

Cork Business League Rules Effective from 29th September 2020

Index to Rules

Rule 1: Name and Objectives	1
Rule 2: Management Committee.....	1
Rule 3: Club Registration.....	3
Rule 4: Club Membership and Player Registration	4
Rule 5: Player Transfers	5
Rule 6: Illegal and Unregistered Players	6
Rule 7: Age Eligibility.....	6
Rule 8: Misconduct by Players	6
Rule 9: Misconduct by Officials.....	7
Rule 10: Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials	7
Rule 11: Disciplinary Procedure	8
Rule 12: Objections and Protests.....	9
Rule 13: Appeals.....	10
Rule 14: Match Referee	10
Rule 15: Withdrawing from Competitions	11
Rule 16: Fixtures.....	11
Rule 17: League Matches	12
Rule 18: Domestic Cup Matches	12
Rule 19: Fines	13
Rule 20: General Meetings.....	13
Rule 21: Alteration to Rules	14
Rule 22: Interpretation	14
SCHEDULE 1: Football Association of Ireland Referee Fees & Expenses 2018-2021	17
SCHEDULE 2: Football Association of Ireland Rules of Association as of 11 th September 2020.....	17

CORK BUSINESS LEAGUE
1 UPPER CONVENT ROAD
BLACKROCK
CORK
T12 V6P6
corkbusinessleague.ie



Rule 1: Name and Objectives

- 1(a) This amalgamation of clubs shall be called the Cork Business & Shipping League (the “Cork Business League”), the clubs in membership of which shall be affiliated as members of the Munster Football Association (“MFA”) and the Football Association of Ireland (“FAI”).¹
- 1(b) Across all social media platforms, the Website, email communications, paper communications, and Match Previews & Reports, the League shall be called the “Cork Business League”.
- 1(c) Where the League Sponsor is to be mentioned and used across any branding, the League shall be called the “[Name of League Sponsor] Cork Business League”.
- 1(d) The League’s principal objective is to build and maintain a Cork-based business association football (soccer) league which promotes positive employee health and well-being while fostering and improving commitment and dedication amongst employees in the workplace through the medium of team sport.
- 1(e) All Matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the FAI and the MFA and according to the Laws of the Game.²

Rule 2: Management Committee

- 2(a) The governance and control of the League vests in a committee comprising of not more than eight members, referred to in these Rules as the “Management Committee”, to be elected by the Clubs at the annual general meeting (“AGM”) of the League. The functions of the League under these Rules shall be performed by the Management Committee.
- 2(b) The Management Committee shall, at its first meeting following the AGM, select from amongst its number the League’s Officers: the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Fixtures Secretary and the Public Relations Officer. Appointment as an Officer or an ordinary member of the Management Committee shall be exclusively on an honorary basis.³
- 2(c) Three members may 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. The Chairman shall chair meetings of the Management Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, the remaining members of the Management Committee present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting.
- 2(d) Any member of the Management Committee who abstains himself from three consecutive meetings without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have resigned. Any casual vacancy occurring in the Management Committee may be filled by co-option, but any person so co-opted shall only hold their position until the next AGM, when that person shall be deemed to have retired, but will be eligible for re-election.

¹ Refer to Rule 5(Affiliation) of Part B(Governance) of the FAI Rules.

² Refer to Rule 34(Friendly Matches) of Part C(Playing the Game) of the FAI Rules.

³ Refer to Rule 30(Keeping of Books) of Part B(Governance) of the FAI Rules.



- 2(e) Meetings of the Management Committee shall be held once a month, or as otherwise required, and minutes for each such meeting shall be taken by the Secretary.⁴
- 2(f) The Registrar shall keep a full record of all Club & Player registrations. Clubs are required to record all Player registrations via *FAInet* in accordance with Rule 4(*Club Membership and Player Registration*) of these Rules.
- 2(g) All property of the League shall vest in the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as trustees of the League (the “Trustees”). No personal liability shall attach to the Trustees, or to any Trustee, acting in the ordinary and proper course of the League’s business.
- 2(h) Members of the Management Committee, including any member who has been co-opted, shall remain in office until their successors are appointed.
- 2(i) The following sub-committees shall be established by the Management Committee:
I. Finance Committee; and
II. Disciplinary Committee.
- 2(j) The Finance Committee shall meet on same Day as the Management Committee. The Finance Committee shall comprise the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary who all shall co-sign cheques; however, two signatures at any time will be sufficient if the matter is urgent.
(I) The Treasurer shall arrange for any monies received by the League to be lodged, as soon as practicable, with the League’s bank account either in person or by way of electronic funds transfer (which, for the avoidance of doubt, includes *PayPal* and *Revolut*);
(II) All payments shall be made by cheque except authorised petty cash expenditure in respect of postage and sundries. The Treasurer shall submit an up-to-date balance at each meeting of the Finance Committee when an up-to-date bank statement will be available for inspection if requested. The account shall be brought to a close before the AGM each year and a duly audited copy thereof shall be submitted to each Club for consideration at the AGM; and
(III) The Chairman shall liaise with the League’s bankers so as to ensure online access to the League’s bank account for all members of the Finance Committee.⁵
- 2(k) The Disciplinary Committee shall also sit on the same Day as the Management Committee, or on such other Day(s) as the Chairman may direct, to hear any matters arising from these Rules or Match Official Reports. In particular:
(I) The Disciplinary Committee shall sit in divisions, each of which shall comprise three members of the Management Committee;
(II) No member shall sit to hear and adjudicate on any matter in which he has an interest or where in the interests of justice and fairness he should not sit; and
(III) At the outset of a sitting of a division in relation to a particular matter, the three members shall decide amongst themselves which of them should be chairman for the duration of that sitting.
- 2(l) The Management Committee shall have the power to regulate its own procedures and to take whatever action it deems necessary in order to promote and/or uphold the integrity

⁴ Refer to Rule 30(*Keeping of Books*) of Part B(*Governance*) of the FAI Rules.

⁵ Refer to Rule 33(*Production of Documents*) of Part B(*Governance*) of the FAI Rules.



of the League. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Management Committee:

- (I) shall determine, in its absolute discretion, to hold any meeting of the Management Committee, the Finance Committee or the Disciplinary Committee face-to-face or virtually;
- (II) shall determine, after prior consultation with the Clubs, to hold any general meeting of the League under Rule 20(*General Meetings*) of these Rules either face-to-face or virtually;
- (III) shall determine, in its absolute discretion, the structure and format of all league and cup competitions, including how teams (and how many teams) are promoted and relegated each season;
- (IV) have, through the Fixtures Secretary, the power to schedule or re-schedule, as the case may be, all league and cup Matches;
- (V) have, through its sub-committee, the power to fine, expel and/or suspend any Player, Official or Club who is found guilty of Misconduct; and
- (VI) determine all disputes, protests and questions.

- 2(m) Officers and members of the Management Committee shall be fully indemnified against any and all claims, costs, charges and expenses incurred by them in the ordinary and proper course of the League's business except as accrued from their own respective wilful acts or defaults or fraud.

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.
- 3(b) The League reserves the right to refuse membership to any club or any team representing a Club. In particular, the League reserves the right to refuse membership to any club not prepared to commit to the League for at least two full seasons and to undertake not to apply to join the Munster Senior League, the Cork Athletic Union League or another rival association football league during this time.⁶
- 3(c) Each Club shall register its colours with the 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(d) Clubs must forward to the Secretary the names and addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers of their respective secretaries. Clubs changing their secretaries during a season, or secretaries changing their contact details, must forthwith notify the Secretary. Failure to notify the Secretary, or to notify him within a reasonable time, may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be deemed Misconduct and liable to a fine pursuant to Rule 10(c) of these Rules.
- 3(e) Clubs with more than one team in the League must inform the Management Committee in writing of the Club's preferred team order and label their teams accordingly by reference to the letters "A", "B", "C" *et cetera* with "A" being their 1st team, "B" being their 2nd team and so forth.

⁶ Refer to Rule 12(*League Transfers*) of Part C(Playing the Game) of the FAI Rules.



- 3(f) Upon receipt of confirmation of first registration with the League, Clubs are deemed to be bound by these Rules, the FAI Rules and the rules of any competition in which their team or teams, as the case may be, are participating.

Rule 4: Club Membership and Player Registration

- 4(a) The registration period shall be from the 1st June to the 31st March inclusive.⁷
- 4(b) The Registrar shall keep a full record of all registrations and transfers.
- 4(c) Any Club which is found to have included either an unregistered Player or a suspended Player on the Match Card or is found to have played an unregistered or suspended Player, in any Match shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee to initiate disciplinary proceedings. In any such disciplinary proceedings, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is shown, that the Player in question is unregistered or was suspended, as appropriate.
- 4(d) A Club may sign an emergency goalkeeper after the 31st March and up to the 1st May each year. The emergency goalkeeper cannot have been signed to any other Club in the current season and can only play as a goalkeeper. Medical evidence must be provided to show the original goalkeeper is injured.
- 4(e) It is the aim of the League to be business-based. Employers may restrict Player registrations to current or former employees: however, the League does not require proof that Players are registered employees of the Title Sponsor.
- 4(f) Clubs are entitled to be sponsored by any Cork business (i.e. sole traders, firms/partnerships or companies). However, any sponsorship must include the Title Sponsor of each Club. Where sponsorship of a Club ends, and a new sponsorship takes its place, that Club must remain in the same division as the previous season or remain promoted or relegated, as the case may be, if their league position is within the promotion or relegation positions.
- 4(g) Players not yet registered on *FAInet* with the League shall be registered on a form supplied by the Registrar ("Player Registration Form"). Players already registered on *FAInet* with the League shall make-up the team master list generated by *FAInet*. Player Registration Forms must be in the hands of the Registrar forty-eight (48) hours before the start of a Match. For the purpose of this sub-rule, a Player Registration Form shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Registrar from the time it is posted, and the postmark shall be conclusive evidence thereof. In order for a Player to be eligible to play in a League Match on a Saturday, the registration must be approved by the Registrar on the Thursday prior to the Match. If the Match is on a Sunday, the registration must be approved by the Registrar on the Friday prior to the Match in order for a Player to be eligible to play. The same applies to mid-week Matches. Clubs may email a copy of the Player Registration Form or the team master list to the Registrar if the Player is to be registered in time for a weekend game.⁸

⁷ Refer to Rule 11(*Registration/Transfer Periods for Amateur Game*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.

⁸ Refer to Rule 1(*Amateur or Professional Players*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.



- 4(h) Each Club may register with the League a panel of Players electronically online via *FAInet* and only Players whose registration has been approved by the Registrar on *FAInet* may play for a Club. Only Players who are registered on *FAInet* with the League may participate in Matches organised by the League.⁹

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 from which the Player is leaving as well as from the club for which the Player has last played. A transfer shall be deemed to have received the sanction of the Management Committee when the relevant transfer form has been duly signed by the Player, the Secretary and the secretary of Club concerned.
- 5(c) A Player who has been granted a transfer is not eligible to play until he has registered, in accordance with Rule 4(*Club Membership and Player Registration*) of these Rules, as a Player for the Club he is joining (i.e. a valid transfer does not confer automatic registration for the Player's new Club or 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, all transfer forms shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Registrar from the time of posting and the postmark shall be conclusive evidence thereof.
- 5(f) If, after fourteen (14) Days, the Player asking for a transfer has not received it the Management Committee shall have the power to grant same.
- 5(g) No Club may sign more than three (3) Players from the same club (which includes Clubs registered with the League and other clubs registered with other leagues for example the Munster Senior League or the Cork Athletic Union League) during the latter club's current season without the prior consent of its executive committee as evidenced in writing by its secretary.¹⁰
- 5(h) If a Club disbands during a season the Player registrations shall come under the direction of the League. The Players may be allowed, at the discretion of the Management Committee, to register with other Clubs within the League. The deadline for such registrations shall be the 31st January.¹¹

⁹ Refer to Rule 2(*Registration*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.

¹⁰ Refer to Rule 2(*Registration*) and Rule 12(*League Transfers*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.

¹¹ Refer to sub-rule (5) of Rule 11(*Registration/Transfer Periods for Amateur Game*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.



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 Club 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 such Player was playing for that Club, expel such Club from the League and/or impose an appropriate fine. The Management Committee has the right to request the attendance of relevant Officials and/or Players of the Club concerned at any hearing. Where a Player or Official who has been requested in writing to attend fails, neglects or refuses to so attend, the Club shall be liable, in the absolute discretion of the Management Committee, to be suspended pursuant to Rule 19(*Fines*) of these Rules.¹²
- 6(b) Where a Club has been complained to the Management Committee for playing illegal Players, and upon due investigation such complaint is upheld, the points of such Match may be deducted from the record of the offending Club and may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be awarded to the opposing Club unless a protest has been received in accordance with Rule 12(*Objections and Protests*) of these Rules.

Rule 7: Age Eligibility

No Player under the age of sixteen (16) years of age is eligible to play in any Match under the jurisdiction of the League.¹³

Rule 8: Misconduct by Players

- 8(a) Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any Player receiving a red card shall be for:
- I. at least one (1) Match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
 - II. at least one (1) Match for unsporting conduct;
 - III. at least two (2) Matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of the use of excessive or brute force);
 - IV. at least three (3) Matches for assaulting (i.e. deliberately pushing, pulling, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking *et cetera*, but merely touching is not an assault) an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; or
 - V. at least six (6) Matches for assaulting by spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
- 8(b) A Player, who has not received a red card but who has been reported for Misconduct, may be sanctioned in accordance with Rule 8(a) above.
- 8(c) A fine may also be imposed in all cases.

¹² Refer to Rule 3(*Unregistered Players*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.

¹³ Refer to Rule 13(*Age Eligibility*) of Part C(*Playing the Game*) of the FAI Rules.



- 8(d) Misconduct, for the purpose of this Rule, includes discriminatory treatment by (or of) a Player on grounds of his sexual orientation, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community contrary to the Equal Status Acts 200 to 2015.
- 8(e) The right is reserved to punish an infringement which has escaped the Match Official's attention.¹⁴

Rule 9: Misconduct by Officials

- 9(a) The overall suspension imposed on any Official shall be for:
- I. at least one (1) Match for unsporting conduct;
 - II. at least three (3) Matches for assaulting (i.e. deliberately pushing, pulling, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking *et cetera*, but merely touching is not an assault) an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; or
 - III. at least three (3) Matches for assaulting by spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
- 9(b) An Official whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a Match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
- 9(c) A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
- 9(d) Misconduct, for the purpose of this Rule, includes discriminatory treatment by (or of) an Official on grounds of his sexual orientation, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community contrary to the Equal Status Acts 200 to 2015.
- 9(e) The right is reserved to punish an infringement which has escaped the Match Official's attention.¹⁵

Rule 10: Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials

- 10(a) Where a Player receives a red card and/or is subsequently reported for Misconduct against a Match Official, the overall suspension imposed, including the automatic one Match suspension, shall be for:
- I. at least three (3) Matches for use of foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards a Match Official in an offensive, intimidating or threatening manner;
 - II. at least twelve (12) Matches for deliberately placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a Match Official. During this suspension, the Player shall be ineligible to play for any other club or team or in any other competition;
 - III. at least twelve (12) months from all football related activity for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, striking, elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a Match Official; or
 - IV. at least a thirty-six (36) months suspension from all football related activity for assaulting (i.e. deliberately striking a Match Official that involves head butting,

¹⁴ Refer to Rule 3(*Misconduct by Players*) of Section 2(*Offences*) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*) of the FAI Rules.

¹⁵ Refer to Rule 4(*Misconduct by Officials*) of Section 2(*Offences*) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*) of the FAI Rules.



repeated punching/kicking and/or assaults involving more than one Player and/or Official from the same team).

- 10(b) The overall suspension imposed on any Official for Misconduct against a Match Official shall be for:
- I. at least three (3) Matches for use of foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards a Match Official in an offensive, intimidating or threatening manner;
 - II. at least twelve (12) Matches for deliberately placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a Match Official. During this suspension, the Official shall be ineligible to be an Official for any other club team or in any other competition;
 - III. at least twelve (12) months from all football related activity for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, striking, elbowing, punching, kicking *et cetera*) a Match Official; or
 - IV. at least a thirty-six (36) months suspension from all football related activity for assaulting (i.e. deliberately striking a Match Official that involves head butting, repeated punching/kicking and/or assaults involving more than one Player and/or Official from the same team).
- 10(c) Where a Player or Official persists in using foul and abusive language, having been sent from the Field of Play, a further sanction shall be applied.
- 10(d) A Player or Official whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a Match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
- 10(e) Where a Player or Official has been reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official, the League shall immediately refer the matter to the *FAI Disciplinary Control Unit* and the matter will be decided by the *FAI Disciplinary Committee* in the first instance. The decision of the *FAI Disciplinary Committee* shall be notified to all relevant bodies.
- 10(f) Where a sanction is imposed under Rules 10(a)(III) or (IV) or 10(b)(III) or (IV) of these Rules, the *FAI Disciplinary Committee* may impose any other sanction available under the FAI Rules.
- 10(g) Where a Player or Official makes disparaging remarks or comments about a Match Official on their personal social media platform visible to the public that Player or Official shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 11(*Discipline*) of these Rules.¹⁶

Rule 11: Disciplinary Procedure

- 11(a) The Disciplinary Committee shall discharge the Management Committee's functions, on behalf of the League, under Part D(*Disciplinary*) of the FAI Rules and, in particular, shall have the power to fine, expel and/or suspend any Player, Official or Club who is found guilty of Misconduct. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to adjudicate upon any matter which, although not expressly provided for under these Rules or the FAI Rules, is deemed by the Disciplinary Committee to be reasonably incidental to any matter expressly provided for by these Rules or the FAI Rules.

¹⁶ Refer to Rule 5(*Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials*) of Section 2(*Offences*) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*) of the FAI Rules.



- 11(b) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to regulate its own procedures. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Players sent from the Field of Play will be the subject of an inquiry into their conduct, on grounds of Misconduct, at the next meeting of the Disciplinary Committee following the playing of the Match in question. The Player, or an Official from his Club, may attend at the inquiry and shall be entitled to be heard. The Player, through his Club's secretary, is entitled to request a copy of the relevant Match Official Report from the Secretary in advance of the inquiry being held.
- 11(c) Any Player sent from the Field of Play will automatically incur 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 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 Match Official Report, the Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, extend the duration of any automatic suspension and/or impose a fine.
- 11(d) All Clubs are responsible for monitoring their own teams' yellow cards/cautions. When a Player reaches his 4th, 8th or 12th *et cetera* yellow card he shall incur a mandatory one (1) game suspension. This suspension shall commence on the Monday following the date of notification of the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
- 11(e) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose a sanction, pursuant to these Rules and the FAI Rules, which it deems is proportionate and appropriate having regard to all of the circumstances of the matter (including any sanctions previously imposed upon the Club or Player(s) in question).
- 11(f) Notification of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be communicated by email to the Club's secretary. Any suspension, other than an automatic suspension, or other sanctions that pertain to the decision, take effect immediately upon receipt of notification by the Club unless otherwise stated.
- 11(g) Subject to the provisions of Rule 13(*Appeals*) of these Rules, any decision of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the MFA. However, the entering of an appeal does not operate as a stay of execution over any suspension imposed upon a Player which will continue in full force and effect pending a final determination of his appeal.¹⁷

Rule 12: Objections and Protests

- 12(a) Protests or objections must be sent by registered post by the protesting Club to the Secretary, bearing a postmark within four (4) Days 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 (4) Days will be allowed for the purpose of a cross-protest. The original registered post slip shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, to be evidence of the date of posting.
- 12(b) All protests shall be decided by the Management Committee and both Clubs – the Club protesting, and Club protested against – shall be obliged to furnish such oral and documentary evidence as required. The Management Committee reserves the right to require the attendance of any Player or Players or Official or Officials of either Club, as the

¹⁷ Refer generally to Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*) of the FAI Rules.



case may be, at the hearing of such protest or objection. Where Player or Official who has been requested in writing to attend fails, neglects or refuses to so attend, the Club shall be liable, in the absolute discretion of the Management Committee, to be suspended pursuant to Rule 19(*Fines*) of these Rules.

Rule 13: Appeals

- 13(a) Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (b) below, a Club may appeal any decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the MFA. An appeal must be sent by registered post to the Secretary of the MFA within four (4) Days after the decision of the Disciplinary Committee has been communicated to the secretary of the Club concerned, accompanied by the appropriate fee. A copy of such appeal must be sent by registered post, within the same period, to the Secretary and secretary of the Club concerned (if any).
- 13(b) In accordance with the provisions of Rule 81(*Appeal Committee Procedure*) of Part D(*Disciplinary - Procedure*) the FAI Rules, annexed at Schedule 1 to these Rules, no appeal may be entered in respect of the following:
- a warning;
 - a reprimand;
 - a caution;
 - an automatic suspension (except in the case of mistaken identity);
 - a mandatory suspension;
 - a penalty or suspension imposed under Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*), Section 3(*Sanctions*), Rule 35.3 and Rule 35.4 of the FAI Rules;
 - minimum sanctions imposed in accordance with Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*), Section 2(*Offences*), Rule 3.1 (a)-(e), 4.1(a)-(c), 5.1 (a) & (b), 5.2 (a) & (b) and/or 38.9 of the FAI Rules;
 - the appointment of Match Officials to Matches;
 - the scheduling or rescheduling of fixtures and re-arranged Matches; and
 - any other matter where the FAI Rules preclude an appeal.

Rule 14: Match Referee

- 14(a) Referees shall be appointed to the various Matches. Any Referee appointed to act in a League Match must advise the Fixtures Secretary of his inability to act at least two (2) Days prior to the date of the Match.
- 14(b) The Referee's fees shall be such fees and expenses as provided in the *FAI Referees Fees and Expenses* annexed at the Schedule 2 to these Rules.
- 14(c) Following the conclusion of a Match, the Referee shall send, as soon as practicable, a Match Official Report to the Secretary. The Match Official Report shall include, when appropriate, full and detailed particulars of any alleged Misconduct by Players and/or Officials. In any disciplinary proceedings subsequently initiated on foot of a Match Official Report, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is shown, that the assertions and/or allegations contained in the Match Official Report are substantially true.
- 14(d) Any complaint against a Referee must be made in writing to the Secretary for deliberation by the Management Committee.



Rule 15: Withdrawing from Competitions

- 15(a) Any team wishing to withdraw from a competition should formally notify the Honorary Secretary in writing by email.
- 15(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).
- 15(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 (50) per cent of its fixtures. If more than fifty (50) 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 16: Fixtures

- 16(a) All Matches and hours of kick-off shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary or another Officer in his absence.
- 16(b) The Fixtures Secretary may, in his absolute discretion, invite Clubs, from time to time, to attend a fixtures meeting in order to discuss upcoming fixtures and any issues they may have in fulfilling home fixtures by reason of anticipated inclement weather. Clubs not represented at a fixtures meeting shall nevertheless be responsible for any fixture made in their absence.
- 16(c) All Matches must, except by permission of the Fixtures Secretary, be played on the dates appointed for same. A Club which fails to fulfil a fixture is liable, at the discretion of the Management Committee, to a sanction which may include the loss of points and/or a fine. A minimum fine of €100 will be imposed where a Club does not give the Fixtures Secretary at least 24 hours' prior notice of their inability to fulfil a fixture. Clubs failing to fulfil two fixtures in the same season may, in the absolute discretion of the Management Committee, be expelled from all competitions.
- 16(d) The Management Committee may, in its absolute discretion, fine a Club or Clubs for the late start of any Match.
- 16(e) In cases of inclement weather, the Referee must inspect the Field of Play before the advertised time of kick-off and, on application by either of the competing Clubs, must give a decision as to whether the Field of Play is playable or otherwise in his opinion. The Referee's decision shall be final and conclusive and not appealable.
- 16(f) If, for whatsoever reason, a Match has been abandoned before the completion of the full 90 minutes in a league fixture, or the full 120 minutes in a cup fixture (which has gone to extra-time), the Management Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, either determine the result of the fixture according to the goals scored at the time of abandonment or direct that the Match be re-played in its entirety.



- 16(g) This sub-rule shall not apply to the final of cup competitions. When a Match is not played at the first attempt at a venue because of either the condition of the Field of Play or due to inclement weather conditions, the Match may be reversed to the away fixture. This will also apply where a Match is commenced, but not concluded due to inclement weather conditions. A Club may switch a fixture to another suitable venue if their own Field of Play is unplayable provided that the visiting team does not have to travel more than an additional 16 kilometres (or 10 miles) to the nominated alternative venue.

Rule 17: League Matches

- 17(a) All Matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the FAI and MFA and according to the Laws of the Game.
- 17(b) Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw in league competitions.
- 17(c) In no case shall any Club be permitted to play for more than three points.
- 17(d) The Match Card must be filled in before a Match and signed by an Official in charge of the Club's team who shall certify as to the eligibility of the Players. A fine may be imposed on any Club which does not fill in the Match Card correctly.
- 17(e) Goal nets must be used in all league Matches and supplied by the home team. In case of Clubs renting grounds from another club, the rent to be charged to the Club (being the home team) will include the provision and erection of goalposts, corner flags and marking the Field of Play.
- 17(f) Any objections to the Field of Play, 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 or otherwise of the Field of Play. In the event of the Field of Play being unmarked, the Referee shall have the power to refuse to act in any Match fixed for the Field of Play in question.
- 17(g) A maximum of five (5) substitutes can be used out of the seven (7) named on the Match Card.
- 17(h) If there is a points tie at the end of the season for 2nd place, then a play-off is to take place.
- 17(i) The decision of the Fixtures Secretary on any issue involving the scheduling or re-scheduling, as the case may be, of any league Match or the organising of Match Officials is final and conclusive and not appealable.

Rule 18: Domestic Cup Matches

- 18(a) The group format of the CBL Shield shall be communicated to Clubs by the Fixtures Secretary at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the following provisions shall apply to the CBL Shield:
- (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 the head-to-head result; and
 - (vii) If more than two teams are level on points at the end of the group stage, it goes down to head-to-head results between them.
- 18(b) The format of the CBL Mick Mooney Challenge Cup will be communicated at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament.
- 18(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.
- 18(d) The decision of the Fixtures Secretary on any issue involving the scheduling or re-scheduling, as the case may be, of any cup Match or the organising of Match Officials is final and conclusive and not appealable.

Rule 19: Fines

All fines are imposed on a Club whether they relate to the actions of an individual Player, a group of Players, an Official or group of Officials. All fines imposed on a Club must be paid within seven (7) Days of notification by the Secretary. Any Club failing to discharge a fine on time is liable, at discretion of the Management Committee, to have its membership of the League suspended. A Club which has been suspended pursuant to this Rule, will forthwith no longer enjoy any voting rights at a general meeting of the League, will be unable to register new players and its team or teams, as the case may be, will not be allowed to further participate in any of the League's competitions.

Rule 20: General Meetings

- 20(a) The AGM shall be held no later than the month of June each year unless special permission has been granted by, or on behalf of, the FAI. Each Club shall be entitled to two representatives per team registered with the League 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 Officers and such business as shall arise. At least seven (7) Day's notice of the AGM must be given to each Club. All nominations for election of Officers to the Management Committee must be received by the Secretary on or before the 30th day of the month immediately preceding the month in which the AGM is held (i.e. 30th April unless special permission to hold the AGM after June has been obtained from the FAI).¹⁸
- 20(b) The annual subscription, levies, affiliations *et cetera* shall be determined at the AGM and must be paid before the commencement of the season.
- 20(c) An Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") may be called by the Management Committee as it deems necessary.
- 20(d) An EGM shall be called upon receipt by the Chairman of a requisition signed by at least half of all representatives entitled to vote at an AGM. No business shall be transacted at any such meeting except that specified in the requisition or contained in the agenda issued by the Chairman.

¹⁸ Refer to Rule 29(Affiliated Members AGM) of Part B(Governance) of the FAI Rules.



Rule 21: Alteration to Rules

- 21(a) These Rules may only be amended by the League in general meeting (i.e. at an AGM or an EGM). Any intended alterations or additions must be sent by registered post or by email to the Clubs and must be proposed and seconded. The Secretary shall arrange to have such alterations or additions circulated to the Clubs prior to the AGM or EGM, as appropriate. No changes shall be made unless supported by at least a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- 21(b) Each Club shall be furnished with a copy of these Rules following first registration with the League and shall automatically be deemed bound by the version of these Rules in force on the date on which it renews its membership with the League.
- 21(c) Every motion proposed to be debated by the League in general meeting shall clearly state the proposed text of the motion and include a brief explanatory note detailing why the Club is proposing such a motion. It shall be the duty of the Club submitting the proposal to ensure that the Secretary is in receipt of its motion in sufficient time so as to ensure it is included as an item on the agenda of the said general meeting.

Rule 22: Interpretation

- 22(a) A word importing the masculine gender shall be read as also importing the feminine gender and *vice versa*;
- 22(b) A word importing the singular shall be read as also importing the plural and *vice versa*; and
- 22(c) Reference to any statute, statutory provision, statutory instrument or other similar instrument in these Rules includes a reference to any subordinate legislation made under it, and any provision which it has superseded or re-enacted (with or without modification) or amended, and any provision superseding it or re-enacting (with or without modification) or amending it either before, at or after the date of these Rules.
- 22(d) In these Rules:
 - “**CBL**” means Cork Business League;
 - “**Chairman**” means the member of the Management Committee who presides over meetings of the Management Committee;
 - “**Club**” means a Club registered with the League in accordance with Rule 3(*Club Registration*) of these Rules and entitled to attend and vote at general meetings of the League;
 - “**Day(s)**” shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays;
 - “**Disciplinary Committee**” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 2(k) of these Rules;
 - “**FAInet**” means the official FAI football management system at the uniform resource locator www.fainet.ie;



“Field of Play” means the playing area confined by the touchlines and goal lines and goal nets where used;

“Finance Committee” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 2(j) of these Rules;

“Fixture” means a Match;

“Fixtures Secretary” means the member of the Management Committee who is responsible for scheduling Matches and organising Match Officials;

“FAI Appeal Committee” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 67(*Appeal Committee*) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Procedure Organisation*) of the FAI Rules;

“FAI Disciplinary Committee” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 66(*Disciplinary Committee*) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Procedure Organisation*) of the FAI Rules;

“FAI Disciplinary Control Unit” is the secretariat to which any assault against a Match Official must be reported by the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 5(6) of Part D(*Disciplinary – Disciplinary Rules*) of the FAI Rules and Rule 10(e) of these Rules;

“FAI Referees Fees and Expenses” means the FAI Referees Fees and Expenses 2019-2021 and amended from time to time;

“FAI Rules” means the Football Association of Ireland Rules of Association effective from 11 September 2020 and amended from time to time;

“IFAB” means the International Football Association Board, being the body composed of the four British FAs and FIFA which is responsible for the Laws of the Game worldwide;

“Laws of the Game” means the laws of the game introduced by IFAB and amended from time to time;

“League” means the Cork Business League;

“League Sponsor” means Main League Sponsor / Title Sponsor;

“Management Committee” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 2(a) of these Rules;

“Manager” means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting the team;

“Match” means an association football fixture (whether league, cup or friendly) sanctioned by the League involving at least one Club duly registered with the Registrar in accordance with Rule 3(*Club Registration*) of these Rules;

“Match Card” means the card containing the full names of all Players and Club Officials present at a Match and given to the Referee prior to kick-off;

“Match Official Report” means the report sent to the Secretary by a Referee, on behalf of the Match Officials, after a Match has been played;

“Match Officials” means Referees and assistant referees and includes reserve officials, additional assistant referees and fourth officials;

“Match Previews & Reports” mean the previews and reports of Matches published on the Website and other print media;

“Misconduct” shall, depending on the circumstances, have the meaning ascribed by either Rule 8(*Misconduct by Players*), 9(*Misconduct by Officials*) or 10(*Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials*) of these Rules as appropriate;

“Officer” means the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Fixtures Secretary or Public Relations Officer or any of them;



“Official” means any official, Manager, officer, secretary, member or representative of a Club;

“Official League Membership Form” means the form available from the Secretary upon request and used by Clubs to apply for, or renew, membership with the League each season;

“Player” means a person who is registered with the League and who participates in a Match and/or whose name is referenced on a Match Card of a Match under the jurisdiction of the League;

“Player Registration Form” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 4(g) of these Rules;

“Public Relations Officer” means the member of the Management Committee who is responsible for the League’s public relations;

“Referee” means the main Match Official for a Match who operates on the Field of Play. Other Match Officials operate under the Referee’s control and direction. The Referee is the final/ultimate decision-maker;

“Registrar” means the member of the Management Committee who is responsible for keeping a register or official record of Clubs’ membership and Players’ registration;

“Rules” means the Cork Business League Rules as may be introduced and amended from time to time;

“Secretary” means the member of the Management Committee who is responsible for conducting the League’s correspondence and keeping its records;

“Title Sponsor” means the main sponsor of a Club from whom the Club’s name derives;

“Treasurer” means the member of the Management Committee who is responsible for administering and managing the financial assets and liabilities of the League;

“Trustee(s)” shall have the meaning ascribed by Rule 2(g) of these Rules; and

“Website” means the official website of the League at the uniform resource locator www.corkbusinessleague.ie.

22(e) In the event of any discrepancy between these Rules and the FAI Rules, the FAI Rules shall prevail.¹⁹

22(f) Where there is no Rule provided by these Rules to govern practice or procedure, the equivalent provisions of the FAI Rules may be followed.

¹⁹ Refer to Rule 10(*Rules of Members*) of Part B(*Governance*) of the FAI Rules.



SCHEDULE 1: Football Association of Ireland Referee Fees & Expenses 2018-2021

SCHEDULE 2: Football Association of Ireland Rules of Association as of 11th September 2020

CORK BUSINESS LEAGUE
1 UPPER CONVENT ROAD
BLACKROCK
CORK
T12 V6P6
corkbusinessleague.ie