

OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

OF

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

OF IRELAND

Effective from 31st August 2005

Football Association of Ireland Rules effective from 31st August , 2005

RULE 1. NAME

- (a) The Name of The Association shall be CUMANN PEILE ná h-EIREANN or in the English language: THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND, hereinafter referred to as "the FAI".
- (b) The FAI is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.
- (c) Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association are available to the members of The Association for inspection at the offices of The Association, subject to suitable notice being given.

RULE 2. OFFICES

The principal offices of The Association shall be in the County of Dublin.

RULE 3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objectives for which The Association is established are: -

- (a) 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.
- (b) The Association shall affiliate to UEFA and FIFA and be bound by their rules, regulations and statutes.

RULE 4. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings so defined; and words importing the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, words importing the masculine includes the feminine and words importing persons shall include bodies Corporate.

- (a) The words "The Association" or "the FAI" shall mean the Football Association of Ireland.
- (b) "The Council" means the National Council of the FAI.
- (c) "the Honorary Officers" shall mean the Honorary President; The Honorary Vice-President, The Honorary Secretary, The Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Chairman of the National League of Ireland.
- (d) "Junior Council" means The Junior Council of the FAI.
- (e) "The Board" means the Board of Management of the FAI
- (f) Members of The Association shall mean:
 - (1) National Associations, Divisional Associations and Leagues who have affiliated to the FAI.
 - (2) Clubs in Leagues who are currently affiliated to their Divisional Association.
 - (3) Players who are currently registered to play for their Club on League Registration Forms obtainable from a member League.
 - (4) Other members who may be appointed by the Council from time to time.
- (g) "Participant" means an affiliated Association, League, Club, Club official, Player, Official, Match Official and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by The Association.
- (h) "Official" means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an affiliated body or competition.
- (i) "Manager" means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting a Club team.
- (j) "Match" means a football match sanctioned by The Association or an Affiliated body.
- (k) "Match Officials" means referees and assistant referees and includes reserve officials and fourth officials.
- (l) "The League" means the FAI National League.
- (m) "Divisional Associations" shall include the Councils of such Divisional Associations.
- (n) "Affiliates" shall mean other affiliated National and Provincial bodies.
- (o) "The Society" means the Irish Soccer Referees Society.
- (p) General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer shall mean the General Secretary of The Association.
- (q). "Days" shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

RULE 5. AFFILIATION

- (a) Divisional Associations, Affiliates, Leagues and The Society in membership of The Association shall pay the prescribed annual affiliation fee, set from time to time by the AGM of The Association, on or before the 31st December in any year.
- (b) Clubs shall pay the prescribed annual FAI affiliation fee to their appropriate Divisional Association or Affiliate on or before a date to be determined by that Divisional Association or Affiliate, who shall pass on the fee to the FAI on or before December 31st in any year.
- (c) Members agree to be bound by the Rules of FAI.
- (d) Any member whose prescribed annual affiliation fee is not paid by 31st December in each year is liable to be suspended.
- (e) A Club in an area not within the jurisdiction of any Divisional Association may be permitted to affiliate directly to The Association.
- (f) The participation of a member club in the FAI National League and UEFA club competitions is subject to a licence granted by the FAI.

The licensing process as well as the set of criteria which have to be fulfilled by the member club are described in the FAI National Club Licensing Manual approved by the FAI Board of Management and Council for the FAI National League and the executive body of UEFA for UEFA club competitions.
- (g) The FAI Club Licensing Rules are the rules and requirements set out in the FAI Club Licensing Manual as amended from time to time.

RULE 6. HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Council may appoint Hon. Life Vice Presidents at its opening meeting each season on the recommendation of the Board. No more than two appointments may be made at any one meeting.

RULE 7. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- (a) The Association may appoint Honorary Life Members on the recommendation of the Board at the AGM.

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- (b) Members of the Council and/or the Junior Council or other National bodies who have given in aggregate 20 years service as a member of either Council shall be considered by the Board as eligible for Honorary Life membership.
- (c) The Board may recommend to the AGM that other members of The Association or other appropriate individuals may be appointed Honorary Life Members.
- (d) Such membership shall entitle the holder to enjoy full privileges, such as stand accommodation and board room invitations to all representative matches played under the jurisdiction of The Association.

RULE 8. RULEBOOKS

- (a) Rulebooks of The Association shall be available from the office of the General Secretary at a reasonable commercial price to be set from time to time by that office.
- (b) The Association accepts no responsibility for the non-possession of Rulebooks by Affiliates, nor can the non-possession be pleaded as ignorance of the Rules of The Association.

RULE 9. APPROVAL OF RULES OF NATIONAL BODIES, DIVISIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, LEAGUES & THE SOCIETY

- (a) The rules of all National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues and The Society must be in conformity with the rules of the FAI. In the event of any discrepancy between the rules of the FAI and National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues or the Society, the rules of the FAI shall prevail.
- (b) In the event that National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated Leagues or The Society adopt rule changes or new rules at an AGM or EGM the said rule changes must be sent for approval to the General Secretary of the FAI within 14 days of passing the proposed rule changes.
- (c) The said rule changes shall be considered by a meeting of the Rules Commission of the FAI which shall be convened within fourteen days of receipt of the said rule change(s) by the General Secretary of the FAI. The decision of the Rules Commission of the FAI shall be communicated in writing to the National Associations, Divisional Associations, Affiliated League or The Society within five days of their decision. Rejection by the Rules Commission will in effect mean that the changes or rules cannot be implemented, until approval is granted.
- (d) The Association shall have the power at any time to make inquiries into the working of such affiliates and to deal with same as it thinks fit provided that all proper procedures are duly followed.
- (e) The Rules of the FAI National League in addition to being in conformity with the FAI Rules must comply with all of the conditions of FAI National Club Licensing Manual and the requirements of UEFA.

RULE 10. RULEBOOKS & LIST OF MEMBERS

- (a) Approved printed rulebooks of all affiliates together with a list of the current membership of National Bodies, Divisional Associations, Leagues and The Society must be submitted to the General Secretary by 1st November in any year.
- (b) This list must include an analysis of status under the headings of Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Youth, Women's, Schoolboy, Schoolgirl and Grades of Referees.

RULE 11. POWER TO FORM DIVISIONS

- (a) For the governments of Association Football, Ireland shall be divided into Divisions designated as Leinster, Munster, Connaught and Ulster.
- (b) The Council shall have the power, with the consent of the Divisions concerned, to vary the area and boundary of these Divisions and/or to create new Divisions. Representation on the Council of the various Divisions shall be in accordance with rule. Clubs or teams in Ireland not situated within the area of jurisdiction of a Divisional Association shall be under the direct control of The Association.

RULE 12. COMPOSITION OF THE FAI NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Council of the Association shall consist of: -

1.

- (a) The President of The Association
- (b) The Vice President of The Association
- (c) The Hon. Treasurer of The Association
- (d) The Hon. Secretary of The Association
- (e) The Chairman of the F.A.I. National League
- (f) 1 representative to be appointed by each Club in membership of the Premier and First Division of the National League. 1 representative to be appointed by each Club in membership of the Premier and First Division of the National League, provided they are holders of a current FAI National League Club Licence.
- (g) 9 representatives to be appointed by the Leinster Football Association,
- (h) 5 representatives to be appointed by the Munster Football Association,
- (i) 2 representative to be appointed by the Connaught Football Association and
- (j) 2 representative to be appointed by the Ulster Football Association.
- (k) 2 representatives to be appointed by the FAI Junior Council.
- (l) 1 representative to be appointed by the Defence Forces.
- (m) 1 representative to be appointed by The Colleges Football Association.
- (n) 4 representatives to be appointed by The Schoolboys FAI.
- (o) 1 representative to be appointed by Irish Universities Football Union.
- (p) 2 representatives to be appointed by the Football Association of Irish Schools.
- (q) 2 representatives to be appointed by The Women's Football Association of Ireland.
- (r) The FAI Chief Referees Assessor
- (s) 1 representative from the Irish Soccer Referees Society.
- (t) 1 representative from the "Football for All" Body.
(Total membership of Council: (61)
- (u) In the case of death or resignation of a member of Council, the Club or affiliate concerned shall have the right to appoint a person to act in his place.
- (v) In the event of a representative being unable to attend a Council Meeting, his nominating Club or Affiliate may appoint a substitute to attend that particular Council meeting in his place, providing they notify the General Secretary of The Association in writing, prior to the meeting.

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- (w) In relation to clause (f) to (s) inclusive, the representatives or substitutes appointed must be members of the affiliate that appoints them. The appointment of representatives must be notified to the General Secretary of The Association within one week after The Association's AGM.
- (x) A complete record of approved minutes of Council and standing committee meetings and attendance records will be bound and distributed to Council members in advance of each meeting, together with the draft minutes of the previous Council meeting.
- (2) No person shall be eligible of being first appointed an Honorary Officer or a member of Council if at the time of appointment that person has attained the age of 70 years. An Honorary Officer or member of Council shall vacate office at the AGM after attaining the age of 75 years.

RULE 13. ROLE OF COUNCIL

- (a) The Council will authorise the Board to manage the affairs of The Association and take such decisions as are necessary for the effective management and control of The Association in accordance with the provisions of Rule 22.
- (b) The Council will authorise the Board to appoint Standing Committees in accordance with rule. Terms of reference for standing Committees will be established by the Board in consultation with the Chairperson of each standing committee and the General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer.
- (c) The Council will authorise the Board and the Standing Committees to appoint Resource Groups, where necessary - such groups will deal with specific projects or issues, and will be purely temporary in nature.
- (d) The Council will have the power to remove the Board and/or the Honorary Officers and/or any individual member of the Council by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting on a motion submitted 14 days in advance of a meeting of the Council and signed by at least 20 Council members.
- (e) The Council will retain the power to elect Honorary Officers.
- (f) The Council will establish written Codes of Practice for its own members.
- (g) Members of the Council will retain the privileges stated in the Code of Practice applicable to Council members, unless the Council itself decides otherwise by majority vote.
- (h) Every member of Council shall have the right of access, at all reasonable times, to the books, documents, accounts and vouchers of The Association and shall be entitled to receive from The Council, the General Secretary or Hon. Treasurer such information and explanation as he may consider necessary in connection with an item or items of receipts and expenditure.
- (i) The Council will meet a minimum of four times each year to discuss reports presented by the Board (including the activities of the various Standing Committees) and to respond to requests for its views from the Board. The opening Council meeting shall take place no earlier than 14 days after the AGM.
- (j) Special meetings of the Council may be convened at the request of the Board or on receipt of a written request signed by 20 Council members. A special meeting will transact the business specified in the notice convening that meeting.
- (k) The quorum for Council meetings shall be one third (20) of the 60 members.
- (l) The Council may fill any casual vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer or Auditors in accordance with the rules.
- (m) The Financial Year of The Association shall end on 31st December each year.
- (n) The Council and/or the Board may order in their absolute discretion audits at any time.
- (o) At any meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded on any question. A declaration by the President that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or by any particular majority or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect made in the Minute Book of the proceedings of The Association, shall be sufficient evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded. A like declaration and entry of the result of a ballot shall have a like effect. A poll may be demanded by not less than one-fifth of the duly nominated representatives present, and it shall be taken in such manner as may be determined by the President and the result of such poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of The Association. A poll demanded on the election of a President or on the question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith. Representatives may only give votes personally, and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. If any votes are given or counted at a meeting which shall afterwards be discovered to be improperly given or counted, the same shall not affect the validity of any resolution or thing passed or done at the meeting, unless the objection to such votes be taken at the same meeting, and not in that case, unless the President shall then and there decide that the error is of sufficient magnitude to affect such resolution or thing.
Each representative, duly nominated, present and entitled to vote. The President shall have a casting vote only, and not an original vote.

RULE 14. ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER AND HONORARY SECRETARY

- (a) No person other than a retiring Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary shall be eligible for election to these offices unless, not later than 30th April in each year they have sent by registered post to the General Secretary a nomination in writing signifying their candidature for such office. The nomination shall be signed by the candidate and by a proposer and seconder (who shall be members of The Association).
- (b) When an election is needed because an officer-holder has reached the end of his term of office or a vacancy has occurred, the General Secretary shall summon a special meeting of the members of Council immediately after the AGM and submit the nominations of the candidates for the positions. If only one candidate is nominated for either position, he shall be declared elected on receiving a vote of the majority of those voting. In the event of there being more than one candidate for any office a vote shall be taken by those present at the meeting, and the candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes, after an elimination process if necessary, shall be declared elected.
- (c) In the event of there being no nominations for the positions, the Special Meeting may fill any vacancy from the membership of The Council or from suitable non-members. No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.
- (d) The Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary elected under this Rule shall hold office until their successors are elected.

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RULE 15. ROLE OF HONORARY TREASURER

- (a) Together with the Director of Finance to devise on behalf of The Association, on a continuous basis, the financial strategy of the Association. This strategy must be presented to the Finance Committee for discussion/input and subsequently to the Board for their approval or otherwise.
- (b) To oversee the implementation of the financial strategy. The Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Finance will be responsible for its implementation.
- (c) To oversee the management of the Association assets with the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance.
- (d) To sign off together with the Director of Finance the expenses of the Chief Executive Officer, the President and other officers. The Honorary Treasurers expenses shall be signed off by the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Finance.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance to ensure that all significant financial matters brought to their attention are placed before the Finance Committee and/or the Board as appropriate.
- (f) The Honorary Treasurer shall ensure that an Audit Committee be established annually, comprising of four (4) members of the Finance Committee one of whom shall act as chairperson. This committee shall meet at least twice (2) each year with a representative of the External Auditors. The Chief Executive Officer, the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall be available to attend if required to do so by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall see the External Auditors draft and final management letters. The final management letter must be presented to the Finance Committee prior to the signing of the annual accounts.
- (g) The Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall ensure that the funds of the Association shall be held with such Financial Institutions as may from time to time be approved by the Board. All cheques must be signed in accordance with the Bank Mandates in force. Any alterations to the Bank Mandates must receive prior approval of the Board.
- (h) The Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall provide a copy of the audited accounts of the Association to all those entitled to attend the AGM at least 7 days prior to that meeting.

RULE 16. ROLE OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY

- (a) If requested to do so by the CEO the Honorary Secretary shall assist the CEO on an issue by issue basis.
- (b) If requested to do so by the Board of the Association the Honorary Secretary shall act in the place of the CEO during any absence of the CEO or during a vacancy in that position.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary shall meet with the CEO on a regular basis to be kept updated on continuing activities with the Association.
- (d) The Honorary Secretary shall keep himself apprised of football rules, FIFA / UEFA Directives, company, employment and other appropriate legislation.
- (e) The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the presentation of minutes of meetings of the Council and the Board. The minutes shall be recorded in a minute book with each item numbered for reference.

RULE 17. ELECTION OF HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

- (a) Following their first election to the positions, the Honorary President and Honorary Vice President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two year period.
- (b) Subject to the provisions of the foregoing rule, immediately after the election of the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, a meeting of the Council shall be held to elect from their number a President and a Vice President. The Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer shall act as Chairperson at that meeting until the election of the President. The presiding Honorary Officer shall then vacate the chair and the President shall proceed with the election of the Vice President.
- (c) To be nominated for the office of President or Vice-President a person must have been a member of Council for at least three years.

RULE 18. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

- (a) The President should have a thorough knowledge of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the FAI and the Rules of The Association, together with meeting procedures.
- (b) The President will be required to lead by example and devote time and effort into ensuring that The Association and its members under his direction are progressing in the propagation of the game of Association football at all levels.
- (c) The President in conjunction with the General Secretary/Honorary Secretary ensures that all scheduled meetings are held, with advance notice of agenda given to all members.
- (d) The President shall chair all meeting of the Council and the Board in a non-partisan manner. At meetings, the President shall ensure that the minutes of previous meetings are passed, adopted and reviewed. He should ensure that the agenda is strictly adhered to and allows all members a fair opportunity to speak on each topic before a consensus is reached or calls for a vote to determine the decision.
- (e) Each representative duly nominated, present and entitled to vote at Council meeting shall have one vote. The President shall have a casting vote only, and not an original vote.
- (f) At the conclusion of the meeting, the President shall review the decisions made and announces the date and time of the next meeting.
- (g) The President should ensure that all decisions taken by Council and the Board are acted upon as quickly as possible and that all matters discussed within the confines of a meeting should stay confidential until the General Secretary has dealt with the appropriate matter.
- (h) The President, as the senior Honorary Officer, shall represent The Association at all times in a manner appropriate to the position.

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RULE 19. ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall undertake the duties of the President.

RULE 20. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) The management and control of The Association shall be vested in the Board as authorised each year at the opening meeting of Council.
- (b) The Board shall carry out its duties and exercise its powers to achieve the objects of The Association as defined elsewhere in these Rules. It shall have the power to deal with such matters concerning The Association as are not expressly provided for in these Rules, but must report the matter to the next meeting of Council.

RULE 21. COMPOSITION OF THE FAI BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The following shall be the composition of the Board:

1.

The following shall be the composition of the Board.

- a. The President of the FAI
- b. The Honorary Secretary of the FAI
- c. The Honorary Treasurer of the FAI
- d. The Chairman of the FAI National League
- e. The Chairman of the Development Committee
- f. The Chairman of the International Committee
- g. The Chairman of the Domestic Committee
- h. The Chairman of the Legal and Corporate Affairs Committee
- i. The Chairman of the Underage Committee
- j. The General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Section 2

- (a) The maximum number of members of the Board of Management shall be ten
- (a) A quorum for the transaction of business of the Board shall be **six**.
- (b) As a Board member, the President shall have an original vote and a casting vote.
- (c) Upon adoption of this rule, the Council may authorise the Board of Management at a subsequent meeting of the Council and the provisions of Rule 20 (a) shall not apply insofar as that rule requires the Board to be authorised at the opening meeting of the Council.

RULE 22. OPERATIONS OF THE FAI BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Delete existing sections and insert the following:

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- 1 The Board will act as the Board of Directors of the Football Association of Ireland in compliance with the current provisions of the Companies Acts and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the FAI
- 2 The President of the FAI shall chair the meetings of the Board. The Board may also elect a Vice Chairman and determine the period for which he may hold office, or if at any meeting, the Chairman or Vice Chairman is not present within five minutes after the time of holding same, the Directors present may choose one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting.
- 3 The Board shall meet, at least once a month, except for the month of July, when a meeting shall be at the discretion of the General Secretary / Chief Executive Officer and President jointly.
- 4 The Board will establish at its first meeting a set of Standing Orders, in writing, indicating how it will conduct the business of the Association.
- 5 No substitutions will be permitted at Board meetings.
- 6 The General Secretary / Chief Executive Officer will circulate a bi-monthly report of all Board Meetings and of all meetings of Standing Committees to all Council Members.
- 7 The Board will report on its work to the Council at each meeting of that body and will also consult, as necessary, with the Council in developing and progressing major policies of the Association.
- 8 The Board will be entitled to place proposals for changes in FAI Rules in accordance with Rule 59 to the Rules Commission, who will report on same to the next meeting of Council before a General Meeting for acceptance or rejection by that body.
- 9 The Board may delegate any of their powers to Standing Committees consisting of such members' as authorised by Council. Any Standing Committees so formed shall, in the exercise of the power so delegated, conform to any limitation that may be imposed on it by the Board.
- 10 Each Standing Committee will comprise of the designated membership in accordance with Rule 23.
- 11 At the first meeting after the AGM in each year, a meeting of each Standing Committee will where necessary be convened by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive or his nominee in attendance, to elect its Chairperson before the first meeting of the Board. The Board shall duly approve the new Board members and draw up the terms of reference of each Standing Committee.
- 12 A Standing Committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper. Questions arising at any meeting will be determined by a majority of votes by the members present, and when there is an equality of votes, the Chairman will have a second and casting vote. The quorum will be 6 persons.
- 13 In the event of a nominated representative to a Standing Committee being unable to attend a meeting, his nominating affiliate may appoint a substitute to attend that particular meeting, providing the Chairman or the Chief Executive Officer is notified in writing, prior to the meeting and the substitute is an active member of the Association.
- 14 The Board and Council will have the authority to approve developments to the FAI Club Licensing System (subject to UEFA's minimum requirements). Any amendments made to the licensing criteria must be recommended for approval by the FAI Club Licensing Committee.
- 15 The Board will appoint both the Chair and other members of the FAI Club Licensing Committee and the FAI Club Licensing Appeals Body.”

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Rule 23 Standing Committees

- 23.1 The following Standing Committees will be formed at the first meeting of Council after the AGM every year namely Finance, Development, International, Domestic, Legal and Corporate Affairs and Underage.
- 23.2 The elected Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees shall be a member of the Board.
- 23.3 The General Secretary/CEO will be a voting member of the Finance and Legal and Corporate Affairs Committees.
- 23.4 A total of nine positions on the Standing Committees will be determined by election at the first Council Meeting.
- 23.5 A further eight positions on the Committees shall be selected by a Selection Sub-Committee comprising the President, the General Secretary/CEO and one member of Council to be elected at the opening meeting of Council. The nine positions to be determined by election to the six Standing Committees shall be filled at the first Council meeting following the AGM every year.
- 23.6 Nominations from Members of the Association for election must be in the hands of the General Secretary/CEO no less than five days in advance of the Council meeting in question.
The official FAI nomination form should be signed by the candidate stating their willingness to serve on such Committee if elected or selected.
Such nominees shall be formally proposed and seconded at the said Council meeting.
In the case of an equality of votes between two or more candidates, a further vote shall be held and if that fails to produce a result, the result will be determined by the drawing of lots.
Each member of a Standing Committee must be conversant with and experienced in dealing with those aspects of the Association's business which has been designated by the Board as being appropriate to that particular Committee.
- 23.7 At the opening Council meeting, Council shall elect one of its members who shall not be an Officer to sit on a Selection sub Committee to select the remaining eight members of the six Standing Committees. In exercising its right to select members of the Standing Committees, the selection sub Committee cannot select a member from one affiliate to a Standing Committee where another member or members of the affiliate has been elected to that Committee.
- 23.8 No person may sit on more than two Standing Committees in any one year.
- 23.9 The quorum for Standing Committees shall be 50% i.e. 6 persons.
- 23.10 The terms of reference for the six Standing Committees will be established by the Board in consultation with the Chairman of each Standing Committee and the General Secretary / Chief Executive Officer.
- 23.11 Following the opening meeting of Council, a meeting of the selection sub Committee comprising the President, General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer and the member elected by Council will meet to select the remaining eight members of the Standing Committees. Persons who put themselves forward for selection but were not elected to a Standing Committee will be eligible for selection as will other persons who are put forward for selection to the selection Sub Committee. The selection of persons to a Standing Committee shall be open to non-members of Council provided they are active members of the Association. The decision of the selection Sub Committee will be final and binding.
- 23.12 The process for nominating representatives of each affiliate of the Association to sit on the six Standing Committees shall be determined by each affiliate body, and confirmed in writing to the Chief Executive Officer five days in advance of the first Council meeting.
- 23.13 In cases where Provincial Associations are entitled to less than four representatives on any Committee by right, the Presidents/Chairmen for the time being of the four Provincial Associations shall meet to decide which Provincial Associations shall be represented on those Committees.
- 23.14 In the case of Standing Committees where the Provincial Associations have four representatives, the four representatives will comprise of one representative from each of the four Provincial Associations.

23.15 COMPOSITION OF DOMESTIC COMMITTEE

- a. Four representatives from the Provincial Associations
- b. Three representatives from the eircom League
- c. One representative from an affiliate not otherwise automatically represented
- d. Two representatives to be elected by Council
- e. Two representatives to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee

With reference to 23.15 (c) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who will formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

23.16 COMPOSITION OF UNDERAGE COMMITTEE

- a. Four representatives from the S.F.A.I.
- b. Two representatives from the F.A.I.S.
- c. Two representatives from the W.F.A.I.
- d. One representative from the Eircom League
- e. One representative from the Youth Committee
- f. One representative to be elected by Council.
- g. One representative to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In selecting this member, the Selection Sub Committee shall select only from the S.F.A.I, F.A.I.S and W.F.A.I., on the clear understanding that none of the five aforementioned affiliates shall have more than five members on this Committee. The person selected may not be a representative of the same affiliate as the person elected.

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23.17 COMPOSITION OF LEGAL & CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Secretary.
- b. The Honorary Treasurer.
- c. The General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer
- d. Two representatives from the eircom League.
- e. Four representatives from other strands not otherwise automatically represented.
- f. One external member.
- g. One member to be elected by Council.
- h. One member to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In the case of this Committee, a meeting of one representative from each of the four Provincial Associations, together with one representative from the S.F.A.I., F.A.I.S., W.F.A.I. and one representative on behalf of the other bodies, namely the Defence Forces, I.U.F.U., the C.F.A.I. and the Irish Soccer Referees' Society, will be convened as soon as possible after the AGM to decide which four persons will serve on this Committee representing these bodies.

With reference to 23.17 (e) above, a meeting to elect these representatives shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who will formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

The External member to sit on the Legal and Corporate Affairs Committee shall be elected by the Committee at its first meeting.

23.18 COMPOSITION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Secretary (excluded from Chairmanship)
- b. Two representatives from the eircom League.
- c. Two representatives from the Provincial Associations / Junior Council.
- d. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the F.A.I.S.
- f. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- g. Two representatives to be elected by Council.
- h. Two representatives to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

23.19 COMPOSITION OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The Vice-President of the Association who shall chair the Committee for two years
- b. Two representatives from the eircom League.
- c. Four representatives from the Provincial Associations.
- d. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- f. One representative from the F.A.I.S.
- g. One representative to be elected from the other affiliates not otherwise automatically represented.
- h. One representative to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

In the case of the Development Committee, the person elected must be from either the Defence Forces, the C.F.A.I., I.U.F.U or the Irish Soccer Referees Society.

With reference to 23.19 (g) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive or his nominee in attendance, who will formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.

23.20 COMPOSITION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Treasurer who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- b. Two representatives from the Eircom League.
- c. Two representatives from the Provincial Associations.
- d. One representative from the W.F.A.I.
- e. One representative from the S.F.A.I.
- f. One representative from other affiliates not otherwise automatically represented.
- g. The CEO
- h. Two members to be elected by Council.
- i. One member to be selected by the Selection Sub Committee.

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In the case of a Finance Committee, a meeting shall be held as soon as practicable following the AGM comprising one representative, each from the Defence Forces, C.F.A.I., I.U.F.U and the Irish Soccer Referees Society to decide who, from these bodies, will fill the one position available on this Committee.

With reference to 23.20 (f) above, a meeting to elect this representative shall be presided over by the Hon. Secretary, with the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee in attendance, who will formally call the meeting and notify the Association of the outcome of the election.”

RULE 24. THE HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be:

1.
 - (a) The President
 - (b) The Vice President
 - (c) The Honorary Secretary
 - (d) The Honorary Treasurer
 - (e) The Chairman of the National League
2. The following considerations will apply in relation to the Honorary Officers:
 - (a) The Officers for the time being shall be the Trustees of The Association.
 - (b) They shall be for all intents and purposes the owners of the assets and properties of The Association and shall deal with same, according to the direction of the Council.
3. The Honorary Officers as a group shall not exercise any collective responsibility as a "Board".
 - a) The President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two year period..
 - b) The Vice President shall serve for a single term of 2 years, but shall be eligible to seek a nomination for a further two-year period..
 - c) The Hon. Secretary shall serve a term of 4 years and be entitled to seek re-election for further terms.
 - d) The Hon Treasurer shall serve a term of 4 years and be entitled to seek re-election for further terms.
 - e) During the term of office of the above named Hon. Officers, they shall have no direct or indirect capacity with any members of The Association except the Chairman of the National League.
 - f) The Chairman of the National League shall serve a term or terms determined by that body.
 - g) On retiring from any one position as an Hon. Officer of The Association an individual may not hold another Hon. Officer position for a period of 2 years from the date of his retirement or loss of office except that the Vice President may become President.
 - h) A retiring Officer may be elected as a member of the Board immediately following retirement providing he is a member of the Council.
 - i) Each past President of The Association is eligible to be considered by the Board for appointment as an Honorary Life President on his retirement from the Council.

RULE 25. POWERS TO DEAL WITH INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES

- (a) The Board, either directly or through the Rules Compliance Commission, appointed annually by the Board, shall have the power to deal with any member who is proven, to the satisfaction of the Board, or the Commission to have committed any infringement of these rules or rules of any competition under the jurisdiction of The Association or any non-compliance with any of its decisions or any matter it deems detrimental to the objectives and good conduct of the affairs of The Association.
- (b) In addition to matters referred to in any other rule hereof, misconduct shall be deemed to have occurred if any person shall have: committed any act, made any statement verbally or in writing, and/or otherwise have been responsible for conduct which the Board or the Commission considers to be offensive, insulting or improper and likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- (c) The person or body making the complaint shall send in writing to the General Secretary by registered post the substance of the complaint and the reasons for making the complaint within four days of the discovery of the alleged charge taking place and the complainant becoming aware of it.
- (d) The Commission shall have three (3) members, none of whom shall be members of Council. Any change in the composition of the Commission is also subject to ratification by the Board.
- (e) The Commission will agree its own terms of reference, which shall be communicated to the General Secretary.
- (f) Right to Personal Hearing
 - 1) Any member charged with misconduct shall be furnished with details in writing of such charge, which shall be sent by registered post by The Association to the member so charged. Within fourteen (14) days from the posting thereof, the member so charged shall send to The Association by registered post an answer thereto in writing and the answer may be accompanied by a written application that such charge shall be heard before the Commission.
 - 2) Upon receipt of such application, the Board if it so decides shall request the Commission to deal with the matter and notify the member so charged of the date and place of the Hearing
 - 3) The member so charged and if necessary any other person it deems appropriate shall be requested to attend such hearing and give the Commission oral evidence of the facts of the charge and shall answer any questions they may ask by way of cross examination and shall produce any documentation they consider necessary.
 - 4) The member so charged shall have the right to give and call evidence in rebuttal of the charge and shall have the right to cross-examine any witnesses who give evidence in support of such charge.
 - 5) In default of an application for a hearing or if the member charged shall fail to attend the hearing or shall refuse to answer any questions asked by the Commission or neglect to produce any necessary documentation, then the Commission shall investigate and adjudicate upon the charge or allegation in such manner and upon such evidence as they deem expedient.
 - 6) On completion of the evidence the hearing shall be closed and the decision of the Commission shall subsequently be communicated in writing by registered post to the member charged and the claimant.
 - 7) The decisions of the Board or the Commission thereof shall be subject to the right of appeal made in accordance with the current rule.

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(g) **Punishment**

On misconduct being proven, to the satisfaction of the Commission, the Board shall have the power to order the offending member:

- (a) To be suspended from all or any specific football activity either permanently, sine die or for a stated period. After seven (7) years, an application may be received for review of a permanent suspension and/or any subsequent modification thereof, shall only be made by the Board.
- (b) To be fined (either with or without suspension).
- (c) To be censured.
- (d) To close a ground either permanently or for a stated period.
- (e) To pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter, either with or without penalty.
- (f) To deal with in such other manner as the Board may think fit.
- (g) To ensure publication of text in a club's programme as may be directed.

The Board shall not be entitled to order a club to cease paying the contract wages of a player who is serving a period of suspension for violating the Laws of the Game

(h) **Default of Payment of Fine**

On default for fourteen (14) days in payment of any fine or costs, the Board shall have the power to order the defaulting member to be suspended under such conditions as the Board shall decide.

(i) **Notification**

- (a) Any letter, request or communication to be sent by The Association under this rule shall be registered and properly sent if addressed to the last known address of the member charged or, if such address is not known, to the address of the registered Secretary of such Member's club or affiliated body, where appropriate.
- (b) If any case where this rule conflicts with any other rule of The Association then this rule shall prevail.

RULE 26. SUSPENSIONS

- (a) Suspension of Divisional Associations, Affiliates, The Society, Leagues, Clubs, Teams or Members shall be on the terms detailed in the notice of suspension issued by the General Secretary.
- (b) Any member suspended by The Association shall not, during the period of suspension, play or take part in any activity, match or fixture under the auspices of The Association.

RULE 27. EXPENSES ALLOWED TO MEMBERS

Members of the Council and persons assisting The Association in its functions shall be paid such expenses and/or fees as may be approved by the Finance Committee.

RULE 28. APPEALS

A.

- (a) Decisions of any League, other than the National League may be appealed to the relevant National or Divisional Association according to the appeal rules of that Association. Decisions of the National or Divisional Associations may be appealed to the FAI Appeal Board in accordance with FAI Rules.
- (b) In appeals, the onus shall rest with the affiliate lodging the appeal to satisfy the Appeal Board as to the veracity and validity of the appeal. No appeal can be made, under any circumstances, regarding the appointment of Referees, Assistant Referees or Fourth Officials to matches under the jurisdiction of the FAI or its affiliates.
- (c) The Association's fixtures, including re-arranged matches, shall not be subjected to appeals.

B. National League

Decisions of the League and decisions of the League's Senior Clubs Disciplinary Commission may be appealed to the FAI Appeal Board in accordance with the rules of The Association and the National League.

C. Composition of the FAI Appeal Board

- (a) Members of Council, not having direct or indirect association with parties involved in the appeal shall be eligible to sit on the Appeal Board consisting of three persons. From a panel of five nominated Council members, one person will be selected to act as Chairperson. The remaining two shall be selected from Council and from a panel of ten suitably qualified persons, who need not necessarily be members of Council. The two panels will be selected at the 1st Board Meeting following the AGM of The Association.
- (b) Council members will be asked to indicate in writing, their willingness to be considered for the appeal panel at the first Council meeting, on the understanding that they will receive at least four days notice of an appeal hearing and will also receive copies of the relevant documentation.

E. Procedure:

- (a) Appeals must be sent to the General Secretary by registered post within four days of the date on which the notification of the decision to appeal was received in the first place. The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the appeal.
- (b) An exact copy of the appeal must be sent simultaneously per registered post to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal. The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the copy of the appeal.
- (c) The General Secretary must inform all parties involved in the appeal of the venue, date and time of the Appeal Board Hearing.
- (d) Appeals must be accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for the Appeal Fee of €500, made payable to the F.A.I. This fee shall be refunded if the appeal is successful. A full or partial refund may be considered appropriate depending on the details of the case and at the discretion of the Appeal Board.
- (e) The body against whom the appeal is made, must produce to the General Secretary at least 24 hours before the hearing, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting which made the original decision and any other requested documentation relevant to the

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appeal. Failure to comply with the correct procedure as outlined above will result in disciplinary action being taken by the appeals committee against either party.

- (f) Upon receipt of an appeal, the General Secretary, together with the Chairperson, nominated by him shall select the composition of the Appeal Board.
- (g) All appeals shall commence within 14 days of receipt of the appeal, by the General Secretary.
- (h) All parties in an appeal shall be notified by the General Secretary, within three days by registered post, of the outcome of the appeal giving reasons for the decision with reference to any relevant rules.

F. Remit of the FAI Appeal Board

- (a) The Appeal Board shall re-hear the case in question.
- (b) All evidence, new and old, may be considered and all parties to the appeal may ask, at their own expense, for witnesses to be interviewed.
- (c) The Board, the appellant and any other party involved in the appeal may utilise outside expertise. Any such experts used by the Board shall not have voting rights in decision-making relating to the appeal.
- (d) The Appeal Board shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal or to vary the sanction and/or fine, provided the decision is not in conflict with any of the Rules of The Association, which shall take precedence at all times.

RULE 29. ARBITRATION

1.

- (a) Any dispute or difference (“a dispute”) between any two or more members (which shall include for the purpose of this rule The Association) may be referred to Arbitration.
- (b) Furthermore, any matter which has resulted in a decision of the FAI Appeal Board may be the subject of a referral by one of the parties involved in the appeal hearing.
- (c) In accordance with paragraph 1 to 3 of Article 61 of the FIFA Statutes, members undertake not to refer disputes with any other members or The Association to a Court of Law. Such disputes must be processed through the Appeals System of The Association or, where applicable, by way of referral to Arbitration.
- (d) At its opening meeting each year, the Board shall appoint a panel of Five Arbitrators. (“the FAI Panel”) all of whom must have dispute resolution experience and none of whom will be members of Council.

2. Procedure

- (a) Any party referring a dispute to Arbitration arising out of a decision of the FAI Appeals Board must do so within 10 days of the notification of the FAI Appeals Boards decision.
- (b) When seeking Arbitration, the requesting party must do so in writing by Registered post to the General Secretary, setting out the basis upon which Arbitration is sought and sending a bank draft or money order for €3000, together with a further sum of €2000 by way of surety in respect of costs.
- (c) A copy of this request should be sent to all other interested parties in the dispute by Registered Post.
- (d) The Registered Postal receipt shall be proof of time and date of posting in all cases.
- (e) If the General Secretary considers that the request for Arbitration is in order and that there is an issue capable of being referred to Arbitration, he shall select one of the Arbitrators from the FAI Panel on rotational basis within 7 days from receipt of the said request.
- (f) If the Arbitrator declares himself unavailable or ineligible for any reason, the General Secretary shall select a substitute from the FAI Panel on a strict rotational basis
- (g) The Arbitrator shall fix his own terms of reference and determine the issues to be heard, direct who the appropriate parties to the Arbitration are and who is entitled to be heard prior to the hearing.
- (h) The Arbitrator may, at his discretion invite all relevant parties for the purposes of a preliminary hearing to deal with any such preliminary issue as he deems appropriate.
- (i) Prior to the hearing commencing, the Arbitrator shall obtain written confirmation from all of the parties to the Arbitration that the decision of the Arbitration is final and binding on all parties provided the decision is not in breach of any of the rules of the FAI.
- (j) The Arbitration hearing shall take place within 10 days of the appointment of the Arbitrator by the General Secretary and a decision shall issue within 5 days of the date of the hearing.
- (k) The Arbitrator shall determine his own expenses and how they shall be met.
- (l) He shall decide whether the Arbitration fee and/or the surety is to be returned to the party seeking Arbitration.
- (m) In all cases, the Arbitration shall be governed by the Arbitration Acts 1954 and 1980.

RULE 30. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The AGM of The Association shall be held not later than the 31st July in each year, and shall transact any business of which notice may appear on the Agenda of the Meeting. In exceptional circumstances the Council may defer the AGM and opening Meeting of Council for a period of not more than one calendar month.
- (b) The following only shall be entitled to attend the AGM or EGM of The Association:-
 - 1. National League - Two Representatives from each Club in membership thereof, provided they are holders of a current FAI National League licence.
 - 2. Leinster FA - Nine representatives, of which not more than five shall be from the Dublin area.
 - 3. Munster FA - Five representatives of which not more than three shall be from the Cork area.
 - 4. Connaught FA - Two Representatives
 - 5. Leinster Senior League - One representative from each non-National League Club, in the highest section of its highest division.
 - 6. Munster Senior League - One representative from each non-National League Club in the highest section of its highest division.
 - 7. Junior Council of the FAI - Five direct representatives.
 - 8. Defence Forces FA - Two Representatives.
 - 9. Schoolboys' FAI - Four Representatives.
 - 10. The Football Association of Irish Schools - Four Representatives.

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11. Irish Universities' Football Union - Two Representatives.
 12. Ulster Football Association - Two Representatives.
 13. Women's Football Association - Two Representatives.
 14. The Colleges' Football Association - Two Representatives.
 15. Ulster Senior League - One Representative from each non-National League Club in the highest section of its highest division..
 16. Each League in membership of The Association shall be entitled to one Representative at the AGM or EGM.
 17. The FAI Chief Referees Inspector
 18. Irish Soccer Referees Society - Two Representatives.
 19. In addition, members of the outgoing Council and Hon. Life Members shall also be entitled to attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to vote unless they are also acting in the capacity of representatives in accordance with the provisions of this rule.
- (c) **Notification**
1. All members must submit, in writing, to the General Secretary, the names of its representatives at the AGM, not later than 14 days before the AGM.
 2. The General Secretary shall inform the members of The Association of the time, date and venue of the forthcoming AGM, at least 14 days in advance of same.
 3. Where necessary, the General Secretary shall inform the AGM at the beginning of that meeting whether the Affiliation Fees of members present had been received in full and on time.
- (d) **Future Venue**
The venue for the next AGM shall be decided each year at the AGM.
- (e) **Extraordinary General Meeting**
1. An EGM may be called by The Council, as it may deem necessary. An EGM shall also be called upon receipt by the General Secretary of a requisition signed by the Secretaries of at least 50 members, accompanied by a deposit of €3000 to defray expenses. No business shall be transacted at any such meeting except that specified in the requisition or contained in the Agenda issued by the General Secretary.
 2. For any matters involving fresh principle or policy, an EGM of all members of The Association may be called by The Council. Seven days' notice of such meeting shall be given by the General Secretary to all members of The Association entitled to attend.
 3. Ineligibility to attend an AGM or EGM: No member shall have a right to representation unless such member's subscription shall have been received by the General Secretary in accordance with rule. In the case of Clubs formed after 1st September, such Clubs shall be entitled to representation at the AGM (or EGM) provided their subscriptions have been paid within 21 clear days of election to membership.

RULE 31. AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

- (a) Players are either amateur or Professional upon signing the appropriate registration form.
- (b) Players must be registered on League Registration Forms obtainable from a member League. A bona-fide player of a club is one who has signed a properly completed registration form and paid the appropriate registration fee (if any), duly witnessed by the Club Secretary and lodged with the League forty eight (48) hours before kick-off.
"An Amateur player under the age of 21, and playing in the eircom Under 21 Development League will not lose his junior/amateur status whilst playing in this League."
- (c) A League date stamp will be the official date of registration. A player is eligible for a League match if his Registration Form has been examined and considered to be properly completed and stamped by a League. In Cup competitions the player must be signed and registered at least fourteen days for his club before the match in question to be eligible.
- (d) Any Player receiving money or taking advantage over and above the re-imburement or payment for his account of expenses for travelling or hotel (duly justified), shall be declared a Professional.
- (c) In relation to amateur players -
 1. Travelling and hotel expenses are to be understood as those necessary for training or taking part in matches, whether as playing members of a team or as a reserve.
 2. A player may receive at the expense of his Club the advice of a coach and/or trainer, the care of masseurs or specialists for his training, or when he is injured.
 3. A player competing for any money prize in a football contest shall be deemed a Professional. Where the Council is satisfied that a player has been induced to sign a Professional Form for the purpose of his Club without any agreement being entered into, or his amateur status otherwise interfered with, the Professional registration may, on the application of the player, be cancelled and he will thereupon revert to the status of an amateur.
 4. No amateur shall be paid compensation in respect of broken time.

RULE 32. INSURANCE OF AMATEUR PLAYERS

- (a) An amateur player injured while playing football in circumstances approved by his club and not otherwise in conflict with the rules of The Association shall be permitted by The Association to have his medical, dental and physiotherapy fees/loss of earnings reimbursed by his club.
- (b) A club **MAY** arrange insurance to provide for such fees/loss of earnings. It is not compulsory for a club to make such arrangements.

RULE 33. PLAYING SEASONS

- (a) Affiliates shall notify The Association within fourteen (14) days of their AGM of their start of season date.
- (b) Matches are prohibited during the remainder of the year, which shall be known as the close season, but the Council shall have power to suspend or extend the season either sectionally or entirely and to alter the period of playing as may from time to time in their discretion be deemed necessary or desirable and agreements between Clubs, Players and Officials shall be subject to such decisions.
- (c) Registered players (Amateur or Professional) are prohibited from playing in Football Competitions, for which permission has not been granted. Players so doing shall be subject to penalties decided by the Council.

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RULE 34. REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

- (a) Professionals shall be registered on a Professional registration form and a Professional contract form to be supplied by the General Secretary.
- (b) The form after all particulars have been filled in must be signed personally by the Professional player and his signature witnessed by the registered Club Secretary.
- (c) The forms shall then be returned individually by registered post bearing the official postmark to the Registrations Department, FAI National League of Ireland.

RULE 35. PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS' AGREEMENTS

- (a) All agreements between Clubs and players must be in writing and in the agreed format.
- (b) For the purpose of this Rule all Professional Registration Forms and Agreements shall be deemed to be in the hands of the General Secretary of The Association and National League as from the time they are posted by registered post and the postmark shall be conclusive evidence thereon. Contracts, schedules and registration papers may be copied and shared with the FAI Club Licensing Department in order to satisfy licensing requirements. These documents shall be held in the strictest confidence by the FAI Club Licensing Department.
- (c) A Professional Player is eligible to play in competitions other than Cup Competitions, for the Club by which he is registered, if his Professional Form and Agreement have been in the hands of the General Secretary of The Association and the National League one day prior to such match. A player cannot be registered as a Professional until the transfer has been completed by the National Association with which he has been previously registered, and the one day above mentioned is to count from the date of registration with The Association. The word 'play' shall be understood to mean engage in a match or competition in which the number of players in each side is more than five and where a charge for admission is made.
- (d) No player under the age of 16 years shall be registered as a Professional player under the provisions of this Rule.
- (e) The Club engaging a Professional player must ensure that the terms of the agreement and Professional registration forms are read over by the player and that he understands the nature of his contract and further that he is subject to the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of The Association and the National League. If signing for a club other than a National League Club, a separate Registration form must be signed by the player and returned the General Secretary.
- (f) A copy of the Agreement and Registration Form must be retained by the player and the Club.

RULE 36. REGISTRATION AS PER AGREEMENT

- (a) The registration of Professionals shall be binding in accordance with the provision of Rule 34 and the termination of the agreement between Clubs and players. A Professional may at any stage be registered for the following or subsequent seasons for his own Club, but shall not enter into any engagement with another Club in membership of this or any other National Association until 6 months before his existing engagement is terminated. A Club or a member of a Club or any person shall not induce or attempt to induce a registered Professional player to leave the Club for which he is registered until the period of his registration has expired.
- (b) No player either amateur or Professional shall play for two Clubs during the same season without first obtaining a transfer from his original Club and League. Original shall mean the Club which the player has signed a form and first registered with a League during any one season.
- (c) If the claims of any Club are considered exorbitant, the player concerned or Club seeking his transfer shall have the right to report same to the Board, the latter shall make an enquiry and if the claims are excessive they shall fix a transfer and suspend, fine or otherwise deal with the offending Club.

RULE 37. PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS TRIAL

A club shall not be permitted to enter into agreement with and/or effect the registration of a Professional player not later than three months prior to the agreed end of season for the purpose of playing in that particular season.

RULE 38. PLAYERS ONLY TO PLAY FOR CLUB FOR WHICH REGISTERED EXCEPT BY PERMISSION

- (a) In Competition games (Cup-Ties and League Matches) a player shall play for the Club for which he is registered. In "friendly" games a player may play only for another Club with the written consent of the Club for which he is registered.
- (b) A player who has been transferred to another National Association shall not be re-registered with this Association by his former Club for a period of eight weeks from the date of his transfer.
- (c) Any player having signed a registration form may not sign another form unless as provided in these Rules.

RULE 39. PLAYERS CANNOT ENTER INTO ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT UNTIL EXISTING ONE HAS TERMINATED

- (a) A Professional whose engagement has terminated cannot play until he is registered again or reinstated as an amateur. Any Professional player guilty of a breach of agreement shall be thereby automatically suspended.
- (b) The General Secretary of The Association must be notified in writing within 7 days of the imposing of suspension, alteration or termination of a player's agreement.
- (c) Notice of the raising of a suspension must also be notified in writing to the General Secretary of The Association within a similar period.

RULE 40. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL

- (a) The Council shall, subject to these Rules, have power to cancel the registration of a Professional at any time upon the application of the player or his Club, or may transfer him from one Club to another.
- (b) A Professional who is transferred must be re-registered by the Club to which he is transferred.

Rule 41. TRIAL PERIODS

- (a) Prior to the 31st January, a club shall be permitted to register a Professional player for a trial period of not less than four weeks. Immediately upon completion of such a trial, a club with the consent of the player, register the player for a further trial period of not less than four weeks. No club can register the same player for more than two periods of four weeks in one season.
- (b) At the conclusion of any trial period(s) as above, a club may register the player for a period ending in accordance with Rules 33 and 37.

RULE 42. REINSTATEMENT & RE-GRADING

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- (a) The Board/Council shall have the power to reinstate any professional players to amateur status.
- (b) Any professional player may apply to be reinstated as an amateur player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his/her last match as a professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forward in writing to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration by the FAI Board of Management / Council.
- (c) Any professional player with a time of (1) one year elapsed since his last professional match shall automatically acquire amateur status.
- (d) **Re-grading to Junior Status**
Any player who has played (5) five or more matches in the current season at Senior / Intermediate level may be re-graded by his league to play at Junior level.
All Leagues must facilitate application for re-grading, which must be submitted before 31st January.

RULE 43. PROFESSIONAL REFEREES OR PLAYERS INELIGIBLE

- (a) A Professional player or referee, during the period of their registration, or a paid representative of a Club outside the jurisdiction of The Association is not eligible to act as a Director of a Club or as a member of the Management Committee of a Club or sit on Council or act as a representative at any meeting of National Associations, Divisional Associations or Affiliated Leagues.
- (b) Nominated representatives from The Society shall be permitted to serve on Council and Standing Committees as provided for elsewhere in these rules.
- (c) Amateur and Associate Referees are also exempt from this rule.
- (d)

RULE 44. PLAYERS ENTERING & LEAVING THE AREA OF JURISDICTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) Any player wishing to leave the area of jurisdiction of The Association to play for a club in the area of jurisdiction of another National Association must obtain a certificate of clearance from The Association. Before The Association can provide such certificate it must have received the agreement to provide same from the club within the area of jurisdiction with whom the player was last registered.
- (b) Should a club withhold such agreement, thereby resulting in the non-issue of a certificate of clearance by The Association, the club must indemnify The Association for all damages, costs and for all expenses accrued by The Association as a result of the non-issue of the certificate of clearance. Should it be established that a club withheld agreement without reasonable cause, The Association shall be empowered to deal as it sees fit with such clubs.
- (c) A Certificate of clearance will not be granted by The Association for players under 16 years of age.
- (d) Players leaving the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland may not be permitted to return to the jurisdiction of The Association until a period of 8 weeks has elapsed from date of clearance from The Association.
- (e) Any player wishing to be registered within the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland having last been registered within another jurisdiction must obtain an International Transfer Certificate. If the Association does not receive a response to the ITC Request within thirty days, it shall immediately register the player with the New Club on a provisional basis ("Provisional Registration"). A Provisional Registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC Request. The Association may withdraw a Provisional Registration, if, during this one-year period, the Former Association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC Request.

RULE 45. CONDUCT/SUSPENSIONS

1.

- (a) In the event of any player or players being sent off the field of play by the referee or Club officials being reported for misconduct of any kind, (other than assault on a referee) the referee shall transmit such name or names to the Council of the Divisional Association or relevant National Body or League.
- (b) Reports of any kind, however, referring to matches between Clubs who are members of different Divisional Associations or to matches under the jurisdiction of the FAI National League, shall be transmitted to The Association.
- (c) All suspensions relating to physical assaults on referees must be notified immediately to the General Secretary of The Association by the affiliate handing down the suspension.
- (d) All suspensions of 12 months duration or longer must be notified immediately to the General Secretary of The Association by the affiliate handing down the suspension. No suspension can be amended or cancelled without the express approval of The Association.

2. **Assaults on Referees**

- (a) A player whom the referee has reported as guilty of assault on him before, during or immediately after a match will automatically stand suspended until the first disciplinary body has decided upon the case and notified the parties involved by registered post of their decision. In this connection, spitting at the referees is regarded as an assault.
- (b) The minimum suspension on a player found guilty by a disciplinary body of assaulting a referee will be 12 months.

3 **The FAI Disciplinary Code**

Cautionable Offences

- (a) A player who is cautioned (receives a yellow card) in any game must be reported to the League concerned, and a record must be kept by that League.
- (b) A player who accumulates four cautions will be suspended for 1 game.
- (c) Following the suspension, if the same player accumulates a further four cautions, he will be suspended for one game.
- (d) Any player who receives in excess of 12 cautions in any one season will receive a two (2) match suspension for the 12th caution and thereafter 3 matches for every 4 cautions.
- (e) Any suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- (f) At the end of each season, players with up to 3 outstanding cautions will not have these cautions carried forward to the next season.

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Sending-off Offences

- (a)
- i. In all FAI National League competitions and FAI National Cup Competitions an expulsion automatically incurs a suspension from the subsequent match of the same competition. Following receipt of the Referees report the relevant disciplinary body may at its discretion extend the duration of the suspension and/or impose fines.
If it is not possible to impose the automatic one match suspension on a player in the current season, then the Disciplinary Body shall have the power to impose the automatic one match suspension in another domestic competitive match.
 - ii. In all other matches played under the auspices of the Football Association of Ireland an expulsion automatically incurs a suspension from the next competitive match. A player sent from the field of play shall serve an automatic suspension at the same level of football (i.e. a player sent from the field of play in a 1st team fixture may not serve an automatic suspension in a reserve team fixture and vice-versa). Following receipt of the Referees report the relevant disciplinary body may at its discretion extend the duration of the suspension and/or impose fines.
- (b) Should the same player be dismissed again in the same season the following punishments will apply :-
- | | | |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|
| <i>2nd sending off,</i> | | <i>suspended for 1 match</i> |
| <i>3rd sending off</i> | | <i>suspended for 2 matches</i> |
| <i>4th sending off</i> | | <i>suspended for 4 matches</i> |
| <i>For five or more dismissals in the season</i> | | <i>suspended for 6 matches</i> |
- (c) Any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- (d) All of the foregoing suspensions are the minimum penalties. Leagues may impose suspensions above this minimum depending on the nature of the offences committed.
- (e) All of the foregoing punishments with the exception of the Automatic one match suspension may be appealed through the various Divisional Associations and in accordance with the rules of The Association and FIFA.

RULE 46. TESTIMONIALS TO BE SANCTIONED

- (a) No player or official of a Club can accept or receive any testimonial whatever, without the sanction of The Association and no Club, or Council, or member of same, or player of any Club is permitted to contribute to any testimonial that does not receive the sanction of The Association.
- (b) No Honorary Officer or member of The Association may accept or receive any testimonial, honorarium, grant or such like, from The Association without the consent of The Council.
- (c) Any application for a Testimonial game must be accompanied by a list of the Testimonial Committee members, a list of all persons and companies whose services are to be used by the Committee and any other information which The Association may request.

RULE 47. CHARITY AND BENEFIT MATCHES

Benefit matches for amateur players, may, under special circumstances, be sanctioned by The Council.

- (a) The promoter of every charity or benefit match must furnish to The Association particulars of the charity and/or benefit match on official forms available from the General Secretary. All such promoters shall observe the Rules and Regulations of The Association and no Club shall play or take part in any charity or benefit match until same has been sanctioned by The Association. The Secretary of every charity and/or benefit match committee shall within fourteen days after the close of a match or competition forward to the General Secretary a duly audited balance sheet and the voucher from the beneficiary, together with a list of the Clubs, with secretaries' names and addresses, that have played in the match or competition. No charity or benefit match can be approved by The Association unless the promoter or promoters is or are a member or members of The Association. Charity or Benefit Matches may be played on any date approved of by The Council.
- (b) A Professional player must have five years continuous service as such with his Club before being eligible for a benefit match. Applications for permission for such matches should be made by each Club on or before the three months before date of match.

RULE 48. GROUNDS, PLAYERS AND ARRANGING OF MATCHES

- (a) Each Club, League and Divisional Association shall, when required, place its players and grounds at the disposal of The Association.
- (b) Terms and conditions of ground rental to be negotiated between the parties.
- (c) No matches shall be arranged in a Divisional Association's area which is hosting a designated game which would finish less than 2 hours before the kick-off of that game or would start less than 2 hours after the end of that game unless express permission is given by The Association.
- (d) For the purpose of this rule a designated game will be a Senior International, the FAI Cup Final or Replay, or any other game which the Board shall declare as designated.

RULE 49. POWER TO DEAL WITH PLAYERS REFUSAL TO PLAY IN REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Any player selected to play in any International or other match arranged by The Association and who without good and sufficient cause refuses to comply with the arrangements of The Council for the playing of the match, or fails to play in such match, may be adjudged by The Council 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 Council shall deem appropriate.

RULE 50. CLUBS AND PLAYERS CANNOT PLAY UNDER RULES OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) All Clubs and Players in membership of The Association shall play under the Rules of The Association and Clubs or players playing under rules other than those of The Association or playing with Clubs and players not members of The Association, without permission, shall be liable to be expelled, suspended, fined or otherwise dealt with as The Association shall deem fit.
- (b) In cases of emergency, the General Secretary may - after consultation, where feasible, with the Board - grant permission to a player or players wishing to play outside the jurisdiction of The Association, but all such cases must be reported at the next ensuing meeting of the Board.

RULE 51. ASSOCIATIONS AND LEAGUES TO BE SANCTIONED BY COUNCIL

- (a) Associations, Leagues or other Combinations of Clubs, Players or Officials, shall not be formed without the consent of The Association.

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(b) All applications for formation shall be made through the Divisional Associations or on application to the relevant National Bodies.

RULE 52. MEMBER'S AGM.

No affiliate of The Association may hold its AGM later than the 3rd Monday in June of each year unless by special permission of The Association.

RULE 53. FREE ADMISSION TO MATCHES

- (a) Members of Council and Junior Council of this Association, Members of Council and Junior Council of Leinster, Munster, Connaught & Ulster Football Association shall on production of current membership card be admitted without payment to all matches under the jurisdiction of this Association.
- (b) Leagues, Clubs and others organising matches in the Republic of Ireland must provide seating accommodation if available, for all members as enumerated above.

RULE 54. KEEPING OF BOOKS

Councils, Leagues, Divisional Associations, National Affiliates, The Society and/or Clubs and similar organisations shall keep minutes of their meetings and the election of members and shall enter in detail in their cash books all financial transactions.

RULE 55. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Association at the AGM shall appoint a firm who are members of a recognised body of Accountants and they shall hold office as Auditors until the next AGM.

RULE 56. AUDITOR'S FEES

The remuneration of the Auditor shall be agreed by the Finance Committee and the Board.

RULE 57. PRODUCTION OF BOOKS

- (a) The Association shall have power to call upon Councils, Clubs, Divisional Associations, Leagues, National Affiliates, The Society and other Organisations, Officers and members of same and players of a Club to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence which The Council may desire.
- (b) Affiliated Leagues and Divisional Associations and the Society must notify the Football Association of Ireland of the date on which their financial year ends and must submit to the FAI a copy of their certified audited accounts within three months of the end of their financial year together with a relevant tax clearance certificate.

RULE 58. MEMBERS TO VARIOUS BODIES

The Council shall elect each year from their number:

- (a) 3 members to the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland.
- (b) 1 member to the Women's Football Association of Ireland
- (c) It may elect members to other affiliates, as it may deem desirable from time to time.

RULE 59. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

- (a) The Council or any member shall have the right to submit alterations to the rules of The Association which must be formally proposed and seconded and sent per registered post, to the General Secretary so as to reach him not later than the 31st March preceding the AGM.
- (b) These proposed alterations to rules will be circulated to Council and to members for their consideration within 14 days of 31st March. It will be open to the Council and members to submit amendments to the General Secretary by registered post on or before 30th April.
- (c) The Rules Commission of the FAI will meet within 14 days of the 1st May to consider any proposed changes and will report thereon to the next Board or Council meeting for the information of members constituting The Association.
- (d) Proposed alterations, amendments and addenda shall be submitted to the members by post with the notice convening the AGM no later than one calendar month before the AGM. It will be the responsibility of Council members to notify their representative body of such proposed changes.
- (e) No alteration of rules shall be made unless supported by at least two-thirds of those present and voting at the AGM.
- (f) When the AGM has considered and voted on the proposed changes, the President shall announce that the changes will take effect eight days after the AGM or General Meeting.
- (g) The Rules Commission/General Secretary will organise the printing of a supplement of the agreed changes and will notify the members by post or electronic mail within fourteen days of the AGM.

RULE 60. RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS

Every club is responsible to the Council, through the Divisional Associations, for the actions of its players, officials and spectators. Clubs are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and/or players while in the vicinity of their playing ground.

RULE 61. INDEMNITY

The Association shall reimburse every Officer, Member of Council, Commission or Committee, Secretary or other Official or Servant of The Association all costs and/or expenses incurred by him sustained arising from the discharge of his duties on the behalf of The Association by such persons. However, The Association shall make no such payment where the costs and/or expenses arise from any wilful and/or deliberate acts and/or defaults.

RULE 62. SMALL SIDED MATCHES

- (a) Small-Sided Matches and Competitions, Indoor or Outdoor, can only be arranged provided permission is obtained from The Association, through Divisional Associations or Affiliates.
- (b) The Association may from time to time give directions in relation to the participation of teams at under age level in small-sided games. The Association may also direct in relation to the rules under which small-sided games are to be played.

RULE 63. FRIENDLY MATCHES

Friendly matches involving clubs outside the jurisdiction of The Association must be sanctioned in advance by the FAI.

RULE 64. LEGAL ACTION

No affiliated members of The Association may take legal action against The Association on any issue relating to the application of The Association's Rules, until all the possibilities of sports jurisdiction within The Football Association of Ireland have been exhausted.

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RULE 65. LEAGUE TRANSFERS

- (a) A team or club desiring to transfer to a different league at the end of a season must obtain a transfer on an official form (supplied by the Divisional Association) and signed by the Club, the League from which they are departing and the League they propose to enter. Such a request must be made on or before 1st May in any year.
- (b) Clubs and teams shall not be unreasonably refused such a release and they shall have the statutory rights of Appeal to their Divisional Association and/or the FAI, in accordance with the Rules of Appeal of these bodies.

RULE 66. MANDATORY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE INSURANCE

- (a) The Association accepts no responsibility for any member of the public (which shall be deemed to include members of The Association) for any personal injury or damage to property sustained at any football ground whatsoever, unless arising directly from an actual match organised by this Association.
- (b) Every affiliated club must have in force Public Liability Insurance including, where appropriate, Property Owners Insurance providing insurance cover in respect of all the clubs activities. In addition, where a club engages any person under a contract of service or apprenticeship, the club must have in force an appropriate Employers Liability Policy.
- (c) No team/club/affiliate shall be admitted to membership of The Association or to any affiliate of The Association that fails to comply with (b) above. Where a team/club/affiliate are already in membership but subsequently allow the insurance referred to in (b) above to lapse or discontinue they are liable to be expelled from membership at the discretion of the Board.

RULE 67. THE DOPING CONTROL REGULATIONS

The Anti-Doping Rules of the Football Association of Ireland are the Irish Anti-Doping rules as amended from time to time.

Rule 68 Anti-Discrimination Policy for Football

- (a) As the Governing Body of Association Football in Ireland, The Association is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the game at every level. Football belongs to, and should be enjoyed by everyone equally. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.
- (b) The Association is an equal opportunities employer. They are committed to equality of opportunity within the organisation and to encouraging similar commitment for every organisation or individual acting within the game.
- (c) Equality of opportunity at the FAI means that in all our activities we will not discriminate of in any way treat anyone less favourably, on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability. This includes:
 - (1) The advertisement of jobs
 - (2) The selection of candidates for employment or promotion
 - (3) Job location or working environment
 - (4) Pay and employment terms and conditions
 - (5) Internal training and development activities
 - (6) external coaching and education activities and awards
 - (7) Football development activities
 - (8) Selection for representative teams
 - (9) Appointment to honorary positions
- (d) The FAI will not tolerate sexual or racially-based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, and will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate disciplinary action in whatever context it occurs.
- (e) The FAI is committed to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness –raising events and activities to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organisation and, in the wider context within football as a whole.

Rule 69. The Protection and Welfare of Children

- (a) In line with recent 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 National Associations, Divisional Associations and Affiliated Leagues should operate to the FAI recommended codes of conduct and best practice guidelines (see FAI Code of Ethics for Under Age Soccer for Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators).
- (b) 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.
- (c) Breaches will become a disciplinary offence.

FAI National Council Standing Orders

1. Meetings of Council:

- (a) The Council shall meet a minimum of four times each year. One such meeting will take place no earlier than 14 days after the AGM, unless the Council by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting decide otherwise. All meetings shall commence at the time stated on the notice and agenda for the meeting. The duration of a Council meeting shall be set at a maximum of three hours from the commencement time. If after three hours, the business on the agenda is not concluded, Standing Orders may be suspended if a motion to suspend obtains a 2/3rd majority of members present and voting.
- (b) During the period between Council Meetings, the business of The Association shall be conducted by the Board who shall report to the next ensuing Council Meeting. Should any matter arise at any time, which in the opinion of the Board, is one to be dealt with by the full Council rather than the Board itself, the Board shall have the power to instruct the General Secretary to forthwith summon the Council in accordance with No.3 of Standing Orders. The quorum for Council meetings shall be one third of the 56 members. A record shall be kept by the General Secretary of the attendance of members entitled to attend.

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- (c) In the event that a Council meeting is or becomes temporarily inquorate, the President/Chairperson shall be entitled at his discretion to adjourn the commencement or conduct of the meeting for a period of up to 30 minutes, and to commence or recommence the meeting when a quorum has been achieved. If a quorum is not achieved, or cannot be sustained, the President/Chairperson shall declare the meeting at an end.

2. Notice of Motion:

Notice of all intended motions should be received in writing by the General Secretary at least two days before the meetings of the Council. The General Secretary shall include all notices on the Agenda in the order received.

3. Notice of Meeting to be given:

The General Secretary shall give five days' notice to each Council member of every meeting of the Council, together with the minutes of meetings held since last Council Meeting and with an Agenda of the business to be conducted at the meeting, with the exception on motions not yet received.

4. Order of proceeding:

- (a) At all meetings of Council, the General Secretary shall present the minutes of the preceding Council meeting.
- (b) The minutes of Board meetings and minutes of all relevant standing committee meetings held and approved by each committee shall be considered next. The Chairman of each standing committee, or in his absence, a member of the standing committee may speak on any matter mentioned in the minutes or move a resolution thereon.
- (c) Questions may be asked of which notice is given in writing to the General Secretary not less than 24 hours before the meeting. The General Secretary shall read such letters as may be necessary or that any member of Council desires to be read.
- (d) The business on the agenda shall be proceeded with in the order shown, but may be varied by the President/Chairperson upon request by a majority of the Council present and voting.

5. Mode of discussion:

- (a) Each member on speaking shall rise and identify themselves and whom they represent and shall address the President/Chairperson, and not to any other member of Council. Members must speak in either the Irish or English Language or both.
- (b) During the time any member is speaking, all other members shall remain seated, unless a member rises to a point of order.
- (c) Whenever the President/Chairperson speaks, no one shall continue standing or interrupt, until the chair has been resumed.

6. Mode of proceeding on motion:

All motions, whether original or amendments, shall if the President/Chairperson requests it, be reduced to writing, signed by the mover, and handed to the General Secretary immediately on being moved, and every member proposing such motion or amendment shall read the same before speaking on it.

7. Order of speaking:

- (a) The mover of every original resolution, but not of any amendment (unless it becomes an original motion), shall have the right to reply, not introducing therein any new matter, but confining himself strictly to the answering of previous objections, immediately after which the question shall be put from the Chair.
- (b) No other member shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same question, unless permission be given to explain, or the attention of the President/Chairperson be called to a point of order.

8. Amendments only one at once:

When an amendment is moved upon a proposition, no further amendment shall be moved or taken into consideration until the first is disposed of, but any number of amendments may be brought forward in succession, and the question must be put in such a manner that if one amendment be lost, another may be moved upon the original proposition, but if an amendment be affirmed it shall form the proposition under consideration, whereupon further amendments may be moved, and if after the disposal of an amendment no second or further amendment be moved, the question must ultimately be put upon the original or amended proposition, as the case may be, in order for it to be passed.

9. Discussion upon amended propositions:

When discussion arises upon an amended proposition, the mover of the amendment which has displaced the original proposition may speak in reply to points raised on the amended proposition, and so in like manner with respect to any further and displacing amendments.

10. Mode of voting:

- (a) At any meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded on any question. A declaration of the President/Chairperson that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or by any particular majority or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect made in the Minute Book of the proceedings of The Association, shall be sufficient evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded. A like declaration and entry of the result of a ballot shall have a like effect.
- (b) A poll may be demanded by not less than one-fifth of the duly nominated representatives present, and it shall be taken in such manner as may be determined by the President/Chairperson and the result of such poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of The Association. A poll demanded on the election of a President or on the question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith. Representatives may only give votes personally, and voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
- (c) If any votes are given or counted at a meeting which shall afterwards be discovered to be improperly given or counted, the same shall not affect the validity of any resolution or thing passed or done at the meeting, unless the objection to such votes be taken at the same meeting, and not in that case, unless the President/Chairperson shall then and there decide that the error is of sufficient magnitude to affect such resolution or thing.

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- (d) Each representative, duly nominated, present and entitled to vote, shall have one vote. The President shall have a casting vote only, and not an original vote.

11. Committee of the whole Council:

The Council may by a 2/3rd majority of members present and voting, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council and whilst in Committee there shall be no restriction as to the number of times a member may speak to any question. In no circumstances shall it be possible to suspend Standing Order No.1.

12. Who may take up business under notice:

The business under any notice of motion included upon the Agenda shall not be proceeded with in the absence of the member of Council in whose name it stands, unless he has given written authority for it to be taken up by some other member and also with the consent of the Council by a 2/3rd majority of those members present and voting.

13. Objectionable business:

If the President/Chairperson at any Council Meeting shall be of the opinion that any motion proposed to be made thereat is of objectionable nature, it shall be competent for him either before or after the same is brought forward, to put it to the vote whether the same shall be entertained or not, and if 2/3rds of the members present and voting decide not to entertain such motion, the same shall be considered as disposed of for that day.

14. Committees:

- (a) The Standing Committees shall be appointed annually by the Board in accordance with Rule.
- (b) The Board shall have regard, as its sole principle in considering the appointment of committees, to an individual's talents and expertise and the contribution therefore that a Member of Council may make to a particular committee.
- (c) The quorum for meetings of standing committees shall be five.
- (d) All resolutions and the proceedings of committees in meetings or otherwise, and the names of those present at any meeting shall be minuted and be submitted to the Council and shall be subject to the approval of Council (save where expressly stated in the Rules or Standing Orders to the contrary)
- (e) The minutes of a meeting of a committee, including Board meetings, if signed by the chairperson of such meeting or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the matters stated in such minutes.
- (f) The minutes of all committee meetings shall be printed and a copy sent with the notice calling the next meeting of Council.
- (g) A note of the adoption of the minutes shall be made in the minutes of Council meetings.
- (h) The Standing Committees shall continue in office until their successors are appointed.

Powers and duties of Committees: (Not as yet defined)

Board of Management:

Finance & Legal Affairs Committee:

(Extract from the recommendation No. 11 from sub-committee by the Finance Committee to look at the financial procedures (including the roles of the various personnel involved) and corporate governance.)

1. Any payments made or benefits granted to officers of The Association or any other person should be dealt with at the Finance Committee and recorded in the minutes of those meetings. Bonus payments and/or other benefits granted to employees must not be entered in the Private Minute Book, other than bonus payments not exceeding €35 per person per annum, but should be dealt with at Finance Committee meetings and recorded in the minutes of those meeting. The only items to be entered into the Private Minute Book are details of direct salaries of employees of The Association.

International Committee:

Domestic Committee:

Cup Emergency Committee:

Junior Committee:

Youth Committee:

Referees Committee:

National League Board:

National League Management Committee:

Football Development Committee:

FAI Grants Strategy Committee:

15. Urgent business:

Matters which are not on the agenda paper shall not be considered by the Council unless, without discussion, a majority of 2/3rds of the members present by vote consent.

16. Rescinding resolution:

A decision shall not be rescinded unless the motion to rescind shall be carried by 2/3rds of the members present and voting.

17. Objectionable Conduct

- (a) If the President/Chairperson considers that a member is behaving in an objectionable or unseemly manner at a meeting it shall be competent for him to put it to vote on whether such a member should be expelled from the meeting.
- (b) Such a motion shall be put to the meeting and in the event of it being carried the offending member shall immediately leave the meeting.
- (c) Any Council member expelled from a meeting under this standing order shall be given the opportunity of tendering a sincere apology, but failing this, his reinstatement may only be determined by a motion supported by a 2/3rds majority of the Council members present and voting. A suspended member shall be disqualified from attending the next meeting of Council and any sub-

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committee meetings in the intervening period unless decided otherwise by a motion supported by a 2/3rds majority of the Council members present and voting.

- (d) The affiliate which the member represents shall be entitled to nominate a substitute for the period of the suspension.

FAI RULES RELATING TO REFEREES

1. The FAI Referees' Committee is appointed for the control and management of Amateur and Professional Referees in all games under the jurisdiction of The Association.
2.
 - a. The Committee shall be composed of representatives to be nominated by the bodies outlined herewith.
 - b. The Chief Referees Assessor nominated by the Board.
Two representatives from the National League.
One representative each from the Munster F.A., Leinster F.A., Connaught F.A. and the Ulster F.A.
One representative from the Schoolboys F.A.I.
One representative from The Society.
 - c. All representatives nominated must be former registered referees, in accordance with the F.I.F.A. regulations.
 - d. The committee shall elect its Chairman from amongst its members and the constituent body from which the chairman is elected shall be entitled to appoint another representative in his place on the committee. The Chairman will only have a casting vote and not an original one.
3. The Committee shall have control of all matters including disciplinary offences, connected with referees under the jurisdiction of The Association. The Committee shall have power to appoint such sub-committees, or Divisional Association Referees Committees and to delegate to them all or any of its power to such Sub Committee, or any other recognised bodies. Each Divisional Referees Committee shall have one member of the Society on the committee and one nominated representative from the FAI Referees Committee. Except as hereinafter provided the decisions of these sub-committees shall be binding on all concerned. The minutes of the Committee's decisions shall be ratified by Council.
4. It shall be the duty of the General Secretary to keep a Register of Referees, accurate and up-to-date. The Register shall contain the names and addresses of such Referees as may be in force from time to time. The retiring age for referees to be 50 years. Referees over 50 years must apply in writing to the Committee not later than 1st March each year if they wish to secure an extension, which will be conditional on achieving the appropriate standards set at the annual seminar for the following season.
5. An applicant shall, as a condition precedent to the entry of his name on the Register, satisfy the Committee of his capability for the duty. The Committee may apply such tests as they may from time to time consider expedient.
6. Every applicant for appointment shall, be required to sign an Official Form and to undertake to obey all Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws and decisions of The Association and its agents. The agreement shall be irrevocable from 1st August to 31st July in each year.
7. It shall be a condition for admission to the Register that the applicant shall undertake to officiate in any game which may be allotted to him by the Committee, or by such body acting under the authority of the Committee.
8. The Committee shall appoint registered referees, who are members of good standing of the Irish Soccer Referees' Society in all matches under the jurisdiction where three or four officials are required and in all competitions as and from the quarter finals.
9.
 - (a) Application for admission to the Register of Professional referees must be made on or before 1st March each year in writing to the €12.50 which sum shall be refunded if the registration is not accepted by the Committee. The Committee reserve the right to refuse, defer and otherwise deal with an application to be included in the Register. Each application entered in the Register will receive an official Registration Card. The form of undertaking as required by Rule 6 duly completed must accompany each application.
 - (b) Applications for admission as Associate Amateur Referees may be made annually in writing to the General Secretary of the Football Association of Ireland. The applicant must state the club(s), if any where they are presently or were previously a member and the position held in that club.
 - (c) A competency test must be set by an F.A.I. Assessor for Associate referees and candidates must satisfy the Assessor of their general knowledge of the game and their ability to control such games. Successful candidates must register as such with the F.A.I. before participating as a referee in any game.
 - (d) No registration fee is payable by the applicant to the F.A.I.
 - (e) They shall also state when their services, if required, would be available.
 - (f) Associate Amateur Referees may be reimbursed for travelling expenses as laid down for professional referees by the F.A.I. Referees Committee. Any referee receiving money or taking advantage above the reimbursement for travelling expenses shall be declared a Professional and must reapply to The Association for a change in status.
 - (g) Associate Amateur Referees are registered to provide referees for games up to and including Junior Status. They may only be allocated to games where sufficient "Professional Referees" are not available.
 - (h) They will not be eligible to officiate at semi-finals or finals where three/four officials are required without the express permission of the ISRS.
 - (i) Associate Amateur Referees shall not be allocated to matches where the referee is associated directly or indirectly with either of the competing teams and where it may be construed there is a conflict of interest through Club affiliation or otherwise unless both clubs are in agreement prior to the game.
 - (j) Any objection by a club to an Associate Referee must be made in writing to the League Honorary Secretary no less than 3 days prior to the fixture, stating the reason for such objection. The Officers of the League in question will decide on the issue.
10. The onus of deciding as to the ability and classification of each Referee registered shall rest with the Committee. The Committee may make such regulations for examinations as to the qualifications of Referees as they may consider necessary.

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11. The remuneration and scale of expenses for referees allocated to the National League, shall be decided by the Board of Control of the National League, who shall submit them to the FAI Referees Committee for approval. All other rates of remuneration and scale of expenses for other Professional referees shall be determined by the Referees Committee in consultation with the Divisional Associations.
12. It shall be deemed an offence for a Club to offer or a Referee to accept, in respect of any game, payment in excess of that authorised for such games.
13. The Committee shall forward every year or other period as agreed by the Committee to each League, etc., under their jurisdiction, a list of Referees whom they have allocated to the League in question, and each League shall appoint for its games during the ensuing period such Referees whose names appear on these lists. The right of appointing Referees in all Competition games shall be vested in the bodies controlling such games, in consultation with the Referee Assessor appointed to such bodies, Should a Referees name not appear on the register of Referees in the season these competitions take place he shall not be appointed to games under the jurisdiction of the FAI.
14. Save as hereinafter provided, Referees unable to accept appointment must notify, no later than the Thursday prior to the match, the Secretary of The Association, League or other Combination responsible for the match to which he has been appointed of his inability to officiate. If, after the Thursday prior to the match, unforeseen circumstances arise to prevent him acting, he must immediately either acquaint the Secretary concerned or obtain a registered Referee to substitute in his place. Failure of a Referee to strictly comply with the terms of this Rule will be deemed an offence and render him liable to be removed from the Register.
15. A Referee cancelling an engagement for the purpose of officiating in another match shall be considered guilty of misconduct and may be dealt with as the Committee may think fit.
16. The appointment of Referees for International or Representative Matches and Senior and Intermediate Cup ties under the auspices of The Association shall rest with the Council from the recommendations submitted by the Chief Assessor of the Referees' Committee, or any person he delegates such responsibility.
17. Complaints against Referees must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Committee within four days from the date on which the match was played. Appeals against the decisions of the Committee may be made to the FAI Appeals Board and must be made within four days of the date on which the notification was sent to the Appellant. The postmark on the envelope containing the notification shall be conclusive evidence of posting. Each appeal must be sent by registered post to the General Secretary of The Association, and be accompanied by a fee of €500. The Appeal Fee shall be returned only in the event of the Appeal being sustained. The Appeal Board's decision is final and binding on all concerned.
18. If within four days from the date on which the match was played a complaint is lodged as to the acts, conduct and/or efficiency of a Referee, the Committee shall order an investigation to be made and call upon such Referee for an explanation of the matter. If after consideration the Referee's explanation is deemed unsatisfactory, the Committee may remove the Referee's name from the Register or otherwise deal with him as they think fit. Any other complaints against referees by players, managers or Club officials, not appropriate to the Referees' Committee will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Commission.
The Committee have the power at all times to deal with matters connected with the acts, conduct and/or efficiency of a Referee and remove his name from the Register or otherwise deal with him as they may think fit.
A referee shall get notice in writing if any decision of the Committee. An appeal against the decision of the Committee may be made to the FAI Appeal Board and must be made within four days of the date of the notice. The postmark of the envelope containing the notification shall be conclusive evidence of posting.
The removal of a Referee's name from the Register, on the withholding by the Committee of the right to act shall debar such Referee from acting, until his name is again restored in the Register, or until the stay is withdrawn. In the event of an Appeal, the removal of his name or the stay will stand, pending the result of such an appeal.
19. A Professional Referee whose name appears on the register shall not be allowed to be an official, member, or player, of any Club.
20. A Professional Referee shall be ineligible to represent any Club at a meeting of any Council, Committee, or League, and he shall also, save as herein provided, be ineligible to act as a member of any such Council, Committee, or League, unless he is nominated by The Society as their representative on such committees.
21. The Committee may reinstate to amateur classification a Professional Referee who makes an application for such reinstatement, subject to the provision that such Referee shall not have received any remuneration for his services in the season in which his application is made. Any Professional Referee wishing to be reinstated shall, before the 4th August each year, send an application to the General Secretary of The Association.
22. Complaints by Referees against Officials, and/or players, including reports against players ordered off the field of play, must be forwarded in writing, within two days, to the address set out on the Official Card, except in the Senior, Intermediate, Junior, and Youth or Schoolboy Cup Competitions of The Association, when the reports shall be sent to the General Secretary of Association.
23. Referees must read carefully and comply with the instructions indicated on the Official Card. In the case of Junior Matches, the Referee, when required by the instructions, must warn the person or persons reported to attend at such place and at such time as indicated, and personally attend if directed.
24. Each Referee shall obtain a copy of these Rules and Regulations at the appropriate cost.
25. All Referees must officiate in Official Dress which shall mean:- Shirt, Blazer and Pants as approved by F.I.F.A., U.E.F.A. and the F.A.I.
26. The Committee shall have power to provide for any contingency not provided for in these Rules, for the better administration or for the improved standard of Refereeing generally.
27. Every member of the Committee, Secretary or other Official shall be indemnified by The Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them respectively in or about the discharge of their respective duties, on behalf of The Association, except such as happens from their own respective acts or defaults.
28. All Referees must notify immediately the General Secretary of The Association and the respective Committee or League concerned, of any change of address or phone number.
29. All Referees are required to attend a Seminar each year, the timing and number of such Seminars shall be decided by the Referees Committee and to successfully complete these seminars/tests before they can be eligible to officiate at games under the jurisdiction of the F.A.I.

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Referees who fail to successfully complete their designated Seminar/test will be allowed repeat their seminar at a time and date decided by the Referees Committee. Referees who successfully complete their seminar/tests will be allocated a grade. The grade concerned will be determined by the performance levels of the referee as decided by Assessor, together with the number of years experience and having met the criteria set down by the Chief Referees Assessor in respect of fitness and the knowledge of the Laws of the Game.

A Referee may appeal against the decision of the Assessor/s to award him a grade subject to the conditions contained in Rule 17.

30. No Referee can transfer from the League they have been allocated unless they receive the prior approval of the Referees Committee.