



Cork Women's and Schoolgirls Soccer League

Constitution and Rules

TITLE AND CONSTITUTION

1. The "League" shall be known as the Cork Women's and Schoolgirls Soccer League (C.W.S.S.L.) under jurisdiction of the SFAI for Schoolgirls football and for Youths/Seniors with the MFA.
2. The object of the "League" shall be to promote and improve the standard of Football through the medium of the "League"
3. All clubs shall promote the game of Association Football and be governed by the rules of the C.W.S.S.L., the SFAI and MFA.

THE COMMITTEE AND BUSINESS OF THE C.W.S.S.L.

4. The "League" shall be governed by a Committee, of no more than 11, which will consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon Fixture Secretary, Hon Registrar, Child Welfare Officer and P.R.O. The quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be 50% + 1. No club will have more than one representative on the Main Committee. The Committee may create a sub-committee if required, one person a club does not apply to sub-committee.
5. The Chairperson, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer for the time being shall be the trustees of the "League", the custodians of all its properties and assets, and shall deal with such at the direction of the Committee.
6. The Hon. Secretary and nominated person shall communicate all business of the "League". All correspondence shall be communicated to the Hon. Secretary. All official business of the "League" shall be communicated to the official Club Hon. Secretary named on the affiliation form. The Hon Registrar shall keep full records of registrations and transfers and it shall be their duty to investigate any breaches of Rules or any other irregularities made to them by the Committee.
7. The Hon. Treasurer shall be the custodian of all the funds of the "League." He/She shall submit statements of accounts at the delegate meetings and full accounts and balance sheet to the A.G.M.
8. Officers and members of the Committee shall not be liable for any costs, loss or expenses incurred by them in discharge of their appointed duties, except such as are incurred by their own wilful acts of neglect or default.
9. The Managers of the C.W.S.S.L. representative teams will be appointed by the Committee. The Managers are responsible to the Committee and shall furnish reports as required.
10. The Committee shall nominate representatives to the SFAI, MFA and relevant committees and fill any casual vacancy that may arise on the CWSSL committee until the next AGM.
11. In the event of any situation arising, which is not covered by these rules, the Committee shall make a rule that shall remain in force until the next A.G.M.
12. The Constitution and Rules of the "League" may only be altered at an A.G.M. or E.G.M.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

13. The A.G.M shall be held not later than 30th September. The Hon. Secretary shall give at least 21 clear days notice in writing to all affiliated clubs. Clubs who enter an adult team are entitled to one voting delegate. In addition Clubs who enter the Underage Section are entitled to one voting delegate. Any club shall have the right to submit alterations to the rules, propose new rules and submit nominations but such proposals must be received by Hon. Secretary 14 days before the A.G.M. The Hon. Secretary will notify all affiliated clubs of proposals, alterations to the rules, proposed new rules and submitted nominations not less than 7 days before the A.G.M. All proposals must be carried by at least a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of those present.
14. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by either;
 - (a) The written request of at least 25% of the clubs in membership, stating the object and necessity for such or
 - (b) The CommitteeSeven (7) clear days notice shall be given in writing to all affiliated clubs and the Agenda shall state the business to be discussed at the meeting

MEMBERSHIP TO THE C.W.S.S.L.

15. Membership to the “League” is open to all clubs in Cork City and County who have duly paid their affiliation fee and whose application the Committee has approved. Payment of affiliation fees to the “League” constitutes acceptance of the League’s Constitution and Rules.
16. The Committee shall set the affiliation fee. All fees to be paid before the start of the season, any club in default shall be liable to expulsion by the Committee.
17. No club or player shall play or cause to be played any match with any club outside the jurisdiction of the SFAI and MFA without the prior sanction of the League.
18. All clubs affiliated to the C.W.S.S.L. shall be responsible for the actions of its players, officials and supporters.
 - (a) All clubs shall ensure their playing facilities are in proper playing order and they have adequate changing facilities on site.
 - (b) All clubs must have a current public liability certificate, C.W.S.S.L. and its officers to be indemnified by all affiliated clubs. A copy of which must be sent to the Registrar before commencement of the season. It is the club’s responsibility to ensure the policy is up to date. Failure to comply will result in cancellation of fixtures.
19. No club shall have “Cork in its name without the permission of CWSSL.
20. All players must be amateur. Clubs may not compete for cash prizes without approval from SFAI and MFA.
21. Any club with debts/outstanding fines to the C.W.S.S.L. will not be admitted into the “League” again until such a time as all debts are cleared. As per SFAI & MFA rules they shall not be admitted to future SFAI & MFA Competitions either.

CLUB REPRESENTATION

22. Delegate meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of every Month, unless otherwise advised. Clubs to receive 7 days notice of delegate meeting including the meeting agenda.
23. Each club shall be entitled to send two delegates to attend delegate meetings. Voting rights at delegate meetings will be as per Rule 13. Decisions at delegate meetings shall be taken as recommendations to the Committee.
24. Clubs without a representative at a delegate meeting will be fined €20.
25. At any official League function/event ie, Trials, U12 Inter-League Blitz, Cup Final, etc., clubs must nominate one person to assist in the organisation.

CHILD WELFARE

26. All clubs must on their application, supply the “League” with details of their Designated Child Welfare Officer. All Designated Child Welfare Officer must have the relevant courses completed and be Garda Vetted with the FAI
27. Managers, Coaches, all club volunteers involved with any age group up to and including U18, must be Garda Vetted with the FAI and have all the relevant Safe Guarding Courses completed, the onus is on the club to ensure all their volunteers are compliant.

CODES OF CONDUCT

28. All managers, coaches, spectators and players must adhere to the Code of Best Practise as per FAI rules. The abuse of match officials from the side-line by management/supporters will not be tolerated and clubs will be severely fined/have points deducted. Constant offending will result in expulsion from the “League”.
29. Clubs are asked to respect the oppositions side of the pitch, managers/coaches/parents should refrain from coaching on the opposition’s line.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

30. All players must be registered 24 hours before they kick a ball. New players not already on the FAI comet player registration system must do so by visiting Faiconnect.ie. This is enforced by the FAI. Once a player has been uploaded and all is in order the FAI will notify CWSSL via email. Once the CWSSL registrar gets notification that a player has been added to the team, they will review it and confirm all is in order. They will then make the player Active and available to play.

If a team’s player(s) do not have an active status then they are ineligible and are unavailable for the game. Please note players **MUST** be assigned to all the teams they are going to play for.

If a player has played with another club, then they cannot be entered as a first registration. They become a re-registration(transfer). Before they can be submitted as a player to your team their previous club will need to terminate their registration with them. Just like new registrations, the player will need to have an active status with the team(s) they are assigned to before they can play. All this is now completed on Faiconnect.ie.

Clubs must inform CWSSL registrar in writing of any Re-Registrations(transfers). The registrar will not activate a player until confirmation is received by email.

31. The first Registration or Transfer of players under the age of 18 and of non Irish Nationality must comply with the guidelines as issued by the FAI in compliance with FIFA rulings.

31(a) The registration period for the summer season is 1st December to 31st August. The re-registration(transfers) periods are 1st Dec to 22nd Feb and 1st July to 28th July.

31(b) The registration period for the winter season is 1st July to 31st March. The re-registration periods are 1st July to 23rd Sept and 1st January to 28th January.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

32. (a) All players must be within the year of their 16th birthday to be eligible to play in adult competition.

32 (b) Clubs found guilty of playing underage/overage players, that team will be removed from the League for the remainder of the season. If two teams from the same club are so removed in the same season, the club will be ineligible to participate in the League in the following season.

33 (a)No club may register more than three (3) Players from the same club during the latter club's current season except with the written consent of the executive of the club, confirmed in writing by the Secretary of the club from which the Players are being signed.

Where a player is 'terminated' on the FAI system by a club there is no limit on how many 'terminated' players a club can sign. If a player is terminated outside the re-registration period then the said player cannot sign until the next re-registration period.

33 (b) At U12, U13 & U14 grades no player will be entitled to transfer to, or join, any other club in the same season in which they have been named on the U12/U13/U14 Cork Representative Squads. At U12 & U13 no player will be entitled to or join any other club in the season following the season in which they have been named on the U12/13 Cork representative squads. The Squad lists will be issued to clubs at the end of each season. Once a player has played as a Cork Representative Player they will be considered a Cork Schoolgirls League Player, regardless of what League they are/were registered to. Notwithstanding this rule a request for a change of club can be submitted but will only be considered in exceptional circumstance.

33 (c) At all other grades from U15 upwards no club can sign more than 1 player that has been named on a Cork Representative panel in the previous 2 seasons. Notwithstanding this rule, a request for change of club can be submitted but will be only considered in exceptional circumstance.

34. Players coming out of the National League may only sign back into the C.W.S.S.L. to the last club they were registered with. If a player no longer has football at her club in the C.W.S.S.L. this signing must be applied for in writing to the League and then sanctioned by the League. Players considered under this exception will not be allowed to sign with a club that has (3) three players who were signed to a National League Club in the previous or current season. Players coming from other leagues and did not play in any of CWSSL leagues previously may sign for a club. However a club cannot sign these players if they have already signed 3 or more from a National league club in the previous or current season.

(a) Players, 16 years of age or under, shall not be entitled to play for a Club, whose main home pitch, as registered with their League, is more than 80km from the Player's usual place of residence. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any such Player who prior to the effective date of this rule is compliant with the terms of the rule but subsequently as a result of a change of usual place of resident becomes in breach of this rule shall continue to be eligible to play for that particular club and shall not be liable to sanction. Players deemed to be in breach of this rule shall be deemed to have breached FAI Ineligibility rule and any sanction imposed shall be in accordance only with the provisions of that FAI rule.

TRANSFERS

35. The transfer(re-registration) period shall be as laid down in Rule 31 (a) and Rule 31(b)

35(a) A player can only play for one club in the "League" in any one season unless she has received her transfer from the club she last played for. No player shall be permitted to transfer her services unless she has satisfied all financial claims of the club for which she had last played. Permission must be obtained from the player's last club and must be sanctioned by the Committee. A transfer shall be deemed to have received the Committee sanction if the form is duly completed by the player and signed by both Secretaries of the clubs concerned is received by the Hon. Registrar at least 24 hours before a match. Players transferred must also be registered with the club transferred to

APPROACHING A REGISTERED PLAYER

36. When a player becomes a registered player with a club in the “League” in any season it shall be an offence for any member(s) of any other club in the “League” to request, encourage or influence that player or approach her parent/s with same intent during the season or off season to participate in any training, coaching or games under the auspices of another club without the prior permission of the players own club and the “League” to request the player to do so. Such offences will be deemed as poaching Such an offence shall be deemed to be “poaching” and any person found culpable shall render themselves and/or their team/club liable to a fine and/or suspension and their club/team shall be.
- Deducted 15 points for a first offence and a Fine €200
 - Automatically relegated for a further offence and a Fine €300
 - Club/team will not be given automatic entry in our league and will have to reapply
- On receiving a complaint from the last club that the player signed for, the Committee shall hold the application until a full enquiry is held into the reason for such a move and decisions are taken.

PROTESTS, APPEALS AND OBJECTIONS

37. All protests must be sent by registered post to the “League” Hon. Secretary dated no later than four (working) days after the incident in question, accompanied by a postal order or bank draft for €50 payable to the C.W.S.S.L., which shall be returned in all cases where the protest has been upheld. A copy of the protest must also be sent to the opposing club secretary, by registered post simultaneously with the letter sent to the “League” Hon. Secretary. Clubs protesting must prove the protest. Any appeals to the SFAI and MFA/FAI must adhere to the rules of that organisation.
38. In cases of dispute, Legal proceedings shall not be taken without first consulting the C.W.S.S.L. Committee.
39. All clubs, officers and players shall have the right to appeal to the SFAI and MFA against decisions of the Committee of the C.W.S.S.L. in accordance with the rules of that body

SCHOOLGIRLS PROTESTS

Notice of an appeal against any decision or sanction issued against any team/s, player/s, managers/coaches or member/s by its SFAI affiliated League must be lodged to the SFAI in the first instance and can only be lodged by a club currently registered to a SFAI affiliated League.

(b) All notices of appeal must be lodged by the Hon. Secretary of a club directly involved in the dispute, no third party notices will be considered.

(c) Any such notice of an appeal must be lodged with the SFAI within 4 days following the issuing by the SFAI affiliated League of the written notification of its decision. The date of receipt of the notice of the League’s decision/s does not count as part of this time frame. For the purposes of this rule, Saturday, Sunday and bank or public holidays are excluded.

(d) Notice of appeal must be sent by registered post to the office of the SFAI Administrator and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as set by the SFAI Council at its meeting following the most recent SFAI AGM in the form of bank draft or postal order only, made payable to the SFAI., any such fee paid by any other method will automatically invalidate and nullify that notice of appeal.

(e) For the purposes of this rule the registered postal date shall be proof of submission and comply with the time requirements for lodging notice of an appeal to the SFAI.

(f) At the same time an exact copy of the notice of appeal shall be sent by registered post to the Honorary Secretary of the SFAI affiliated League which had issued the decision, all documentary evidence submitted to the SFAI in relation to any notice of appeal must at the same time be copied to the SFAI affiliated League concerned.

(g) Where the SFAI appoints an appeal committee that committee shall have the right to vary any sanction imposed by an SFAI affiliated League, including the increase, reduction or dismissal of any sanction or suspension and or any fine/s.

(h) In all circumstances the SFAI will conduct business solely with the Hon Secretary of any club or League unless the club or League designates one of its officers as an alternative for correspondence

U17/U19 AND WOMENS PROTESTS

Clubs, players or members of clubs and all others dissatisfied with the decisions of any League, combination of Leagues or similar organisations under the jurisdiction of this Association shall have the right to appeal to this Association against such decisions. Appeals must be sent by registered post within four days of the date on which the written notification of the decision being appealed against was received by the appellant. For the avoidance of doubt time limits begin from the day after receipt of the notification. Appeals must be addressed to the Munster Football Association. In the event of a postal dispute or similar emergency, the appellant shall contact the MFA to ascertain what temporary alternative arrangements have been put in place by the MFA. The initial appeal documents must include a copy of the decision being appealed against, the appeal fee in accordance with rule 22(b), it must indicate the date upon which such decision was received by the appellant, and must confirm that notification of the submission of appeal has been sent in accordance with Rule 22(a), The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the appeal.

NOTE: No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following in accordance with FAI Rules: a match caution, an automatic suspension(except in the case of mistaken identity) a mandatory suspension

- (a) A letter of notification of the submission of an appeal to the MFA shall be simultaneously sent by registered post to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal. The letter of notification shall identify the decision which is the subject of the appeal.
- (b) Appeals must be accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for the Appeal Fee of €250, made payable to the MFA and crossed. This fee shall be refunded only if the appeal is successful.

NOTE: A suspension remains in place even when an appeal has been lodged with the MFA. The suspension can only be lifted by a successful outcome of an appeal.

- (c) The body against whose decision the appeal is made, must forward to the Hon. Secretary no later than 7 days after receipt of the appeal, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting which made the original decision and any other requested documentation relevant to the appeal. Failure to comply with the correct procedure as outlined above may result in disciplinary action being taken by the appeals committee against either party. The appellant must set out clearly the grounds on which the appeal is based. The appeals committee shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal and / or to vary the sanction and / or fine. In the event of an appeal being deemed frivolous or out of order, a fine up to a maximum of €300 may be imposed

- (d) Protest must be lodged in accordance with the Cup rules of the Munster Football Association

DISCIPLINARY

40. A Disciplinary Committee consisting of three people shall be appointed to deal with disciplinary matters. No member who has a direct interest in a particular case may sit on the Committee for that case. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed directly to the SFAI and MFA in accordance with the rules of that body.
41. A club found playing unregistered/improperly/ineligible players in a League or Cup Competitions fixture, will be automatically fined €50, points and/or game will be awarded to opposing team, and at the discretion of the Committee may be removed from the League. Recurrence of this offence will result in expulsion from the League.
42. (a)Any player sent off in a game (league or cup in the C.W.S.S.L.) will automatically be suspended for their next game in that age category in the C.W.S.S.L. irrespective of Competition, (Walkovers do not count) and will be informed of any further suspensions or disciplinary measures against them. All bookings will be reported to the Committee by Referee, five (5) disciplinary points will be awarded to each booking and on reaching twenty disciplinary points a player will be suspended for one (1) match, if the next match is a Cup Final they do not miss that match. Automatic one game suspension cannot be appealed.

The overall suspension imposed on any Official for misconduct against a Match Official shall be for:-

- 1) At least three(3) matches for use of foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards an official.. At least twelve (12) matches for deliberately placing a hand, 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.
- 2) At least twelve (12) months suspension from all football related activity for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, striking, elbowing, punching, kicking etc) a Match Official.
- 3) At least thirty six (36) months suspension from all football related activity for assaulting, 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.

- 4) At least five (5) matches may be imposed for the use of words Spastic, Retard, handicap or any other derogatory wording.
- 5) Where a player persists in using foul and abusive language, having been sent from the field of play, a further sanction shall be applied.

A Player 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. Any complaints against Referees must be made in accordance with FAI Referees Regulation. Written copy of complaint must be lodged with League hon. Secretary immediately after the game. In cases where a minimum/mandatory suspension as per FAI handbook is imposed please note, there is no right of appeal. FAI regulation handbook will be referred to if the disciplinary rules are not in CWSSL constitution.

(b) Player sent off in any FAI/MFA Cup Competition automatically misses the next FAI/MFA Cup game in the age group in which the card was received if the team is still in the FAI/MFA Cup. If the team was beaten in the game, the player automatically misses the next local league or local cup game at the Youngest Eligible Age.

FINES

43. All fines must be paid one month after notification or €5 will be added each week until paid in full. If the debt is ignored and remains unpaid, clubs will have fixtures suspended and possible loss of points in League and/or matches and walkovers awarded against them in cup games..

WALKOVERS

44. Any team not fulfilling a fixture arranged by the fixture secretary, the club will be automatically fined €50 for the first offence and that team will forfeit points in a League Fixture or the tie in Cup Fixture. Failure by a team to fulfil a second or further fixture will automatically incur a club fine of €75 per fixture and could incur expulsion of the team from ALL competitions in the League for that season. Following one walkover by a team in a club, subsequent walkovers by any team in that club will incur an automatic fine of €75. Clubs that have given two walkovers in a season, and clubs that have given a walkover that has resulted in such walkover awarding an advantage in the placing of League or Cup Competition must pay a bond of €200 before participating the next season. This bond will be separate to walkover fines, it will be forfeited if club give a walkover in the season and refunded if the club go through the season without giving a walk-over. A walkover means not fulfilling a fixture or not completing a match without the permission of the referee.

CLUBS WITHDRAWING OR BEING EXPELLED

45. In the event of a team withdrawing or being expelled from the "League", if the team has played 50% or more of their matches the results remain and the remaining fixtures are put down as 3-0. If the team has played less than 50% of their matches, the results are then void.
46. In the case of a team disbanding during the season the Player registrations shall come under the direction of the "FAI".

FIXTURES.

47. Wednesday is the designated night for Women's Football. All clubs should expect a game each week with the possibility of a fixture on Monday, if required The Committee reserves the right to appoint fixtures where necessary. Cup Finals are subject to pitch availability by the M.F.A. for Turners Cross or an alternative venue.
48. In the Schoolgirls League the home team must notify the Fixture Secretary and the visiting team of the time of their weekend game by 3pm on Tuesday prior to the game, failure to do so will result in €20 fine.
49. No club shall have the power to break, postpone or re-fix a fixture, for any reason whatsoever, without the prior consent of the Fixture Secretary. All requests for fixture changes must come from Club Secretary to League Secretary. If a game is to be cancelled due to pitch unplayable or unavailable it must first be offered to the opposing team, with time agreed by both teams, if the fixture has not already been played. In the event of a game being cancelled the home team must first sanction this with the Fixture Secretary, the home team must also contact the referee and the visiting team at least two hours before official kick off.

POSTPONEMENTS

50. A club are entitled to have their game postponed if they have two or more players or a goalkeeper on International Duty or Munster Schools, ie playing with the Irish or Munster Schools team. Trials and Training are not included. Only applies to teams in their own grade.

COMPETITIONS

51. The committee will decide on Competition Rules and circulate to delegates at least 5 days prior to entry deadline. Once the rules are set they cannot be changed for that season, unless in agreement with the majority of clubs of the relevant ages it concerns.

CUP COMPETITIONS

52. In the event that the pitch of the home team in a Cup Competition is deemed unplayable or unavailable, the home team must find an alternative venue, which is acceptable to the Committee, failing this the game must be offered to the opposition. In all cases if a match is postponed due to an unplayable or unavailable pitch, the re-fixed match shall be played at the opponent's ground.
53. (a) Prior to the semi-final stage of all Cup Competitions, Promotion or Relegation Finals, all players must have played a minimum of two league games for that team. The only exception is if the player was registered and played with the club the previous season and returns for a genuine reason. In such an event the club must apply for permission to the League in writing and it must be sanctioned by the League in order for the player to play. No player will play for more than one club in any of the Cup Competitions during one season.
(b) A club can only enter a team in a CWSSL Cup competitions who are also participating in the current's season CWSSL league competitions

TROPHIES

54. All "League" and Cup/Trophies are to be returned to the designated Trophy Centre or Committee member. by the winning team, properly inscribed from the previous year and cleaned, not later than 31st March for schoolgirls and 30th June for Seniors. Should a club return a Cup/Trophy in a bad state of repair all costs will be paid for by that club. Any club that loses a Cup/Trophy shall pay for it to be replaced.

MATCHES

55. Matches must commence on time. Clubs failing to report within 15 minutes of kick-off shall be deemed to have given a walkover subject to investigation by the Committee.
56. Substitutions are permitted in all games under "League" jurisdiction. Under 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Level roll on roll off subs are permitted. U11-25 mins per half, U12/U13- 30 mins per half, U14/U15 -35 mins per half, U16/U17 40 Mins per half. U19/20/Senior- 45 mins per half.
57. Size of Football U10/11- Size 5 (320gms) U12/U13/U14- Size 5 (370gms) U15/U16- Size 5 (450gms), U17 to Senior- Size 5. All clubs to have two good match balls on match day.
58. A female over 18, must be present with underage teams for match days

TEAM COLOURS

59. Each club, in the "League" shall register it colours and alternative colours, including socks with their application form. Where there is a clash of colours, the home team will change. Jerseys must be numbered.
60. Players wearing body warmers/skins must ensure they are the same colours as jersey/shorts. Players using tape must ensure it is same colour as socks. Players are not allowed wear jewellery.

MATCH CARDS/REFEREES

61. Referees shall be members of the Irish Soccer Referees Society. The home team shall be liable for the referee's fees.
62. The referee's card must be filled in fully, clearly and accurately before the start of the game and signed by the team official who is over 18 years of age; they shall accept full responsibility for any irregularities. All players named on the referee's card must be present at the match and properly registered and eligible players.

RESULTS OF MATCHES

63. Results must be reported to the P.R.O. and Fixture Secretary and relevant numbers issued in the competition rules for that season immediately after the game by both teams. Failure to submit in results will incur a fine of €20 per incidence.