULE 5. PLAYER REGISTRATION APPLICATION SANCTIONS**

1. In all registration application matters any club, parent or player that provides false information or incorrectly fills out a registration form shall be dealt with by way of a fine and/or suspension by the League.
2. In all registration application matters relating to a players age on the registration application. Proof and/or further information requested by the league shall be in the form of an original birth certificate, passport, international identity card or

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documentation issued by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and acceptable to the league officers as proof of age.

Failure to provide such proof within the 7 days will be with dealt at the discretion of the league. The registration application will be suspended until a determination has been made by the league.

Any documentation submitted for the purposes of proof of age, which is found to have been altered, invalid or not associated to the player will render the registration as automatically suspended until the end of the current season.

3. In all registration application matters relating to a players address, it is the responsibility of the parent and club to which the player is registered, to provide proof that the player is no greater than 80 kilometres from the clubs main home pitch as registered to the league and the players usual residence, such proof must be provided within 7 days of receipt of any request from the league. The player will stand suspended with immediate effect until such time as proof has been provided to, and accepted by the league.

Any documentation submitted for the purposes of proof of address, which is found to have been altered, invalid or not associated to the player will render the registration as automatically suspended until the end of the current season.

## **RULE 6. REGISTRATION PLAYER \ CLUB SANCTIONS**

All players must be registered to play in the league, teams found playing an: -

1. **Unregistered player:** where an Unregistered player is a player who has not registered on the league online system for the current season.

The club will be fined €500 per unregistered player, to a maximum of five players, the match the player's played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further six points. The player is required to register to a club in line with player registration rules, the club must approve and assign the player to the team sheet panel, and which point the offending player's will be suspended for six matches in the leagues league or cup competition.

2. Second offence will result in a club fine of €500, the team being automatically relegated, the match the player's played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.

3. **Ineligible player:** where an ineligible player is a player who has registered on the system for the current season, but is ineligible to play due to suspension, age eligibility, or associated team sheet panel eligibility issues.

The club will be fined €200 per ineligible player, (except where it is age eligibility related) to a maximum of five players, the match the player's played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further six points

4. Second offence will result in a club fine of €200, and the match the player's played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further six points.

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5. Third offence will result in a club fine of €500, the team being automatically relegated, the match the player\’s played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.
  6. **Improperly registered player:** where an improperly registered player is a player who has registered on the system for the current season, but is ineligible to play due to a registration issue that prevents the player from being approved and assigned to a team sheet panel.  
The club will be fined €150 per improperly registered player, to a maximum of five players, the match the player\’s played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further three points.
  7. Second offence will result in a club fine of €300, and the match the player\’s played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further six points.
  8. Third offence will result in a club fine of €500, the team being automatically relegated, the match the player\’s played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.
  9. Any club, parent or player that provides false information or incorrectly fills out a registration form shall be dealt with by way of a fine and/or suspension by the League.

#### **RULE 7. LEAGUE REGISTRATION PLAYER OWNERSHIP**

1. In the event of a club or team resigning or being removed from the league, the said players become the property of the league. The League may give permission for the said players to be re-registered to clubs in the league if so requested. A maximum of 3 players shall be permitted to re-register for any one club in the current season. Last date for permission to be granted will be March 31st in the current season.

#### **RULE 8. LEAGUE REGISTRATION PLAYER REPLACEMENT**

1. Permission may be granted by the Football Senior Management Team to replace a goalkeeper outside the official registration periods set by the national governing body for the following reason.
  - a. Long term injury to the regular goalkeeper supported by medical evidence from hospital attended by the player.

**AGE ELIGIBILITY:****RULE 9. PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY**

1. The Football Senior Management Team may during the season adopt whatever measures they may consider necessary to ensure that the players of the various clubs are within the age as prescribed by Rule.

**RULE 10. PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY OWNERSHIP**

1. In all matters relating to the age of players, it is the responsibility of the parent and club to which the player is registered to provide proof that the player is within the age as per prescribed rule and such proof must be provided within 7 days of receipt of any request from the league. The player will stand suspended with immediate effect until such time as proof has been provided to, and accepted by the league.
2. Failure to provide such proof within the 7 days will be dealt at the discretion of the league.
3. Such proof shall be in the form of an original birth certificate, passport, international identity card or documentation issued by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and acceptable to the league officers as proof of age. Failure to produce proof of age will deem the player to be in-eligible as per prescribed rule and any such player treated as over age.

**RULE 11. PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY SANCTIONS**

1. Any team found guilty of playing an over-age player, the match the player played in will be awarded to the opposition, and the team will be deducted a further 15 points and fined €200.
2. If any team is found guilty of a second over age player in the same game, the team shall be deducted an additional 3 points and fined a further €100.
3. If any team is found guilty of a third overage player in the same game, the team is automatically relegated and fined €500. The team will be removed from the division and all previous games played in the league will have the respective results expunged.
4. If a team was in a relegation position at the time of the offence, the team will be relegated a further division.
5. Any team found guilty of playing an over-age player in a second game, the match the player played in will be awarded to the opposition, the team is automatically relegated and fined €500. The team will be removed from the division and all previous games

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played in the league will have the respective results expunged and the players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.

6. The offending player/s shall be fined and/or suspended for a maximum of 6 weeks and/or 6 games from participation in all league fixtures.
7. The offending manager/coach will be liable to a suspension for a maximum period of 3 months from participation within the league and a fine €150. If the fine remains unpaid 7 (seven) days after the invoice the club will be held liable.
8. Managers/coaches found guilty of committing a second offence under this rule during the same season will be expelled from all competitions within the league at the discretion of the Football Senior Management Team.
9. Offending clubs at the discretion of the league, shall pay all costs of the protest, i.e., search fees, protest fees, birth certificate fees, registered letter fees and any reasonably vouched costs incurred by the club that proves the same against them.

### **SUB SECTION 3**

#### **RE-REGISTRATION:**

##### **RULE 12. PLAYER RE-REGISTRATION**

1. A player can play for only one club in the league in any one season except when they have received a re-registration from the club last signed for. No player can be re-registered except when they have received this re-registration request.
2. No player can play at the same age group for different teams within the same club in any one season without being re-registered.
3. A player cannot be re-registered more than once without the sanction of the Football Management Senior Committee and must be re-registered as per rule.

##### **RULE 13. PLAYER RE-REGISTERING OWNERSHIP**

1. The re-registering of the player must be completed on the on the DDSL Fusion System. The re-registration of the said player must be carried out as per rule.
2. In the event of a dispute relating to the re-registering application of a player, the league will rule accordingly.

##### **RULE 14. PLAYER RE-REGISTERING WINDOW**

1. Players that are not registered to a club may only be registered to a club during the playing period 1<sup>st</sup> Aug to 31<sup>st</sup> March (inclusive).

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A player is not permitted to be registered to a club during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June (inclusive).

2. For all amateur players there are two re-registering windows defined nationally by the national Governing Body the FAI.

## **SUB SECTION 4**

### **PLAYER MOVEMENT:**

#### **RULE 15. PLAYER INVITATION**

1. No club, its officials, members or representatives are permitted to request or invite a player from a DDSL club for training, coaching, or playing games either within their club, academy, associated academy, during the official playing season August 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> the following year.

#### **RULE 16. PLAYER POACHING**

1. When a player becomes a registered player with a club/team in any league it shall be an offence for any official, member of any other club/team or any other person to approach, encourage or influence that player or their or parents/guardians on their behalf to seek a transfer to another team, participate in training coaching or games under the auspices of another team.
2. Such an offence shall be deemed to be “poaching” and any person found culpable shall render themselves and/or their team/club liable to a fine and/or suspension and their club/team shall be.
3. Competitive Age Levels:  
Deducted 15 points for a first offence and a fine of €200. Automatically relegated for a further offence and a fine of €500. If the team is in a relegated position at the time of offence it stands relegated two divisions. The players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.
4. Non-Competitive Age Levels:  
A deduction of 15 points for the following season will apply for a first offence, if the team are in their last season of non-competitive football, and a fine €200. Automatically regraded for a further offence and a fine €500. If the team is in a regraded position at the time of offence that would regrade them to a lower division, it stands regraded two divisions. The players registration ownership becomes the property of the league.

#### **RULE 17. PLAYER IN BLOCK MOVEMENT**

1. The practice of teams or large numbers of players leaving in block i.e., managers and players to another club is not to be condoned. Any clubs who engage in this practice will not be given automatic entry into the league.

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- 2 On receiving a complaint from the last club that the players signed for, the league shall hold the application until a full enquiry is held into the reason for such a move and decisions are taken. Where teams are found to have moved in block against the will of the original club the league will not accept the registration of more than 3 players to any one club other than the original club. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the league.

#### **RULE 18. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

1. A player is eligible to, Register with a new club in a new season, re-register to a new club in a listed re-registering window in the current season, as per FAI rules

Provided that he/she has no outstanding commitments to their previous club nor outstanding financial commitments to their previous club, which must be concluded and agreed before the re-registering can be completed.

In the event of a dispute the league will act as an arbitrator, and the league decision will be final.

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## SECTION 3.0 LEAGUE:

### SUB SECTION 1

#### COMPETITION FIXTURES:

##### **RULE 1. SETTING OUT FIXTURES**

1. All fixtures, venues and times of kick-off shall be arranged by the relevant fixture's secretaries, or an authorized official nominated by the Football Senior Management Team. To avoid fixture and/or facilities congestion for kick offs and assist in the completion of a fixtures programme, the kick off times will be set not earlier than 9:00AM and no later than 8:00PM on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday's.
2. Clubs shall play home and away matches except otherwise decided by the Football Senior Management Team and the composition of competitions.

##### **RULE 2. CLUB COLOURS**

1. Each club in the league shall register its colours with the League Administrator. In the event of two clubs playing in similar colours that the match referee deems unsuitable, the home club shall change colours when such clubs meet in competition. The referee's decision shall be final in this matter. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from other players.

##### **RULE 3. USE OF ARTIFICIAL SURFACES**

1. Matches under the jurisdiction of the league can be played on an artificial turf surface only where they are in complete compliance with the current health and safety legislation.
2. All opposition clubs shall receive 24 hours' notice in advance of the fixture date that there is a possibility that an artificial surface will be used. This notification is to include details of any restrictions on the type of footwear allowed to be used on that pitch, which should be observed by all entering the field of play.

##### **RULE 4. COMPETITION FIXTURES**

1. Any objection to size of ball or pitch/markings must be made in writing to the match referee prior to commencement of game.
2. In matters relating to the duration of games, pitch size, match ball size and game format they shall be in line with the FAI Player Development Plan for all age groups in the current season.
3. The player's first and last name including all substitutes must be entered in accordance with the instructions on the referee's match sheet/card. All players must be identifiable by a number on the jersey corresponding to their number on the match card.

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4. The referee's sheet/card must be filled in before the start of the match by the official in charge of both teams who shall certify as to the eligibility of the team. Seven (7) substitutes are permitted from under 12s to under 18's within the league from the agreed panel of players.
  5. The number of substitutes permitted in the small, sided games is covered by the FAI player development plan.
  6. The use of roll off/roll on substitutes in line with the FAI Player Development Plan are permitted for all competitions within the league.

## **RULE 5. POSTPONEMENT OF FIXTURES**

1. Postponements where players are involved with the league or international duty will only be granted when any single team has a minimum of two (2) outfield players or its goalkeeper on duty. Player(s) placed on standby will not be considered for the purpose of this rule.
2. The league will only allow postponements if requested in accordance with the league's procedures issued every season in exceptional circumstances.
  - a. The relevant fixture secretary has received a minimum of 21 days' notice and confirmed the postponement to the club in writing.
  - b. Six weeks' notice will be required should the team be going on a trip/tournament for a postponement.
  - c. Club's may be, at the league's discretion, asked to provide additional information for postponements.

Contact to the league for these requests must be made in writing by the club secretary only, to [requests@ddsl.ie](mailto:requests@ddsl.ie).

## **RULE 6. FIXTURE WALKOVER**

1. During the season from August till the 30th of April any clubs who give a walkover (which has not been sanctioned by the League) shall be dealt with as follows.
  - a. 11 a-side competitions, clubs will be fined €150, and the match awarded to, the opposition per walkover.
  - b. 9 a-side competitions, clubs will be fined €100, and the match awarded to, the opposition per walkover.
  - c. In all other games competitions, the club shall be fined €25, and the match may be re-fixed at the discretion of the relevant fixture secretary.
2. Any team who gives 3 or more unsanctioned walkovers over a season will be relegated from their respective League, have their results expunged and will start the following season with a deficit of 6 points.

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3. During the season from the 1st of May until the end of season inclusive any club who gives a walkover shall be dealt with as follows:
    - a. First offence: A deduction of 6 points, 3 points awarded to the opposing team for that match, and a €200 fine.
    - b. Second offence: A deduction of 12 points. 3 points awarded to the opposing team for that match, and a €300 fine.
    - c. Third offence: Relegation from the respective division and a starting deficit of 9 points the following season, 3 points awarded to the opposing team for that match, and a €500 fine. If the team was in a relegation position at time of sanction, they will be relegated a further division.

## **RULE 7. FIXTURE SANCTIONS**

1. No club shall have the power to break or postpone a fixture. Clubs found guilty of the systematic breach of this rule without permission from the league, shall be dealt with at the discretion of the league.
  2. Clubs and teams are expressly forbidden to make or agree any fixtures arrangements between themselves without the approval of the relevant fixture secretary. Any such fixture may be nullified by the relevant fixture secretary or the league and the clubs may be fined €150.00 for playing an unsanctioned fixture.
  3. Clubs who fail to fulfil a fixture and agree upon a result between both teams without the sanction of the relevant Fixture Secretary will be deducted 9 points each and it will count as a walkover against each team with the relevant walkover fine applied to each team.
  4. Clubs who fail to play a fixture that the leagues, divisional fixture secretary, or the FSMT determine, has an impact on the final positions of Winners, Runners-Up, Promotion or Relegation in a competition, they will be deemed to have had a material effect on the integrity of a competition, that team will have its results expunged, they will be relegated from the division, and start the following season with a 6 point deficit. If there are more than the relegated number of teams in the division identified, then all teams who have had results expunged in this manner will be relegated from the division.
  5. Clubs with teams in Under 18 divisions who fail to play a fixture that the leagues, divisional fixture secretary, or the FSMT determine, has an impact on the final positions of Winners, Runners-Up, in a competition, they will be deemed to have had a material effect on the integrity of a competition, that team will have its results expunged, and fined €500.
  6. In the event of a fixture secretary being unavailable for any of the above, notify the Chairman of the Football Management Senior Team with a copy to the General Manager.
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7. Only contact by club approved officials- Secretary, Fixture Secretary etc with the league will be permitted. The league will not deal with any manager, coach, parent in any instance.

### **RULE 8. EXPUNGED PLAYING RECORD**

1. When a team does not play and complete more than one third of its league fixtures programme then its record in that league shall be expunged.

### **RULE 9. LEAGUE FIXTURES**

1. In league competition matches three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) for a draw. The team scoring the largest number of points shall be deemed the league winners, with the second highest *will be the* runners up. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, those teams shall play off to decide the league winner and runner up positions.
2. Where the league division size at the start of the season is less than 10 teams. The team scoring the least number of points will be relegated. For league division sizes of 10 or greater a second team will be relegated that being the team scoring the next lowest number of points who will also be relegated. In the event of more than 2 of the above being tied on points a playoff will be required to decide relegation positions.
3. In all matters of relegation and promotion the Football Senior Management Team will decide and inform clubs in advance of the season the formats and procedures in relegation and promotion.
4. A relegated team can-not remain in the same division the following season.
5. In all League games the home team is responsible for ensuring the referees fees are paid.

### **RULE 10. CUP FIXTURES**

1. A player may only play for one club in each domestic cup competition (League Cups). A player becomes "cup tied" when they participate (or are entered on a match card) in the game.
2. All cup competitions shall take precedence over league fixtures during the season.
3. Except for a blanket call off of fixtures by the league, in all league cup games if a pitch is deemed unplayable for any reason and should cause a postponement, the home team must find an alternative pitch that weekend, preferably at the same time as the listed fixture, unless agreement is reached with the opposition and fixture secretary for a different time or venue. If all fails, the fixture will revert to the opponent's ground. The arrangements for any such fixture reversal shall be the responsibility of the relevant league fixture secretary. If following the fixture reverting to the opponent's ground, the game fails to be fulfilled, the league fixture secretary and/or the FSMT will

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set the date, time and neutral venue for fixture completion, the cost of venue and match officials to be shared equally by both clubs.

4. In all league cup games, where the game started and is later abandoned by the referee due to weather or pitch conditions it shall result in the loss of home advantage and the fixture will revert to their opponent's ground. The arrangements for any such fixture reversal shall be the responsibility of the relevant fixture secretary.
5. In all league cup competitions, matches shall be played to a finish on the day and all league cup competitions shall be decided on the knockout principle unless otherwise decided by the Football Senior Management Team.
6. Extra time and the use of the FIFA penalty rule shall be used to decide the outcome of the game in the event of a draw after extra time is played.
7. In all Cup games the home team is responsible for ensuring the referee's fee is paid.

## **RULE 11. REPRESENTATIVE SANCTIONS**

1. Clubs are obliged to release registered players to the representative teams of the league for which the player is eligible. Any player selected to play in any training session/match arranged by the league and who without good or sufficient cause refuses to comply with the arrangements for the playing of the match or fails to play in such match, may be adjudged to be guilty of misconduct, and such player, or any club which may be deemed to have encouraged such player to such misconduct, may be dealt with as the League deems appropriate. Any breach of this rule will result in a minimum of 4 games for the player concerned in all league competitions listed as both competitions covering league and cup.

## **SUB SECTION 2**

### **EXPULSIONS:**

## **RULE 12. SUSPENSION AUTOMATIC**

1. A player \ Club Official sent off is automatically suspended for one game. This being the immediate next game in which the team that they signed for are participating within the league.
2. A player \ Club Official sent off shall stand suspended from all games under the jurisdiction of the league until the relevant sentence is served.
3. Only matches played count towards periods of execution of suspension. If a match is abandoned, the suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the abandonment of the match.

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4. An expulsion from any DDSL match incurs an automatic suspension even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or annulled.

### **RULE 13. SUSPENSION ADDITIONAL ACTION**

1. The disciplinary committee shall investigate each case on receipt of the referee's report. If additional action (more than the one automatic match suspension) is deemed necessary, the club shall be informed, and a personal hearing may be convened, in person or electronically by Zoom, before the league issues any additional suspension.

### **RULE 14. SUSPENSION ASSOCIATION FIXTURE**

1. If a player is sent off in a DDSL, SFAI, LFA or FAI competition game the player shall serve that suspension in that competition, once the team in which the player was sent off remains in that competition. If that team is no longer in the competition the suspended player shall serve the suspension or remainder thereof in the next competitive league game for the team in which they are registered and assigned to a panel.

### **RULE 15. SUSPENSION NO FINE**

1. Where a player is sent off for a hand-ball offence there shall be no fine on the player, or the club the player plays for. However, the player must serve the automatic one match ban.

### **RULE 16. SUSPENSION NOT SERVED**

1. A suspension may be deemed not served by the league if the league determines that a match has been arranged/re-arranged for the primary purpose of enabling a player to complete a period of suspension. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the league may prolong the suspension until the fine has been paid in full.
2. A player \ Club Official remains suspended until a fine is paid in full to the League.

### **RULE 17. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

1. Any player or official who fails to turn up for a disciplinary hearing without sufficient reason shall stand suspended until they are dealt with by the league disciplinary committee.
2. Clubs/players shall be further fined / suspended at the discretion of the Football Senior Management Team for playing suspended players.

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# SECTION 4.0 PROTEST \ APPEAL:

## SUB SECTION 1

### PROTEST:

#### **RULE 1. PROTEST PROCEDURE**

A club must contact the league by telephone or email. The league will advise which protest method is active in the league at the time of protest.

1. Standard Protest Method.

All protests must be sent in by registered letter for the attention of the League Administrator of the league within three (3) days (Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted) of the date of playing the match on which the protest arises, a fee of €50 to be paid on the leagues online payment system within the 3 days stated in the rule. All protests must be signed by the club secretary only of the club making the protest.

An exact copy of the protest must be forwarded at the same time, by registered post, to the secretary of the Club against whom the protest is being made against. In the event of the protest being lost, the fee shall be forfeited. In the event of the protest being upheld offending clubs may pay all costs of the protest (as decided by the disciplinary unit) i.e., search fees protest fees, birth certificate fees, registered letter fees and any reasonably vouched costs incurred by the club that proves same against them.

2. Online League Management System Method.

All protests must be entered on the league Management System within three (3) days (Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted) of the date of playing the match on which the protest arises, a fee of €50 to be paid on the leagues online payment system within the 3 days stated in the rule. All protests must be signed by the club secretary only of the club making the protest.

An exact copy of the protest must be forwarded at the same time by the league Management System to the secretary of the Club against whom the protest is being made against. In the event of the protest being lost, the fee shall be forfeited. In the event of the protest being upheld offending clubs may pay all costs of the protest (as decided by the disciplinary unit) i.e., search fees protest fees, birth certificate fees, registered letter fees and any reasonably vouched costs incurred by the club that proves same against them.

#### **RULE 2. CROSS PROTEST PROCEDURE**

1. A further 72 hours will be granted for the purpose of a cross protest. All protests shall be decided by the Football Senior Management Team / DCU as they deem fit as per rule.

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### **RULE 3. PROCEDURE FOR A PLAYER RELATED PROTEST**

1. The printed name, signature and date of birth of a player must be supplied by the player on request by the opposing manager/official at half time or within 10 minutes of the end of any match played with the match official in attendance. Not more than 6 printed names, signatures & dates of birth may be requested. Refusal to accede to such requests will be regarded as an admission of guilt.
2. The secretary or a designated representative of a club must carry out a player search of the opponents of the previous game for the purpose of making a protest. All irregularities shall be dealt with by the Football Senior Management Team or nominated official.
3. For the purpose of this the club must pay the required player search fee on line. A fee of €10 will be charged for each named inspection requested. The club must then contact the league offices during working hours in relation to a player search of the opponents of the previous game only.

### **SUB SECTION 2**

#### **APPEAL:**

### **RULE 4. APPEALS BY MEMBERS**

1. Any club in membership of the DDSL league has the right to appeal to the SFAI or the LFA (where applicable) against a decision of the Football Senior Management Team or any committees or nominees in accordance with the rules of either the SFAI or LFA.

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## **SECTION 5.0 GOVERNANCE & WELFARE:**

### **SUB SECTION 1**

#### **RULE 1. PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN**

1. 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.
2. It is mandatory that all clubs comply with all legislation and guidelines issued by any statutory agency in respect of child protection and welfare.
3. It is mandatory that all clubs comply with all FAI rules, regulations, codes, policies, and guidelines in respect of child protection and welfare, including the appointment of a person to be responsible for all child protection and welfare matters within their club and the implementation of Garda Vetting of all those engaging with persons under the age of eighteen (18) and/or vulnerable persons.

#### **RULE 2. DATA PROTECTION COMPLIANCE**

1. The gathering, compilation, retention, storage, or use of any information relating to underage players must be fully compliant with all the requirements of the Data Protection Acts.
2. Clubs should note their role as Data Controllers under GDPR Legislation.

#### **RULE 3. DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY**

1. All clubs are responsible for matters of discipline at their home venues.
2. All complaints will be investigated by the League, or their nominees and breaches of discipline shall be dealt with as the League deems appropriate.
3. The League will refer all matters to other authorities where appropriate such as Gardai, Government Agencies, and other statutory agencies where necessary.

#### **RULE 4. OFFENCES BY ANY PERSON**

1. Any person who insults anyone in any way, especially by using intimidation, threats, offensive gestures, or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is unsporting in any other way may be sanctioned with a suspension and/or fine and/or ban on participating or performing any football related activity or other sanction deemed appropriate.
2. Any person who offends, disparages, discriminates against, or denigrates someone, or a group of persons, in a derogatory manner on account of "race," skin colour,

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language, religion, ethnic and/or national origin or sexual orientation, or perpetrates any other racist/discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **RULE 5. OFFENCES BY SPECTATORS**

1. If a spectator engages in racist/discriminatory behaviour, including but not limited to chanting or displaying racist/discriminatory slogans at a match, the Football Senior Management Team or their nominees shall sanction the member club that the spectator supports. If the spectator cannot be identified as a supporter of one of the members clubs the host club may be sanctioned.

#### **RULE 6. OFFENCES TOWARDS MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. Anyone who intimidates a match official or league official with serious threats shall be sanctioned by a fine and a suspension as deemed appropriate by the Football Senior Management Team or their nominees.
2. Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressurise a match official into taking certain action or to hinder them in any way from acting freely shall be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension as deemed appropriate by the Football Senior Management Team or their nominees.

#### **RULE 7. BRINGING THE GAME OR LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE**

1. Anyone who has brought the game of football or the league into disrepute by any means, written, verbal, by action or otherwise shall be sanctioned with a suspension and/or fine and/or ban on participating or performing any football related activity or other sanction deemed appropriate.

#### **RULE 8. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS**

1. The Football Senior Management Team or their nominees shall consider and have the power to impose a suspension, fine and/or other sanction as deemed appropriate. In the case of individuals, the minimum suspension shall be for a period of five (5) matches.

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## SUB SECTION 2

### NOTIFICATIONS:

**Note:** DDSL Clubs wishing to enter and participate in **Non-DDSL Competitions** should **check** and make themselves aware of the variations.

Please ensure as a club that you are briefed on entry times for Competition Registration, Competition Rules and Regulations under the SFAI, LFA and FAI.

Variations may apply to but are not limited to extra time periods, the use of roll /on, roll/off substitutions, and note the number of substitutions may vary. The league advises that for non-domestic competitions, the clubs directly contact the relevant body\association for clarification.

Approved



# **COMPETITION RULES**

**Season 2026/2027**

Approved 29<sup>TH</sup> June 2026

Effective 1<sup>ST</sup> August 2026