

# **Cork Business League Regulations Effective from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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**CORK BUSINESS LEAGUE**  
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*corkbusinessleague.ie*



## **Regulation 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”).<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

## **Regulation 2: Management Committee<sup>2</sup>**

- 2(a) The governance and control of the League vests in a committee comprising of not more than eight members, referred to in these Regulations 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 Regulations 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, and the Press Officer. Appointment as an Officer or an ordinary member of the Management Committee shall be exclusively on an honorary basis.
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer generally to Section 3 Organisational Regulations of the FAI Handbook (June 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Refer generally to Section 3 Organisational Regulations of the FAI Handbook (June 2023).



- 2(e) Meetings of the Management Committee shall be held fortnightly, or as otherwise required, and minutes for each such meeting shall be taken by the Secretary.
- 2(f) The Registrar shall keep a full record of all Club & Player registrations. Clubs are required to record all Player registrations via *FAI Connect* in accordance with Regulation 4(*Club Membership and Player Registration*) of these Regulations.
- 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 *ClubZap*);  
(II) All payments shall be made by electronic funds transfer 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.<sup>3</sup>
- 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 Regulations 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.

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to Regulation 7(*Production of Documents*) of Section 3: Organisational Regulations of the FAI Handbook (June 2023).



- 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 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 Regulation 20(*General Meetings*) of these Regulations 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 co-ordinator, the power to schedule or re-schedule, as the case may be, all league and cup Matches;
  - (V) have, through its Disciplinary 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.

### **Regulation 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. 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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, 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 Regulation 10(c) of these Regulations.

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<sup>4</sup> Refer generally to Section 6(*Registration Regulations*) of the FAI Handbook (June 2023).



- 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 1<sup>st</sup> team, "B" being their 2<sup>nd</sup> team and so forth.
- 3(f) Upon receipt of confirmation of first registration with the League, Clubs are deemed to be bound by these Regulations, the FAI Regulations and the Regulations of any competition in which their team or teams, as the case may be, are participating.

#### **Regulation 4: Club Membership and Player Registration<sup>5</sup>**

- 4(a) The registration period shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 31<sup>st</sup> March inclusive.
- 4(b) The Registrar shall keep a full record of all registrations and transfers via FAI Connect.
- 4(c) Any Club which is found to have included either an unregistered Player or a suspended Player on the Match Sheet 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 31<sup>st</sup> March and up to the 1<sup>st</sup> 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) Each Club may register with the League a panel of Players electronically online via *FAI Connect* and only Players whose registration has been approved by the FAI on *FAI Connect* may play for a Club. Only Players who are registered on *FAI Connect* with the League may participate in Matches organised by the League.
- 4(h) A Player is only made Active in a CBL competition on *FAI Connect* once payment has been processed and the league's Secretary or Registrar has activated him on his team's roster for that competition in the current season.

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<sup>5</sup> Refer generally to Section 6(*Registration Regulations*) of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)



### **Regulation 5: Player Re-Registrations<sup>6</sup>**

- 5(a) No Player shall be permitted to re-register with one Club to another unless he has satisfied all financial claims of the Club for which he has played.
- 5(b) A Player who has been granted re-registration is not eligible to play until he has registered, in accordance with Regulation 4(*Club Membership and Player Registration*) of these Regulations, as a Player for the Club he is joining (i.e. a valid re-registration does not confer automatic registration for the Player's new Club or team).
- 5(c) No re-registrations shall be granted after 28<sup>th</sup> January in any season.
- 5(d) 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.
- 5(e) 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 FAI to register with other Clubs within the League. The deadline for such registrations shall be the 28<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Regulation 6: Illegal and Unregistered Players<sup>7</sup>**

- 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 Regulation 19(*Fines*) of these Regulations.
- 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 Regulation 12(*Objections and Protests*) of these Regulations.

### **Regulation 7: Age Eligibility<sup>8</sup>**

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

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<sup>6</sup> Refer generally to Section 6(*Registration Regulations*) of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)

<sup>7</sup> Refer generally to Section 6(*Registration Regulations*) of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)

<sup>8</sup> Refer generally to Section 6(*Registration Regulations*) of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)



### Regulation 8: Misconduct by Players and Officials<sup>9</sup>

- 8(a) The below table relates to misconduct by players and / or officials which results in a red card:

	Offence	Sanction
(i)	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity	1 match minimum suspension
(ii)	Unsporting conduct	1 match minimum suspension
(iii)	Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 match minimum suspension
(iv)	Serious foul play	2 match minimum suspension
(v)	Violent conduct	3 match minimum Suspension
(vi)	Spitting at an opponent or person other than a Match Official	6 match minimum suspension

- 8(b) A Player or official who has not received a red card but who has been reported for Misconduct, may be sanctioned in accordance with Regulation 8(a) above.
- 8(c) A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
- 8(d) Disciplinary Committee may impose an additional suspension upon consideration of the Match Official's report and any other factors they deem relevant.
- 8(e) Any Participant, who offends, disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone, or a group of persons, in a derogatory manner on account of 'race', skin colour, language, religion, disability, gender, ethnic and/or national origin(s) or sexual orientation, or perpetrates any other racist/discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. The relevant disciplinary body shall consider and have the power to impose a suspension, fine and/or other sanction as deemed appropriate. **In the case of individuals, the minimum suspension shall be for a period of 10 (ten) matches.**

Misconduct, for the purpose of this regulation, 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 2000 to 2015.

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<sup>9</sup> Refer to Section 7.3(Disciplinary Regulations) Regulation 1 of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)



- 8(e) The right is reserved to punish an infringement which has escaped the Match Official's attention.

**Regulation 9: Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials<sup>10</sup>**

- 9(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:

	Offence	Sanction
(i)	Foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards a Match Official	At least 3 match suspension (automatic 1 match suspension plus 2 additional match suspension)
(ii)	Behaviour that is aggressive, intimidating, or threatening towards a Match Official	At least 6 match suspension (automatic 1 match suspension plus 5 additional match suspension)
(iii)	Deliberately placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a Match Official	At least 12 match suspension (automatic 1 match suspension plus 11 additional match suspension)
(iv)	Assaulting or attempting to assault (deliberately or deliberately attempting to push, pull, spit at, strike, elbow, punch, kick etc.) a Match Official	At least 12 months
(v)	Assaulting a Match Official that involves head butting and/or repeatedly and deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. a Match Official	At least 36 months

- 9(b) 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.
- 9(c) Separate incidents of misconduct towards a Match Official in relation to the same game shall incur an additional sanction for any such incident.
- 9(d) Any club that has a player, team and/or official found to be in continuous and persistent breach of CBL Regulation 10 (FAI Regulations Section 7.3 Regulation 2) may be subject to a separate investigation by the Disciplinary Regulations Officer ("DRO") who can consider the culpability of the Club and subject to such investigation, the DRO may issue a charge(s) against the club directly.

<sup>10</sup> Refer to Section 7.3(Disciplinary Regulations) Regulation of the FAI Handbook (June 2023)





- 9(e) Where a sanction is imposed for committing assault or attempted assault on a Match Official the Disciplinary Committee may impose any other sanction available under the FAI Disciplinary Regulations.
- 9(f) Where a Player or Official has been reported for an alleged breach of CBL Regulation 10(a)(iii) the Player or Official shall automatically stand suspended to play/participate in games for any other club or in any competitions until the matter is dealt with by the League. Leagues shall address the matter under the FAI Disciplinary Regulations within seven days of receiving the report.
- 9(g) A Player or Official whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault or attempted assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
- 9(h) 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. A Club or Participant may also refer the matter to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit. The matter will be decided by the FAI Disciplinary Committee in the first instance and all previous decisions from other bodies/leagues will be revoked. The decision of the FAI Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to all relevant bodies.
- 9(i) Where a Player or Official makes disparaging remarks or comments about a Match Official in mainstream media and/or on their personal social media platform visible to the public that Player or Official shall be dealt with in accordance with Section 2 Regulation 18.
- 9(j) Where a sanction is imposed under Regulation 10 on a Player or Official the Disciplinary Committee when considering the appropriate sanction has discretion to have regard to any aggravating factors to increase the sanction agreed for the offence. The aggravating factors that the Disciplinary Committee may wish to consider include (but are not limited to) the following:
- The degree of force and/or the nature and extent of threatening behaviour used.
  - The profile of the Player or Official, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation.
  - Failure to co-operate with the League, Provincial Association and/or the FAI.
  - Previous disciplinary record of the Player or Official.
  - Any attempt to conceal the breach.
  - The extent of any premeditation.
  - The overall impact on the reputation and integrity of the game.
- 9(k) The Disciplinary Committee that imposes a sanction on a person, Member, League or Club may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of that sanction partially.
1. The Disciplinary Committee will decide which part of the sanction may be partially suspended.
  2. By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the Disciplinary Committee subjects the person, Member, League or Club sanctioned to a probationary period which shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
  3. If the person, Member, League or Club benefiting from a partially suspended sanction commits the same offence during the probationary period, the partial suspension is



automatically revoked and the sanction applied. Any sanction imposed from the subsequent offence will be added to the sanction imposed for the previous offence.

### **Regulation 10: Disciplinary Procedure**

- 10(a) The Disciplinary Committee shall discharge the Management Committee's functions, on behalf of the League, under Part D(*Disciplinary*) of the FAI Regulations 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 Regulations or the FAI Regulations, is deemed by the Disciplinary Committee to be reasonably incidental to any matter expressly provided for by these Regulations or the FAI Regulations.
- 10(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.
- 10(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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 10(d) Any Match that has been classified as a Walkover, the following Regulations shall apply:
- (I) If a Player is currently serving a suspension and is registered with the team who has given the Walkover then the Player is deemed to not have served a 1 game suspension.
  - (II) If the Player is currently serving a suspension and is registered with the team who received the Walkover then the Player is deemed to have served a 1 game suspension.
- 10(e) All Clubs are responsible for monitoring their own teams' yellow cards/cautions. When a Player reaches his 4<sup>th</sup> yellow card he shall incur a mandatory one (1) game suspension and a €30 fine. When a Player reaches his 8<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> etc yellow card he shall incur a mandatory one (1) game suspension and a €60 fine. This suspension shall commence on the Monday following the date of notification of the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
- 10(f) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose a sanction, pursuant to these Regulations and the FAI Regulations, 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).
- 10(g) 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.



- 10(h) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 13(*Appeals*) of these Regulations, 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.<sup>11</sup>

### **Regulation 11: Objections and Protests**

- 11(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 €40 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.
- 11 (b) For the purpose of an alleged Player ineligibility, this may be raised with a member of the Management Committee without lodging a formal protest in accordance with Regulation 12(a). If Player ineligibility is proven to the satisfaction of the Management Committee, then that Player's team shall be sanctioned with a forfeit and the paying a fine, but such ineligibility must be raised within twenty-eight (28) calendar days of the relevant Match.
- 11 (c) 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 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 Regulation 18 (*Fines*) of these Regulations.

### **Regulation 12: Appeals**

- 12(a) Subject to the provisions of sub-Regulation (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).
- 12(b) In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 81(*Appeal Committee Procedure*) of Part D(*Disciplinary - Procedure*) the FAI Regulations, annexed at Schedule 1 to these Regulations, 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;

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<sup>11</sup> Refer generally to Section 7 (*Disciplinary Regulations*) of the FAI Regulations.



- a penalty or suspension imposed under the Section 7 Disciplinary Regulations of the FAI Handbook.
- the appointment of Match Officials to Matches;
- the scheduling or rescheduling of fixtures and re-arranged Matches; and
- any other matter where the FAI Regulations preclude an appeal.

### **Regulation 13: Match Referee**

- 13(a) Referees shall be appointed to the various Matches. Any Referee appointed to act in a League Match must advise the Fixtures Co-ordinator of his inability to act at least two (2) Days prior to the date of the Match.
- 13 (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 Regulations.
- 13 (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.
- 13 (d) Any complaint against a Referee must be made in writing to the Secretary for deliberation by the Management Committee.

### **Regulation 14: Withdrawing from Competitions**

- 14(a) Any team wishing to withdraw from a competition should formally notify the Honorary Secretary in writing by email.
- 14 (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).
- 14 (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.



### **Regulation 15: Fixtures**

- 15(a) All Matches and hours of kick-off shall be arranged by the Fixtures Co-ordinator or another Officer in his absence.
- 15 (b) The Fixtures co-ordinator 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.
- 15 (c) All Matches must, except by permission of the Fixtures co-ordinator, 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.
- 15(d) A minimum fine of €150 will be imposed where a team does not give legitimate reason of their inability to fulfil a fixture at any time following the Fixtures co-ordinator confirming the fixture. For the purpose of clarifying legitimacy, the following steps must be carried out by the team failing to fulfil a fixture:
- (I) The secretary of the team must send an email within 24 hours of notifying the League of the inability to fulfil a fixture to the League Secretary with a list of the registered players who are unavailable for the fixture in question; and
  - (II) The chairman and manager of the team must attend a Disciplinary Meeting with the Management Committee to explain their inability to fulfil the fixture. Non-attendance at this Disciplinary meeting shall lead to a €30 fine imposed on the team.
- Clubs failing to fulfil two fixtures in the same season shall be imposed with a €200 fine and, in the absolute discretion, of the Management Committee may be expelled from all competitions.
- 15 (e) The Management Committee may, in its absolute discretion, fine a Club or Clubs for the late start of any Match.
- 15 (f) 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.
- 15 (g) 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.
- 15 (h) This sub-Regulation 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.



### **Regulation 16: League Matches**

- 16(a) All Matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the FAI and MFA and according to the Laws of the Game.
- 16 (b) Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw in league competitions.
- 16(c) In no case shall any Club be permitted to play for more than three points.
- 16(d) The Secretary or another responsible person of contesting teams shall before the Match fill in the referee's match sheet in block letters with the Players participating in the Match as per their full registered names on *FAI Connect*. Players' jersey numbers must match the numbers as written on the referee's match sheet. Teams who fill out match sheets incorrectly may, in the absolute discretion of the Manage Committee, forfeit the points and may be fined €30.
- 16(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.
- 16(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.
- 16(g) A maximum of five (5) substitutes can be used out of the seven (7) named on the Match Card.
- 16(h) If there is a points tie at the end of the season for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, then a play-off is to take place.
- 16(i) The decision of the Fixtures co-ordinator 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.



### **Regulation 17: Domestic Cup Matches**

- 17(a) The group format of the CBL Shield shall be communicated to Clubs by the Fixtures co-ordinator 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.
- 17(b) The format of the CBL Mick Mooney Challenge Cup will be communicated at the start of each season's iteration of the tournament.
- 17(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.
- 17 (d) The decision of the Fixtures co-ordinator 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.
- 17 (e) The Secretary or another responsible person of contesting teams shall before the Match fill in the referee's match sheet in block letters with the players participating in the Match as per their full registered names on *FAI Connect*. Players' jersey numbers must match the numbers as written on the referee's match sheet. Teams who fill out match sheets incorrectly may, in the absolute discretion of the Manage Committee, forfeit the points and may be fined €30.

### **Regulation 18: 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. Failure to pay fines within 7 days will result in a warning and any fine thereafter not paid within 7 days are doubled thereafter and may incur a possible points deduction. Included in this is that all fines are to be paid through the club not through an individual player. 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 Regulation, 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.





### **Regulation 19: General Meetings**

- 19(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 30<sup>th</sup> day of the month immediately preceding the month in which the AGM is held (i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> April unless special permission to hold the AGM after June has been obtained from the FAI).
- 19(b) The annual subscription, levies, affiliations *et cetera* shall be determined at the AGM and must be paid before the commencement of the season.
- 19(c) An Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") may be called by the Management Committee as it deems necessary.
- 19(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.

### **Regulation 20: Alteration to Regulations**

- 20(a) These Regulations 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.
- 20 (b) Each Club shall be furnished with a copy of these Regulations following first registration with the League and shall automatically be deemed bound by the version of these Regulations in force on the date on which it renews its membership with the League.
- 20 (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.





## Regulation 21: Interpretation

- 21(a) A word importing the masculine gender shall be read as also importing the feminine gender and *vice versa*;
- 21 (b) A word importing the singular shall be read as also importing the plural and *vice versa*; and
- 21 (c) Reference to any statute, statutory provision, statutory instrument or other similar instrument in these Regulations 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 Regulations.

- 21 (d) In these Regulations:

**“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 Regulation 3(*Club Registration*) of these Regulations 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 Regulation 2(k) of these Regulations;

**“FAI Appeal Committee”** shall have the meaning ascribed by Section 7(*Disciplinary Regulations*) of the FAI Regulations;

**“FAI Disciplinary Committee”** shall have the meaning ascribed by Section 7(*Disciplinary Regulations*) of the FAI Regulations;

**“FAI Disciplinary Control Unit”** is the secretariat to which any assault against a Match Official must be reported by the Management Committee pursuant to Section 7(*Disciplinary Regulations*) of the FAI Regulations;

**“FAI Connect”** means the official FAI football management system at the uniform resource locator [www.faiconnect.ie](http://www.faiconnect.ie);

**“FAI Referees Fees and Expenses”** means the FAI Referees Fees and Expenses 2022-2024 and amended from time to time;

**“FAI Regulations”** means the Football Association of Ireland Regulations of Association effective from June 2023

**“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 Regulation 2(j) of these Regulations;

**“Fixture”** means a Match;

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

**“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 Regulation 2(a) of these Regulations;

**“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 Regulation 3(*Club Registration*) of these Regulations;

**“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 Regulation 8 (*Misconduct by Players and Officials*), or Regulation 9 (*Misconduct by Players and Officials Against Match Officials*) of these Regulations as appropriate;

**“Officer”** means the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Fixtures co-ordinator 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 Regulation 4(g) of these Regulations;

**“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;

**“Regulations”** means the Cork Business League Regulations 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 Regulation 2(g) of these Regulations;

**“Walkover”** means the awarding of a victory to one team because the other team has failed to show up for various reasons; and

**“Website”** means the official website of the League at the uniform resource locator [www.corkbusinessleague.ie](http://www.corkbusinessleague.ie).

- 22(e) In the event of any discrepancy between these Regulations and the FAI Regulations, the FAI Regulations shall prevail.
- 22(f) Where there is no Regulation provided by these Regulations to govern practice or procedure, the equivalent provisions of the FAI Regulations may be followed.



**SCHEDULE 1: Football Association of Ireland Referee Fees & Expenses 2022-2024**

**SCHEDULE 2: Football Association of Ireland Governance Handbook (Updated Version June 2023)**

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