



Cork Business League Rules – 2019 / 2020 Season

Rule 1: Title & Constitution

- 1(a) This amalgamation of clubs shall be called the Cork Business & Shipping League, the clubs in membership of which shall be affiliated as members of the Munster Football Association.
- 1(b) Across all social media platforms, Website, Email communications, paper communications, and Match Previews & Reports, the league shall be called the “Cork Business League”
- 1(c) Where Title Sponsor is to be mentioned and used across any branding, the League shall be called the “Sports Gear Direct Cork Business League”.
- 1(d) Acronym of the League shall be the “CBL”
- 1(e) The Cork Business League aim is to build and maintain a firm-based League which will commit to promoting positive Employee health & well-being, along with improving commitment and dedication amongst squad members within a working environment.
- 1(f) All matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Munster Football Association (MFA) and according to the International Federation of Association Football's (FIFA) Laws of the Game.

Rule 2: Management Committee

- 2(a) Control of the League shall be vested in a Management Committee consisting of not more than eight members to be elected by the clubs in membership at the AGM. Three members to form a quorum at any meeting of the Management Committee and in all matters and at all times the Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.
- 2(b) Any member who abstains himself from three consecutive meetings without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have resigned and the Management Committee shall have power to co-opt a member in his stead.
- 2(c) Meetings of the Management Committee shall be held as the occasion demands and all protests or investigations shall be conducted by the Management Committee.
- 2(d) The Hon. Registrar shall keep a full record of all club & player registrations. Clubs are now required to record all Player Registrations online via FAI Net website. See details on Rule 4 (k).
- 2(e) The Hon. Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the Management Committee shall be for all intents and purposes the legal holders of any trophy or trophies held in trust for the League. In addition to the winner's trophy, the Management Committee may present the winners and runners-up with a suitable set of tokens should the finances permit.
- 2(f) Members of the Management Committee shall remain in office until their successors are appointed.
- 2(g) The Finance Committee shall meet with the League's Committee at least once a month. All monies received must be lodged in the bank to the account of the Cork Business League. The Finance Committee is to consist of the Hon. Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary of the League who shall sign all cheques; two signatures at any time will be sufficient if the matter is urgent. All payments to be made by cheque except authorised petty cash expenditure in respect of postage and suchlike. The Hon. Treasurer shall submit an up-to-date balance at each finance meeting when an up-



to-date bank statement will be available for inspection if required. The account shall be brought to a close before the AGM each year and a copy duly audited shall be submitted to each club for consideration at the AGM. Officers and members of the Management Committee shall be indemnified against all costs, charges, compensation and expenses incurred by them in or about the discharge of their duties, except as accrued from their own respective wilful acts and defaults.

(i) The League's Committee is to work with the League's bank to have the ability to access funds & check the League's account online for the 2019/ 2020 season and beyond.

- 2(h) The Management Committee shall have the power to take any action it considers necessary in the promotion of the League and shall have the power to schedule all matches and to fine, expel or suspend any player, official or member of a club's personnel who may be deemed guilty of misconduct. The Management Committee shall decide all disputes, protests and any questions, and shall provide for any contingency not provided for in the rules.

Rule 3: Club Registration

- 3(a) All clubs must apply for membership of the League each season using the official League membership form. Clubs may register any number of teams to represent that club in the League. The League has the right to refuse membership to any club or team representing a club.
- 3(b) Each club shall register its colours with the Hon. Secretary. In the event of two clubs playing in similar colours, the home team shall change colours when such clubs meet in competition. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players.
- 3(c) Clubs must forward to the League's Hon. Secretary the names and addresses of their respective secretaries and clubs changing their secretaries or secretaries changing their addresses must also notify the League's Hon. Secretary without delay. Failure to do so may incur sanction.
- 3(d) Clubs with more than one team in the League must inform the Management Committee in writing of the club's *team order*. That is, they must label their teams A,B,C, etc with A being the 1st team, B the 2nd team, etc.

Rule 4: Club Membership and Player Registration

- 4(a) It is the aim of the League to be firm-based (i.e Companies & their employees are invited to join the League). Companies can withhold player registrations to only include Employees on their own Payroll and Social Welfare Register. The league does not currently need confirmation of Players who may or may not be employed by the Company in question.
- 4(b) Clubs are entitled to be sponsored by Cork companies/ businesses. However, these Sponsorships must include Title Sponsorship of said club. Where a sponsorship of a club ends and a new sponsorship takes its place, the club must remain in the same Division as the previous season.
- 4(c) Players shall be registered on forms supplied by the League and these registration forms must be in the hands of the League's Hon. Registrar 48 (forty-eight) hours before the start of the match. For the purpose of this rule, all forms shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Hon. Registrar from the time they are posted, and the postmark shall be conclusive evidence thereof. For the purpose of this rule, in order for a player to be eligible to play in a league game on a Saturday, the registration must be approved by the Hon. Registrar of the League on the Thursday prior to the game. If the game is on a Sunday, the registration must be approved by the Hon. Registrar of the League on the Friday prior to the game in order for a player to be eligible to play. The same applies for mid-week games. Clubs can email a copy of the Player Registration form to the League's Hon. Registrar if the Player is to be registered in time for a weekend game.



- 4(d) An Application for entry to the League may be accepted from a congregation of companies, businesses and organisations which have a meaningful commercial association. The management committee shall have full discretion in accepting such applications. Such applications must be submitted in writing listing the companies, businesses and organisations involved and outlining the commercial association that exists between them.
- 4(e) Applications for entry to the League may be accepted from associations or other organisations at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 4(f) A person working with a company, business or organisation that has a club in the League cannot register with another club in the League as a member without, first, applying in writing (to the management committee) for permission and receiving the written consent of the management committee.
- 4(g) When a club has two or more teams in the League a player may play up to five matches for a team representing his club which is higher in the club's *team order* (see rule 3(d)) than the team he is registered with. On playing the fifth such match he will be deemed a registered player of the higher ranked team thereafter. In the context of this rule a player is deemed to have played in a match if his name appears on the official match card for that match.
- 4(h) When a team has two or more teams in the League a player may not play with a team representing his club which is lower in the club's *team order* than the team for which he is registered.
- 4(i) The provisions of rule 4(h) and 4(i) do not preclude a player from transferring between teams within a club using the normal transfer procedure laid out in rule 5.
- 4(j) The Hon. Registrar shall receive all documents in connection with players. A bona fide representative of a club may have access to any of these documents on Monday nights between 7pm and 7.30pm by prior arrangement and at a location specified by the Hon. Registrar. In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Hon. Registrar telephone queries of registration details will be accommodated. Clubs may also request to inspect these documents on a Tuesday night at the League's room after the delegate meeting. Clubs wishing to avail of this facility must inform the Hon. Registrar at least 24 hours before the meeting.
- 4 (k) Each team can register with the league a panel of players electronically online via FAInet and only players whose registration has been approved by the Hon. Registrar on FAInet may play for a club. Only players that are registered with the League may participate in games organised by the League (the CBL). From season 2019/2020 onwards, all registration/transfer of players shall be via FAInet & paper form until further notice.
- 4 (l) The registration date on FAInet will be the official date of registration. A player is eligible for a league or cup match once his registration has been approved on FAInet by the Hon. Registrar of the League.
- 4 (m) In the event of a player signing for more than one club within or outside of the League, the date of registration on FAInet shall determine to which club the player belongs.

Rule 5: Player Transfers

- 5(a) No player shall be permitted to transfer from one club to another unless he has satisfied all financial claims of the club for which he has played.



- 5(b) Permission for transfers must be obtained from the Management Committee of the League which the player is leaving as well as from the club for which the applicant has last played. A transfer shall be deemed to have received the sanction of the Management Committee when the transfer form has been duly signed by the player and the Hon. Secretaries of the league and club concerned.
- 5(c) A player who has been granted a transfer is not eligible to play until he has registered, as a player for the club he is joining, with the League's Management Committee. i.e. a valid transfer does not confer automatic registration for the player's new club/team.
- 5(d) No transfers shall be granted after 31st January in any season. A player being transferred from a League of Ireland club must have his registration form cancelled by his club with the Secretary of the League concerned and produce evidence of this in writing to the Management Committee.
- 5(e) For the purpose of this rule (rule 5), all transfer forms shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Registrar from the time of posting. Transfers will be announced at a subsequent delegate meeting.
- 5(f) If after fourteen days the player asking for a transfer has not received it, the Management Committee shall have the power to grant same.

Rule 6: Illegal and Unregistered Players

- 6(a) If the Management Committee has any doubts as to the qualification of any player taking part in any competition it shall call upon the team to which he belongs or for which he has played to prove to its satisfaction that he is properly qualified and, failing such proof, the Management Committee shall have the power to disqualify such player, deduct any points won while this player was playing, expel such team from the League and/or impose a fine. The Management Committee has the right to request the attendance at a hearing of any club or named club member/official/player. Failure to attend will mean that the club and/or individual will stand suspended until they do attend.
- 6(b) When a club is reported by a member of the Management Committee for playing ineligible players, and in the event of the report being proven correct, the points of such match may be deducted from the record of the offending club and those points shall lie dead unless a protest has been received in accordance with rule 8.
- 6(c) A club committee member or a member of the Management Committee shall have the power to secure on request a photograph and/or signature of any player on the opposing team participating in a match. Failure to comply with such request will render the club liable to disciplinary action by the Management Committee as they deem fit. The offending team is liable to the sanctions outlined in rule 6.

Rule 7: Discipline

- 7(a) All disciplinary rules are governed by the FAI Rule Book. The Disciplinary Committee under the FAI Disciplinary rules shall have the power to find and / or suspend players who are reported by match officials for any breaches of the Laws of the Game.
- 7(b) Any player sent from the field of play will automatically incur a suspension from the next competitive club match. A player sent from the field of play shall serve an automatic suspension at the same level of club 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 disciplinary committee may at its discretion extend the duration of the suspension and/or impose fines. Note: There is no appeal against an automatic suspension except in the case of mistaken identity. Players sent from the field of play will have their case heard at the meeting of the Disciplinary Committee which will take place at a Disciplinary Meeting on a Date decided by the League's Committee and which then has been communicated to the Club's secretary. The player or a bona fide



representative of the player's club may attend the hearing. The club's Hon Secretary can request a copy of the referee's match report from the League's Hon. Secretary prior to the hearing date.

- 7(c) All clubs are responsible for monitoring their Yellow Cards / Cautions. When a player reaches his 4th / 8th/ 12th etc yellow card, he shall incur a mandatory 1 game suspension. This suspension shall commence on the following Monday dated in the communication sent by the League.
- 7(d) All hearings will be conducted by the League's Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee is comprised of all members of the Management Committee. Three members to form a quorum at any meeting of the Disciplinary Committee. Members of the Disciplinary Committee deemed to have a conflict of interest with any hearing shall absent themselves from that hearing.
- 7(e) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose sanction in accordance with the League's rules and shall have the power to rule on any cases or situations not covered by the League's rules.
- 7(f) Notification of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be communicated by email to the club's Hon. Secretary. Any suspensions, other than the automatic suspension, or other sanctions that pertain to the decision will take effect immediately on receipt of this notification unless stated otherwise.
- 7(g) All clubs have the right to appeal any decision of the Disciplinary Committee as outlined in rule 9.
- 7(h) The Disciplinary Committee has the right to request the attendance at a hearing of any club or named club member/official/player. Failure to attend will mean that the club and/or individual will stand suspended until they do attend
- 7 (i) A suspension remains in place even when an appeal has been lodged. A suspension can only be lifted by the successful outcome of an appeal.
- 7 (j) No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following, in accordance with FAI Rules:
 - A Match Caution
 - An Automatic suspension
 - A Mandatory suspension
 - Fixtures & Appointments of Referees

Rule 8: Objections and Protests

- 8(a) Protests or objections must be sent by registered post by the protesting club to the Hon. Secretary of the League, bearing postmark within four working days (i.e. excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays) of the date of the playing of the match on which the protest arose and must be accompanied by a fee of €25 which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest not being sustained. An exact copy of the protest must be forwarded at the same time by registered post to the secretary of the club protested against. A further four days will be allowed for the purpose of a cross-protest. Postmark to be taken as evidence of the time of posting. All protests shall be decided by the
- 8(b) Management Committee and both clubs – club protesting, and club protested against – shall be obliged to furnish evidence as required. The Management Committee has the right to request the attendance at a hearing of any club or named club member/official/player. Failure to attend will mean that the club and/or individual will stand suspended until they do attend.

Rule 9: Appeals

- 9(a) A club is entitled to appeal any decision of the League's Management or Disciplinary Committees. In the event of a club wishing to appeal against such a decision an appeal must be lodged by registered post to the Secretary of the MFA within four working days after such a decision has been conveyed to the club concerned, accompanied by the appropriate fee. Copy of such appeal must be forwarded by



registered post within the same period to the Hon. Secretary of the League and Hon. Secretary of the club (if any) concerned.

- 9 (b) Fixtures & Appointments of Referees cannot be appealed.
- 9 (c) No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following, in accordance with FAI Rules:
- A Match Caution
 - An Automatic suspension
 - A Mandatory suspension
 - Fixtures & Appointments of Referees

Rule 10: Match Referee

- 10(a) Referees shall be appointed to the various matches. Any referee appointed to act in a League match must acquaint the Hon. Secretary of the Management Committee of his inability to act at least two days prior to the date of the match. Any complaints against referees must be lodged with the Hon. Secretary of the League.
- 10(b) The referee's fees shall be laid down by FAI guidelines plus expenses.

Rule 11: Withdrawing from Competitions

- 11(a) Any team wishing to withdraw from a competition should formally notify the Hon. Secretary in writing.
- 11(b) If a club has more than one team in the League then either all teams are withdrawn or teams are withdrawn in order starting with the lowest team in the club's *team order*. i.e. A team higher in the club's *team order* cannot be withdrawn while the club continues to play a team which is lower in the club's *team order*.
- 11(c) Any club that shall be suspended, removed, or shall withdraw from a League competition shall have its record expunged unless it has fulfilled more than fifty per cent of its fixtures. If more than fifty percent of a team's fixtures have been completed its record shall then stand and points for any matches not yet played shall be awarded to opposing teams.

Rule 12: Fixtures

- 12(a) All matches and hours of kick-off shall be arranged by the Hon. Secretary or an honorary officer. Clubs not represented at weekly delegate meetings shall be responsible for any fixture made in their absence.
- 12(b) All matches must, except by permission of the Management Committee, be played on the dates appointed for same. A club which fails to fulfil a fixture is liable to sanction which may include loss of points and fine. A minimum fine of €100 will be imposed if a club does not give the League's Hon. Secretary 24 hour's prior notice of their inability to fulfil a fixture. Clubs failing to fulfil two fixtures in the same season may be expelled from all competitions.
- 12(c) The Management Committee shall have the power, at its discretion, to fine a club or clubs for late start of matches.
- 12(d) In cases of unfavourable weather the referee must inspect the ground before the advertised time of kick-off and, on appeal by either of the competing clubs, must give a decision as to whether the ground is playable or otherwise. His decision shall be final.



- 12(e) If through any cause whatever a match has been abandoned before the completion of the full ninety minutes the Management Committee shall have the power at its discretion to allot the points according to the goals scored at the time of abandonment or order the match to be re-played in its entirety.

Rule 13: League Matches

- 13(a) All matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Munster Football Association (MFA) and according to the laws of the game.
- 13(b) Three points awarded for a win and one point for a draw in League competitions.
- 13(c) In no case shall any club or clubs be permitted to play for more than three points.
- 13(d) The referee's card must be filled in before a match and signed by an official in charge of the team who shall certify as to the eligibility of his team. A fine may be imposed on any team which does not fill in the match card correctly.
- 13(e) Goal nets must be used in all League matches and supplied by the home team; in case of teams renting grounds from another club, the rent to be charged to the team (being the home club) will include the provision and erection of goalposts, corner flags and marking of the ground.
- 13(f) Any objections to grounds, goalposts, goal nets, or ball must be lodged with the referee before the match starts. The referee shall have power to have such objections corrected. The referee shall also have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground for play. In the event of the ground being unmarked, the referee shall have the power to refuse to act in any match fixed for the ground in question.
- 13 (g) A maximum of 5 (five) substitutes can be used out of the 7 (seven) named on the match card.
- 13 (h) If there is a points tie at the end of the season for 2nd place, then a play-off is to take place.

Rule 14: Domestic Cup Matches

- 14 (a) The group format of the CBL Shield will be communicated at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament.
- (i) 3 points for a normal time Group Stage win
- (ii) 0 points for a normal time Group Stage loss
- (iii) If level after 90 minutes, the game goes straight to penalties
- (iv) 2 points for a Penalty Shoot-out Group Stage win
- (v) 0 points for a Penalty Shoot-out Group Stage loss
- (vi) If two teams are level on points at the end of the group stage, it goes down to head-to-head result
- (vii) If more than two teams are level on points at the end of the group stage, it goes down to head-to-head-to-head.
- 14 (b) The format of the CBL Mick Mooney Challenge Cup will be communicated at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament.
- 14 (c) The format of the CBL Jackie O'Driscoll Premier Division Cup & Frank Linehan First Division Cup will be communicated at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament.



Rule 15: Fines

- 15(a) All fines are imposed on a club whether they relate to the actions of an individual player, a group of players or the club. All fines imposed on a club must be paid 7 (seven) days of notification by the Hon. Secretary. Any club failing to comply shall have their membership of the League suspended. This suspension means that the club will have its privileges and voting rights at all meetings revoked, the club will be unable to sign players and the club's teams will not be allowed to take further part in competitions.

Rule 16: Annual General Meeting

- 16(a) The Annual general Meeting (AGM) shall be held no later than the month of June each year. Each club in membership shall be entitled to two representatives per team affiliated who shall be entitled to vote on all matters transacted. The business of the AGM shall be to receive the annual report and statement of accounts, to elect honorary officers, and such business as shall arise. At least seven days' notice of the AGM must be given to each club in membership. All nominations for election of officers to the Management Committee must be in the hands of the League's Hon. Secretary before 30th April.
- 16(b) The annual subscription, room, levies, affiliations etc shall be determined at the AGM and must be paid before the commencement of the season.

Rule 17: Rules

- 17(a) The rules cannot be annulled, altered or added to except at the AGM or an EGM. Such intended alterations or additions must be sent by registered post and must be proposed and seconded by secretaries of clubs in membership of the League. The Hon. Secretary shall arrange to have such alterations or additions circulated to the clubs in membership prior to the AGM. No changes can be made unless by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- 17(b) Each club shall be furnished with a copy of these rules and shall be bound thereby.
- 17(c) Where there is a significant semantic discrepancy between the rules of the Cork Business League and the rules of the FAI, the FAI rules shall take precedence.
- 17 (d) Each motion shall clearly state the proposed text of the motion and shall include a brief explanatory note detailing why the member is proposing such a motion. It shall be the duty of the member submitting the proposal to ensure that the Secretary is in receipt of that motion. All motions put forward must contain the text of the motion and an explanation of why the motion is being proposed, as well as this it must be stated if the motion is intended as a rule change and where in the rules it is to be modified or added.