



CONNACHT

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATION

RULE

BOOK

CONNACHT F.A. RULES

Constitution and Rules

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DISCIPLINARY CODE CONNACHT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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CONNACHT CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. Title:

The Connacht Football Association (Cumann Peile Sacair Chonnachta) Limited is a Company Limited by guarantee and not having a share Capital. The Association shall be known as the Connacht Football Association in the English Language and shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland

2. Objectives and Principles of the Association

The Association shall exercise control over all aspects of Association football in the Province of Connacht in accordance with the Football Association of Ireland guidelines

3. Offices:

The Offices of the Association shall be that of the current General Secretary

4. Rules Interpretation:

The Association shall be governed by these rules and also the memorandum and articles of the Association .However, where there is a conflict of interpretation in connection with day-to-day administration of the Association then these rules shall take precedence.

4a Rulebook

Rulebooks of the Association shall be available from the principal office of the Association at a reasonable commercial price to be set from time to time by that office or on the Associations Website free of charge

5. Definitions :

- a. The definition of “Association” shall mean the Connacht Football Association
- b. The Definition of “Leagues” shall mean “All affiliated Leagues “These Leagues shall control all domestic competitions in their own area subject to the approval of this Association
- c. The Definition of “General Secretary” shall mean the current General Secretary of this Association
- d. The definition “Treasurer” shall mean the current Treasurer of this Association
- e. The definition “Council shall mean the current Management Committee of the Association
- f. The definition of “days” shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

6. Membership

All Clubs playing under Association Football Rules, and approved by the League in which the Club

Normally competes shall be eligible for membership, provided it fulfils all its obligations regarding these rules. The Affiliation fees shall be decided upon at the first meeting of Council of this Association in each Season. Each League Secretary must forward to the General Secretary by the 1st of September in each year, details of all clubs affiliated to that League for the current Season which shall include :

- (a) Name and address, email, and Telephone numbers of the Secretary
- (b) Ground location, stating whether private or public
- (c) Club Colours home and away

7. Control:

The Management of the Association shall be vested in the Council who may exercise all such powers according to the rules of the Association.

8 Structure of Council:

The structure of Council shall be made up as follows:

- (a) Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer
- (b) One Delegate from each Affiliated Junior League
- (c) One Delegate from Each Affiliated Youth/Underage League
- (d) One Delegate from each Committee
- (e) One representative from the Connacht Branch of the Irish Soccer Referees
- (f) The PRO of the Association

Each delegate/representative shall have one vote per person

The names of the various delegates shall be notified to the General Secretary not later than the 31st May in each year. (Leagues may nominate a Substitute delegate whose name whose name shall also be submitted to the Secretary as per above)

The General Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of Council with full voting rights.

9 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association, which shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice/Chairperson, the Council and One representative from each Club in membership, shall be held not later than the 30th June each Year. Twenty One Days notice shall be given of such meetings by post or electronic mail by the General Secretary of the Association. The venue for the next Annual General shall be decided each Year at the Annual General Meeting

The Accounting Year will be 1st January to 31st December in each year. Each Club shall be entitled to send two delegates to the meeting but shall only be entitled to One Vote.

The business of that meeting shall be to consider:

- (a) General Secretary's Report
- (b) Chairperson's Report
- (c) Treasurers Report
- (d) Matters Appearing on the Agenda
- (e) Election of Treasurer
- (f) Any Other Business

10 Treasurer:

Nominations for the position of Treasure must be forwarded in writing to the General Secretary by the 31st March prior to the Annual General Meeting. Outgoing need not be nominated. Where the Treasurer is standing down from the post at the Annual General Meeting, adequate notice shall be given to the Council to enable all Leagues to have nominations submitted in accordance with this rule.

11. Eligibility to attend Annual General Meeting

Any Club which has not fulfilled its financial obligations to either this Association or its own League or is currently under Suspension shall not be entitled to be represented at this meeting.

12 Election of Chairperson and Vice/Chairperson

At the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting, in each year, they shall elect from numbers a Chairperson and Vice chairperson. Such persons must have been member of Council or of one of the active Committees for the 3 previous years. No person shall be eligible for election to these offices unless not later than 31st March in Year they have sent by registered post to the General Secretary a nomination in writing signifying their candidature for such office. The nomination shall be signed by the candidate by a proposer and seconder who shall be members of the Association. The office of Chairperson and Vice/Chairperson shall be a three year Term.

During his/her term of Office as Chairperson the organization which he or she represent on Council shall be entitled to nominate a substitute to act in the Chairpersons place on Council. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote only at Council Meetings and not an original vote.

During the Season should a vacancy occur in these offices or in the office of the Treasurer the Council shall have the power to fill the vacancy.

The Council shall also elect delegates, in accordance with the Rules of the FAI to represent the Association at the Football Association of Ireland .The nominated delegates must be either members of the Council or of one of the active Committees. The positions of FAI Senior Council shall rotate between the four areas in conjunction with the term of chairman and vice/chairman. The positions on the FAI Junior Council shall rotate between the Four Leagues in conjunction with the term of Chairman and Vice/Chairman

The executive Committee shall have the power to deal with matters that need urgent attention between council meetings. The Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary, and Treasurer. All business conducted at these meetings shall be presented to the next Council meeting for approval.

13 Powers of Council

The Council shall have the power to deal, as they think fit, with any members of the Connacht Football Association any League, League Official, Club, Club Official member or players of a Club who is found guilty of misconduct or in breach of these rules. The Council shall have the power to suspend, fine or expel League officials, Club officials, members or players of a Club.

A disciplinary Control Unit (DCU) will be elected by Council which will decide on all matters pertaining to Referees reports on matches organised and arranged by the Association the decisions will be based upon the Associations players, discipline and Club discipline codes as set out in these rules. The DCU shall comprise of the General Secretary the Vice/Chairman. The Chairman of the Underage Committee and the Chairman of the Junior Committee

14 Appointment of Sub Committees:

The Council may appoint any number of Committees as they deem necessary. Any such Committee shall forward reports of meetings to Council.

- 15 Payment of Expenses**
Members of Council or Committees shall be allowed such expenses which have been properly incurred in the performance of their duties. Allowances and travelling expenses shall be decided upon at the first meeting of Council in the current year.
- 16 Attendance at Council Meetings**
Any member of Council absenting himself from three consecutive meetings of Council, without satisfactory explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned.
- 17 Keeping of Minutes**
All Leagues and Clubs shall keep proper minutes of their meetings. The Council shall have the power to order Leagues and Clubs to produce their minutes and other documents when required.
- 18 Keeping of proper books and records**
All Leagues and Clubs must keep proper records of all Monies received and expended and produce Annual Accounts. The Council shall have the power to order Leagues and Clubs to produce these accounts and records when required.
- 19 Availability of Grounds to the Association**
All Leagues and Clubs shall put their grounds at the disposal of the Association when required. Fees will be decided upon by Council annually for this arrangement.
- 20 Change of League Secretaries**
Any League changing its Secretary must inform the General Secretary immediately together with the name, address, e-mail address, and Telephone number of the new appointee.
- 21 End of Season competitions or Leaving Jurisdiction**
Any League or Club seeking to run an end of Season Competition or to leave the jurisdiction of this Association must seek permission to do so from the Association and the respective National body.
- 22 Seeking Legal advice**
The Association may seek legal advice when required.
- 23 Trustees of Cups etc**
The Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer shall for the time being, for all intents and purposes be owners of all Cups Trophies, monies and property of the Association and shall Deal with the same according to the directions of the Council.
- 24 Updating of Rules:**
The Council shall appoint a Rules Review Committee which will review this rule book annually and propose whatever changes it deems necessary (in line with FAI rules) prior to the AGM each year.
- 25 Procedures in absence of rules**
Any rules not specifically outlined in the foregoing shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Football Association of Ireland.

26 Notice of Leagues' Annual General Meeting

All Leagues must notify the Association Secretary within (14) days of their AGM of their start of Season.

27 Club Transfers:

A Club desiring to transfer to another League at the commencement of the Season must obtain a transfer on the Official Connacht Football Association Club Transfer form (Available from the Connacht Football Association Offices). The current League must sign the release form first. The League to which the Club is making application to join must then sign the form as acceptance of the Club. The completed form must then be submitted to the Connacht Football Association for ratification within 14 days of the release and acceptance date. Such transfer request must be made in accordance with FAI rules and transfers

Clubs shall not be unreasonably refused such a release and they shall furthermore, have the right of Appeal to the Connacht Football Association and then, if they so wish, to the Football Association of Ireland in accordance with the rules of that Association.

The new League must satisfy itself that all new applications to join its League are from genuine new Clubs and are not from a group of persons associated with another Club in an affiliated League during the present or previous seasons who might be submitting an application under a new name of convenience to avoid the previous Clubs Financial obligations or sanctions or differences with their previous League.

Any League that allows a Club to join their League without adhering to this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action

28 Playing Season:

The Associations season shall be from the 1st August to the 30th June in each Season for the winter season and from the 1st March to 30th November for the Summer Season.

29 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Council as it may deem necessary. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall also be called upon receipt by the General Secretary of a requisition signed by at least 4 Clubs accompanied by a deposit of 1,000.00 Euro to defray expenses incurred, balance, if any to be refunded. Notification to be sent by post to each Club at least 21 days before the holding of the extraordinary General meeting. No other business shall be transacted except that stated on the requisition.

30 Honorary President

The Council may appoint an Honorary President at its opening meeting each season on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Honorary President shall be entitled to attend the annual general meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.

31 General Secretary

- a. The Council shall have the Power and authority to appoint a General Secretary who shall be a paid official in accordance with FAI funding.
- b. The General Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the council in the mode prescribed by them and present a report of the work at Annual General meeting
- c. The Council shall have the power to remove the General Secretary by a 2/3rds majority vote of those present and voting on a motion submitted 21 days in advance of a meeting of the Council and signed by Two thirds of the Council members.

- d. The Chairperson shall meet with the General Secretary on a regular basis to be kept updated on continuing activities within the Association

32 Appeals Committee (comprising of 3 Members):

Three members of the Connacht Council shall be appointed by the General Secretary to process appeals.

33 Underage Committee:

1. Title: The committee shall be called the Underage Committee of the Connacht Football Association

2. Control: The Underage Committee shall be under the control of the Council of the Connacht Football Association.

3. Honorary Officers: The underage Committee Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer and the General Secretary. Then Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson at its first meeting

4. Executive Committee: The executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, General Secretary, and one member from each League affiliated to the Connacht Football Association plus one member from each of the Schoolboys Leagues. Substitutes are allowed attend provided notification is given to the General Secretary before the meeting. The nominated substitute shall be a member of the Executive Committee in the League which he represents and have decision making powers the quorum shall be one third plus one which must include one officer of the Association. A detailed report of the proceedings shall be submitted to each Council meeting. The entire management of Underage affairs shall be conducted by its members, but all matters relating to financial expenditure must be submitted to and sanctioned by the Council of the Association

5 Casual Vacancies: The Committee may fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the position of the chairperson. In the case of death or resignation of a member of the Committee the constituent body concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement to act in his/her place

6 Attendance at Meetings: Any League member not attending three successive meetings without giving a satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member

7 Power to deal with breaches: The underage Committee shall have jurisdiction in all Underage matters connected with the game in the Province of Connacht. The Committee shall have the power as they think fit with any youth team or Club in membership of the Association in their officer's members and players thereof guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules or in any way acting prejudicial to the interest of the Association

8 Rules: Rules of the Connacht Football Association (where appropriate including disciplinary code to apply. Rules of the SFAI (where appropriate) including the Disciplinary code to apply to all matters relating to schoolboys affairs. The Committee shall have the power to decide on any matter not covered by these rules.

34 Senior Committee:

1 Title –This Committee shall be called the Senior Committee of the Connacht Football Association

2. Control - The Senior Committee shall be under the control; of the Council of the Connacht Football Association

3. Honorary Officers-The Senior Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson at its first meeting.

4. Executive Committee –The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary, and two members from the Connacht Senior League and one member from the League of Ireland Clubs, substitutes are allowed to attend provided notification is given to the General Secretary before the meeting. The nominated substitute shall be a

Member of the group for whom they are substituting. The quorum shall be One third plus one which must include at least one Officer of the Association. A detailed report of the proceedings shall be submitted to each Council meeting. The entire management of Senior and Intermediate affairs shall be conducted by its members, but all matters relating to financial expenditure must be submitted to and sanctioned by the Council of the Association

5. Casual vacancies – The Committee may fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the position of the chairperson. In the case of Death or resignation of a member of the Committee the constituent body concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement to act in his/her place.

6. Attendance At Meetings – Any member not attending three successive meetings without giving a satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member of the Committee

7. Power to deal with breaches; the senior committee shall have jurisdiction in all matters connected with the Senior and Intermediate game in the province of Connacht. The Committee shall have the power to deal as think fit with any Senior or Intermediate Team or Club in membership of the Association, their officers, members and players thereof guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules or in any way acting prejudicial to the interest of the Association

8. Rules- Rules of the Connacht Football Association (where appropriate) including the Disciplinary code to apply. The Committee shall have the power to decide on any matter not covered by these rules

35 **Junior Committee**

1. Title –This Committee shall be called the Junior Committee of the Connacht Football Association

2. Control –The Junior Committee shall be under the control of the Council of the Connacht Football Association

3. Honorary Officers – The Junior Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson at its first meeting

4. Executive Committee – The executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary, and Two members from each of the Junior Leagues. Substitutes are allowed attend provided notification is given to the General Secretary before the meeting. The nominated substitute shall be a member of the group for whom they are substituting. The quorum shall be One third plus one which must include at least one Officer of the Association. A detailed report of the proceedings shall be submitted to each Council meeting. The entire management of junior affairs shall be conducted by its members but all matters relating to financial expenditure must be submitted by the Council to the Association

5. Casual Vacancies – The Committee may fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the position of the Chairperson. In the case of Death or resignation of a member of the Committee the constituent body concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement to act in his/her place.

6. Attendance at meetings –Any member not attending three successive meeting without giving a satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member of the Committee

7. Power to deal with Breaches-The Junior Committee shall have jurisdiction in all matters connected with the junior game in the province of Connacht. The Committee shall have the power to deal as they think fit with any Junior team or Club in membership of the Association, their officers, members and players thereof guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules or in any way acting prejudicial to the interest of the Association.

8. Rules - Rules of the Connacht Football Association (Where appropriate) including the Disciplinary code to apply. The Committee shall have the power to decide on any matter not covered by these rules.

36

Ladies Committee

- 1. Title-** This committee shall be called the Ladies Committee of the Connacht Football Association.
- 2. Control** – The Ladies Committee shall be under the control of the Council of the Connacht Football Association.
- 3. Honorary Officers** –The Ladies Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson at its first meeting
- 4. Executive Committee** –The executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary and Two members from each of the Ladies Leagues. Substitutes are allowed attend provided notification is given to the General Secretary before the meeting. The nominated substitute shall be a member of the Group for whom they are substituting. The quorum shall be one-third plus one which must include at least one officer of the Association. A detailed report of the proceedings shall be submitted to each council meeting. The entire Management of Ladies affairs shall be conducted by its members , but all matters r elating to financial expenditure must be submitted to and sanctioned by the council of the Association
- 5. Casual Vacancies** _ The Committee may fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the position of the Chairperson. In the case of Death or resignation of a member of the Committee the constituent body concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement to act in his/her place,
- 6. Attendance at Meetings** _Any member not attending Three successive meetings without giving a satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member of the Committee
- 7. Power to deal with Breaches** –The Ladies Committee shall have jurisdiction in all matters connected with the Ladies game in the province of Connacht.. The Committee shall have the power to deal as they think fit with any Ladies team or Club in membership of the Association, their officers, members and players thereof guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules or in any way acting prejudicial to the interest of the Association
- 8. Rules** _Rules of the Connacht Football Association (where appropriate) including the disciplinary code to apply the committee shall have the power to decide on any matter not cover in these rules.

37

Schools, Colleges and Universities Committee

- 1 Title-** This Committee shall be called the Schools/Colleges and Universities Committee of the Connacht Football Association.
- 2. Control** – The Schools Colleges and Universities Committees shall be under the control of the Connacht Football Association.
- 3. Honorary Officers-** The Schools, Colleges and Universities Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson at its first meeting.

4. Executive Committee The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, General Secretary, and Two members from each of the Schools, Colleges, and Universities Leagues. Substitutes are allowed to attend provided notification is given to the general Secretary before the meeting the nominated substitute shall be a member of the group for whom they are substituting. The quorum shall be one-third plus one which must include one officer of the Association. A detailed report of the proceedings shall be submitted to each Council meeting. The entire management of Schools/Colleges and Universities affairs shall be conducted by its members but all matters relating to financial expenditure must be Submitted and sanctioned by the Council of the Association.

5 Casual Vacancies: The Committee may fill a Casual vacancy that may occur in the position of Chairperson. In the case of Death or resignation of a member of the Committee the constituent body concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement to act in his/her place.

6. Attendance at Meeting: Any member not attending three successive meetings without giving a satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

7. Power to deal with breaches: The Schools Colleges and Universities Committee shall have jurisdiction in all matters connected with Schools/Colleges and Universities game in the province of Connacht. The Committee shall have the power to deal as they think fit with any Schools Colleges or Universities with any team or club in membership of the Association, their officers, members and players thereof guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules or in any way acting prejudicial to the interest of the Association.

8. Rules. Rules of the Connacht Football Association (where appropriate) including the disciplinary code to apply, The Committee shall have the power to decide on any matter not covered by these rules.

CONNACHT JUNIOR CUP & SHIELD RULES

1. Name of Competition.

The Competition shall be called the Connacht Cup & Connacht Shield and are the property of the Connacht Football Association

2 Open To

The Competition shall be annual, and shall be open to all bona fide junior clubs playing under the Jurisdiction of the Association. Clubs not competing in affiliated Leagues may be allowed to enter subject to the approval of the Association
"B" Teams may be allowed to enter at discretion of the Junior Committee

3 Definition of Junior Club

Junior Clubs shall be those competing in any League other than the Football League of Ireland (**Any Section**) Leinster Senior League, Division one Munster Senior League Division One Ulster Senior League and Leagues of a similar or higher status

4 Definition of Junior Player

A Junior Player is one who is competing with a Junior Club, as defined in rule 2 With the following exceptions

- (a) A player who has ever received Senior International Honours (amateur Honours excepted)
- (b) Any player who has played in the Football Association of Ireland Senior, under 19, Intermediate Cups, and Divisional Associations Senior Cups during the current Season
- (c) A player who has ever played more than 13 (thirteen) games in Football League of Ireland Competitions or in a League of a similar status in other Association, unless he has been re-instated for his Club by his League
- (d) A player who, during the current Season, has played more than five games in the Football League of Ireland (any section) .Leinster Senior League Division One, MUNSTER Senior League Division One, Ulster Senior League or a League of a similar or higher status
- (e) Any player who has not played in the preceding four years in the exempted Leagues is eligible to compete in the Associations as a Junior Player

5 Doubt as to qualification

Should there be any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in these competitions, the Association shall have the power to call upon such player, or Club to whom he belongs, to prove he is qualified according to the rules failing satisfactory proof, the Association may disqualify such player and remove the Club from the Competition and or impose any other penalty as they think fit

6 Suspended Players

Any player playing in Leagues or similar or higher status, who is suspended for any reason within these Leagues shall also for the duration of that suspension remain suspended from all aspects of Football within the jurisdiction of this Association

7 Players Limited to one Team/ Club per Season

No player may play for more than one Team or Club during any one Season in these competitions

8 Participation Requirements

Clubs wishing to participate in the competitions must forward to their area League Secretary Entry fees as laid down by the Association on or before 1st September each Season together with the following information

- (a) Location of ground
- (b) Club colours
- (c) Whether ground is public or private

Any Club changing their Secretary must notify immediately the General Secretary of this Association in writing. Clubs not complying with this rule in full may not be allowed compete in the competitions

Area Secretaries must forward details as described above to the general secretary of this Association on or before the 1st September in each Season

9 Number of players per Team and Substitutes

The competing teams shall number eleven players, each bona fide members, and shall be entitled to use their discretion of three substitutes, from five named at any time during the course of the game with the Referees consent. A player ordered off the field of play by the Referee may not be substituted during the game or during extra time or during the FIFA rules regarding penalties

10 Players Registration Regulations

All players wishing to compete in this competition must bona fide registered players of their Club at least one clear Calendar day prior to the Match. Acceptance of registration shall be the same as that which applies in each League area in which the Club normally competes, except for the time element. Only players properly signed and registered with the club and their League on or before the 31st January are eligible to play in the Association Competition in any Season

11 Team Colours and Home Club Responsibilities

Clubs competing in these competitions must wear their registered colours and jerseys must be number 1—18 Where colours clash, the home team must change

The Club shall be responsible for the following

- a. ensuring that the playing pitch is marked up to the required standards as defined in the “Laws of the Game
- b. Provide Two playable footballs in accordance with the Laws of the game
- c. Payment of Referee’s fees and expenses
- d. Spectator control
- e. Any other matters as defined in the Association’s Club discipline code

12 Referees Card

Clubs must fill in the Referees card prior to the commencement of the game and must print the player's first name and surname on the card and an official of the Club must sign it

13 Area Division

The competitions may be divided into such area or sections as deemed necessary or appropriate by the Association

14 Drawing of Matches

The names of the clubs entered for the Competitions shall be placed in one lot or in lots as the council may determine and shall be drawn and played in pairs. The Council may decide to play a qualifying round or rounds in any area or areas as necessary. The club drawn first shall have choice of ground

The Council may draw a subsequent round or rounds before the winners of the previous round have been declared

No club shall receive more than one bye in the Competitions in any one season

Teams competing in the highest division in each League shall not enter the competition until the draw for the last 64

15 Starting time of Games

All games must be started at the appointed time but no protest will be upheld for late starting unless the Council is satisfied the result of the game was thereby affected.

16 Pitch Availability

In the event of a Club losing its ground for any particular reason that Club may nominate another ground and inform their opponents and the Secretary of the Association. Should a Club fail to secure another ground on the day, then that club must play on their opponents ground the following weekend unless otherwise agreed by the General Secretary of The Association and the area League Secretary.

Wherefore any reason a game does not take place, the home team will forfeit home advantage and play the following Sunday on their opponents ground unless otherwise by the General Secretary of the Association and the area League Secretary.

17 Inspection of Players Registrations

Any Club competing in the Competitions shall be entitled to inspect the registration of their opponents, and all area League Secretaries shall give full co operation in this respect.

18 Duration of Games

The duration of all games shall be 90 minutes plus 10 minutes extra time each way in the event of the teams being tied at the end of 90 minutes. If the teams are still tied after the extra time the F.I.F.A rules regarding penalties shall prevail to determine the winner.

19 Priority of competition

All Leagues shall receive a copy of all draws or the competitions and must make the necessary arrangements as directed by the Association for all ties to be played on the dates specified. The Competition shall take precedence over all domestic competitions. Clubs cannot change venue dates or times, In the event of exceptional circumstances where a tie must be changed the onus shall rest on the Club seeking the change to contact the opposing club, area League Secretary, General Secretary of the Association and the appointed referee. The Association are the only body that may grant a change postponement or otherwise in consultation with the area League Secretary.

20 Refusing or failing to fulfil fixture

Clubs refusing or failing to play a fixture or intending to scratch from the Competition(s) must notify in writing all parties concerned. The Club shall be removed from the Competitions (s) and may be liable to further disciplinary action by the Association, who shall have the power to debar such clubs from competing in the competition the following season or seasons, clubs may also be compelled to pay such expenses incurred by the other travelling teams or referees.

21 Responsibility for payment of Match Officials

The Association shall not be responsible for Clubs or Referees expenses relating to these Competitions with the exception of the Final

22 Unplayable Grounds

Where a ground has been declared unplayable or unfit to play upon for any reason the match will be re-fixed for the travelling teams ground .(In all cases where a Referee has travelled to an unplayable or unfit ground he is entitled to half match fee and expenses.

The home ground for any team for these competitions will be regarded as that as registered with the Association or any ground in their local League.

23 Abandoned games

In the case of an abandoned game or where the game has not actually commenced the Association shall decide on the matter which is final and binding.

If the game is abandoned due to bad light or that extra time is not played due to bad weather, and 75 minutes has been played the result shall stand at the discretion of the Council

24 Appointment of Officials for Semi finals and Finals

The Referee and assistants for Semi Finals and Finals shall be chosen by the Association and shall not be from the same area from which competing teams are from with the exception of the two teams being from the same area.

- 25 Cost of Match Officials fees**
The Referee's and /or assistants fees for all games shall be those that are in existence for the current season as agreed upon by the Football Association of Ireland Referees Committee and executive committee of the Irish Soccer Referees Society
- 26 Non-availability of appointed math officials**
In the event of the appointed Referee not turning up for a game, the local area League Secretary shall appoint a replacement, where late replacement is not possible then the competing teams must play the following weekend at the same venue
- 27 Protests and Appeals**
Any protest or appeal in connection with these competitions shall be in accordance with the rules of this Association
- 28 Failure to play fixed Match**
Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the Association, and without sufficient reason for so doing shall be adjudged to have lost the Match and otherwise dealt with as the Association may determine.
- 29 Unsporting behaviour at grounds**
Where it can be proven that the partisans of the Club which has the choice of ground systematically interfere with the play of the opposing team by using improper language or inciting home players to use violence to their opponents on the application of the club which played against the said club the Association shall have the power to take whatever action it deems necessary which may include re-fixing the game for a neutral ground ,awarding the game to the opponents or fine of remove the guilty club
- 30 Distribution of gate receipts**
In all ties, with the exception of the final the home club will hold the gate receipts
In the final the division after deductions of all expenses will be one half to the Association and one quarter to each of the opposing Clubs
- 31 Fixing of grounds for Finals**
Grounds for the Final shall be at all times the best available ground in the area
The local league will recommend to the Association the venue for the Final held in their area.
- 32 Cups and Medals**
The club winning the competitions shall be presented with a cup or trophies as upon by the Association and must sign a document of receipt as laid down by the Association. The Association may present trophies or medals to the runners up trophies or medals will not exceed 18 Further trophies may be purchased on the request and expense of the club requesting them.

- 33 Responsibility for Cups**
The Club presented with the Cup or Shield shall be responsible for its return on or before the first day of March in the ensuing year, in good order and condition. Should the cup be damaged, lost or destroyed whilst under the care or in the custody of the Club, that Club shall refund to the Association the value of the Cup or the cost of thorough repair. If for whatever reason whatsoever the cup is not returned the Club shall, in addition to any other penalty, pay for the replacement of the cup
- 34 Awareness of Rules**
Clubs competing in this Competition shall be fully aware of the Rules on the Association and rules governing this Competition.
- Clubs competing in these Competitions shall have at least one Copy of these rules and shall be bound thereby.
- Clubs pleading ignorance of the rules will not be accepted.
- 35 Alteration of Rules**
The Council of the Association shall have the power to alter these rules but in no case shall they do so until after the final tie in any one-year has been completed.
- 36 Matters not covered in these Rules**
The Council of the Association shall have the power to deal with any matter not particularly covered in these rules.
- 37 Admission of Council Committee Members to Matches**
Any member of the Council or Junior Committee of the Association shall be entitled to free admission to any cup tie upon production of his or her membership card. Membership cards to be allocated to all Council & Committee members.
- 38 Legal Action**
No affiliated member of this Association may take legal action against the Association on any issue relating to the application of these rules.
- 39 Distribution of Cup final gate Receipts**
In all ties with the exception of the final, the gate receipts will be held by the home club. In the final the division is after deduction of the Referees fees and expenses and all other relevant expenses relating to the preparation of the match one half to the Connacht Football Association and one quarter each to the two finalists.

STANDING ORDERS

1. Meetings of the Council shall be held at the discretion of the Council. During the period between Council meetings the executive, who shall report to the ensuing Council Meeting shall conduct the business of Council 3 Leagues shall form a quorum of full Council
2. Affiliated League shall receive 4 days notice of meetings together with an agenda. Matters Not on the agenda will not be considered unless three quarter of the member present vote consenting to it
- 3 The Council shall elect its executive and sub committees at its first full council meeting after the Annual General meeting
4. The General Secretary shall present the minutes of the preceding meeting at all meetings of Council. The reports of the executive and sub committees shall be considered next. The General Secretary shall read any such correspondence as may be necessary. The business on the agenda shall be preceded within the order shown, but may be varied upon a request of a majority of the members present.
- 5 All questions shall be determined by a show of hands unless any one member demands a ballot
- 6 Members of Council shall mean- persons who have been selected by their Leagues or Clubs to represent such Leagues or Clubs, in accordance with rule 5 of the C.F.A. Constitution only nominated members of Leagues or Clubs or their nominated substitutes shall be entitled to be present or vote at meetings of Council
- 7 Any person wishing to speak shall address himself to the Chairman, and not to any other member. No other member may speak during this time except on a point of order
- 8 A detailed financial report shall be given to members of Council at every Council meeting
- 9 Council may designate the job of making the draws for cup competitions to the Executive or any sub committee
- 10 Duration of Council meetings shall not exceed two and one half hours an extension may Be granted on the proposal on two members present and passed by a simple majority
- 11 In all other matters, where practicable, the standing Orders of the Football Association of Ireland shall apply

DISCIPLINARY CODE
CONNACHT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY RULES

I; INTRODUCTION

- 1 : The rules set out in this section apply:
 - (a) To every match and competition under the Jurisdiction of the CFL
 - (b) If the rules of the CFL are violated

- 2 : The following are subject to these rules
 - (a) Participants
 - (b) Affiliates
 - (c) Club Officials
 - (d) Players
 - (e) Managers
 - (f) Spectators
 - (g) CFL Officials

- 3 Each Club is responsible for the actions of its players, managers, officials and spectators. Clubs are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators abusing threatening or assaulting match officials within the vicinity of the grounds

- 4 The Disciplinary Control Unit (DCU) shall deal with Disciplinary matters as follows
 - (a) On the basis of match reports
 - (b) If a complaint or protest is lodged
 - (c) Reported violations of CFL rules
 - (d) If in the opinion of the DRO the CFL Rules have been breached

- 5 The right is reserved to punish any infringement that has escaped the Match Officials attention

2; HEARINGS

- 1 All hearings shall be conducted in accordance with any protocols and procedures that may be adopted from time to time by the DCU
- 2 All attendees must sign an attendance form as requested. Any refusal to do so may result in the attendee being refused the right to attend the hearing at the discretion of DCU
- 3 The DRO and/or the DCU may request the attendance of any person at a hearing. Failure to comply with any reasonable request may result in disciplinary action if deemed appropriate in the circumstance
- 4 Referees may be requested to attend hearings to clarify their reports and are obliged to attend the hearing if requested by the DCU

3 APPEALS

All Clubs /Players have the right of Appeal the decision of the DCU

- 1 All appeals must be forwarded to the Connacht Football Association per registered Post bearing a postmark within 4 working days after the date of notification was received and must be accompanied by a fee (cheque /Bank draft) for 400Euro (subject to change)
- 2 An exact copy of such an Appeal must be forwarded simultaneously by registered post within the same period of time to the appealing Club/body
- 3 The letter of appeal must state clearly the ground on which the appeal is based
- 4 If the appeal is fully successful the fee shall be returned to the appealing Club/body
- 5 If the appeal is unsuccessful the fee shall be forfeited

6 No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following:

- A warning
- A reprimand
- A Match caution
- An automatic suspension
- A mandatory suspension

All appeals must be made by the Club Secretary

All disciplinary decisions will be sent to the Club Secretary

4 PROTESTS

- 1 All protests must be received by the General Secretary per registered post bearing a postmark within 4 working days after the cause of the protest and must be accompanied by a fee of 100 Euro (cheque) (or as determined by the CFA from Season to Season) which shall be refunded in the event of the protest being upheld, but shall be forfeited in the case of the protest being withdrawn or rejected
2. An exact copy of the protest must be sent simultaneously by registered post to the club protested against within the same time period
3. A period of 3 days after the receipt of the protest shall be afforded to the club protested against to lodge a counter protest in accordance with the same regulations as apply to the protest
- 4 Personal hearings may be requested and granted provided all expenses involved are paid for by the club concerned all such Clubs must attend at a time and place determined by the DCU
- 5 Any Club found to have ineligible players in a game shall be adjudged to have lost match and otherwise dealt with as the DCU shall determine
- 6 Clubs lodging protests deemed as frivolous shall be dealt with by the DCU

5 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

If after the 3 day protest period has elapsed and positive evidence becomes available that illegal or irregular players were used by any Club or team in Connacht Competitions, their opponents may request and investigation into the game The DCU however cannot deprive a Team of points or Trophies won unless they have established positive proof of illegalities

- 1 Requests for special investigations should be received by the General secretary by registered post within 5 working days of the occurrence and before another round of the same competition is played All evidence of claims for investigation must be enclosed with the application
- 2 An exact copy of the request and claim must be sent simultaneously to opponents
- 3 Requests for investigations must be accompanied by a cheque for 200Euro(subject to yearly review)
- 4 Failure to prove claims under investigation to the DCU may render the applicants liable for whatever costs that are involved
- 5 If such an application is deemed as frivolous the club concerned shall be subject to severe disciplinary action and will forfeit the fee
- 6 Clubs or teams against whom the complaint is made have 3 working days to reply by registered post from the time they receive the notification of the complaint lodged against them

6 APPEALS, PROTESTS, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS PROTOCOL

- 1 During the hearing of appeals, protests or special investigations of any kind, members of the CFA who have associations with Leagues concerned shall not vote or take part in the discussions in any way
- 2 During the hearing of Appeals protests or investigations of any kind members who have already adjudicated or been directly concerned or associated with the appeal, protest or investigation shall be Present or vote such persons may be called to give evidence
- 3 All members of the CFA shall deal with appeals protests or investigations with integrity and honour

7 COMPLAINTS AND OBJECTIONS

No objections relating to the dimensions of the ground goalposts nets footballs etc shall be entertained by the DCU unless a protest is lodged in writing with the match referee before the commencement of the game Where possible the Referee should try to have the objection put right before the commencement of the game If not an official protest must be made to the DCU if the protesting Club wish to proceed further

8 INDUCEMENT

Any Club/Team deemed guilty of inducing or attempting player/s from another club/s shall be liable to removal from the Association

9 DECISIONS OF THE CFA, EXECUTIVE OR DCU

All decisions of the aforesaid bodies are final and binding unless they are appealed to the FAI or unless a motion to rescind any particular decisions received understanding order rule 9 within 10 working days of receipt of notification. Any motion to rescind decisions must be sponsored and signed by at least TWO elected members of the CFA who have examined the reasons for same and are satisfied that to do so would be in the best interest of the game and justice. Any motion to rescind a decision must be submitted in writing and delivered by registered post before another round of the same competition has been played This notice must include all relevant reasons why the original decision should be altered. A simple majority vote will suffice to decide the issue. For the moving of such a motion the full CFA shall be entitled to attend and vote as the original decision shall be set aside until the motion to rescind is heard. Only one such motion may be moved on any item and no subsequent motion shall be entertained any motion to rescind will not be entertained if the original decision resulted in a subsequent occurrence thereafter. The CFA Chairperson reserves the right to refuse the admission of any application

10 MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS

1 including the automatic suspension incurred the overall suspension imposed on any player receiving a direct red card shall be for

- A A minimum of one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal scoring opportunity
- B A minimum of one match for unsporting conduct
- C A minimum of two matches for foul and abusive language or gestures
- D A minimum of two matches for serious foul play
- E A minimum of three matches for assaulting, violent conduct (deliberately pushing, pulling, striking, butting elbowing punching kicking etc) a person other than a match official
- F A minimum of six matches for assaulting spitting at an opponent other than a match official
- G A minimum of twelve months for assaulting violent conduct (deliberately pushing pulling spitting striking butting elbowing punching kicking etc) a match official

2 A fine may also be imposed in all cases

3 A player whom the Referee has reported for committing an assault on a match official before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed

4 Where a player has been found to have assaulted a Match Official and the DCU fail to impose the minimum sanction provided for in the rules the match official shall be entitled to appeal the decision in accordance with the relevant rules

5 Where a player has been reported for an assault on a match official and the DCU found that no assault took place the match official shall be entitled to appeal the decision in accordance with the relevant rule of appeal

- 6 All suspensions imposed relating to assaults on match officials must be notified immediately to the DCU of the FAI

11 MISCONDUCT BY OFFICIALS

- 1 The overall suspension imposed on any official shall be for
- A A minimum of one match for unsporting conduct
 - B A minimum of two matches for foul and abusive language or gestures
 - C A minimum of three matches for assaulting (as above)
 - D A minimum of three matches for assaulting by spitting at an opponent or person other Than a match official
 - E A minimum of twelve months for assaulting (as above)
- 2 An official who has been reported for committing an assault on a match official before, During or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary Process has been completed
- 3 A fine may also be imposed in all cases
- 4 An official whom the referee has reported for committing an assault on a match official before during Or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has Been completed
- 5 Where an official has been found to have assaulted a Match Official and the DCU has failed to impose The minimum sanction provided for in the rules, the match official shall be entitled to appeal the Decision in accordance with the relevant rules
- 6 Where an official has been reported for an assault on a match official and the DCU found that no Assault took place the match official shall be entitled to appeal this decision in accordance with the Relevant rules of appeal.
- 7 All suspensions imposed relating to assaults on match officials must be notified immediately to the DCU of the FAI

12 BRAWL/FIGHTING

Involvement in brawling/fighting is sanction with a minimum suspension of six matches

13 UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS

If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator/s of an offence the club to which the aggressors Belong may be sanctioned

14 TEAM MISCONDUCT

The following constitute misconduct by a team and shall be sanctioned

- A When at least five players are cautioned or sent from the field of play in one match
- B When at least three players are sent off during one match
- C When several; players together make threats or show force against a Match Official

15 INELIGIBILITY

- 1 If a player takes part in an official or friendly match despite being ineligible his team shall be Sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a fine

2 A sanction may also be imposed on any manager or person in charge of the team if they knew
Or ought to have known to the ineligibility

3 Unregistered players or suspended players are deemed ineligible

16 FAILURE TO PLAY

1 If a team refuses to play or refused to continue playing a match which has begun shall be sanctioned
With a fine and forfeit the match

2 In serious cases the team shall also be disqualified from the competition in progress and may be
Disqualified from future competitions

3 Any player who having been selected for his county team and who without good and sufficient cause
Refuses to comply with the arrangements for the playing of the match or fails to play in such a match
May be adjudged to be guilty of misconduct and such a player or club which may be deemed to have
Encouraged such player to such misconduct may be dealt with by the DCU

17 ABANDONMENT

1 In the case of an abandoned game or a game which has not actually finished, after examining the
The Referees report the DCU shall decide on the matter witnesses may be called to give evidence
If required

2 If a match is abandoned due to bad light or that extra time is not played on account of this or on
Account of weather conditions the match shall be refixed at the same venue again

3 The DCU shall examine all abandoned games individually and in cases where it is to the advantage
Of the competition and does no injustice to any of the Clubs, the DCU shall be empowered to order
The score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the final result

4 In all cases where the DCU are satisfied that a game has been abandoned owing to the conduct of any
Of any Team club members or supporters they shall have the power to award the points or tie to the
Opposing team and take whatever disciplinary action deemed necessary including removal
Of the offending team from the Competition

5 In cases where a game is abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams the DCU shall take
Such action as they deem necessary

18 WITHDRAWALS

Any Club or team that withdraws from the Association shall be deemed guilty of
misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute such clubs/teams involved shall stand
suspended for the duration of the Season Officers, Officials or players of the Club/team
involved may be suspended from football for a period of up to Two years. Where any
withdrawal or full suspension of a club occurs the remaining teams in that division will be
awarded the points for both games except where any of the remaining teams has already
failed to fulfil a fixture against the withdrawn or suspended team. In such cases the points
of the unfulfilled games will be cancelled out and lost completely and cannot be restored
receipt of clubs membership and League entry form by the Association shall be deemed
as the clubs commitment to fulfil all obligations to the Association for that Season. Failure
to comply with above will be dealt with severely by the DCU

19 SPORTSMANSHIP

Each club must field its strongest team in all competitions and by doing so strive to win all games in the spirit of the game and in accordance with rules of the game. Failure to comply with this shall lead to an investigation by the DCU which may result in severe disciplinary action

20 RACISM

- 1 Any participant who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a derogatory manner on account of race, colour, religion or ethnic origin or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous act shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. The DCU shall consider and have the power to impose a suspension fine or sanction deemed appropriate. In the case of individuals the minimum suspension shall be for a period of five matches
- 2 If spectators engage in racist behaviour including chanting or displaying racist slogans at a match the DCU shall sanction the Club which these spectators support. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or other clubs the host club may be sanctioned

21 BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

- 1 Any person who has brought the game of football into disrepute or the CFA into disrepute by any means written, verbal, by action or otherwise shall be sanctioned with a suspension and/or fine and/or ban on performing any football related activities or other sanction deemed appropriate
- 2 Any Club or team that withdraws totally from the League shall be deemed guilty of bringing the game into disrepute such clubs/teams shall stand suspended for the duration of the Season. Officers, Officials or players of the club or teams involved may be suspended from football of up to two years.
- 3 Where the withdrawal of a club/team is caused by circumstances beyond the physical control of those involved the DCU may deal sympathetically with it
4. Where any withdrawal of full suspension of a club/team in the League occurs the remaining teams in that division will be awarded the points for both games except where any of the remaining teams has already failed to fulfil a fixture against the withdrawn or suspended team. In such cases the points of the unfulfilled games will be cancelled and lost completely and cannot be restored

22. DISPARAGING COMMENTS

Public comments of the following nature may result in disciplinary sanction

- A Comments which are threatening and/or offensive in any way
- B Comments causing damage to the game and/or bringing the game into disrepute
- C Unsubstantiated allegations which question any person and/or bodies integrity and/or are disparaging in any way

23. FORGERY/FALSIFICATION

- 1 Anyone who in football related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive shall be sanctioned with a minimum of 6 matches

- 2 If the person is an official a sanction shall be imposed from taking any football related activities
For a minimum of twelve matches
- 3 A fine may also be imposed

24 CAUTIONS

- 1 A player receiving two cautions during the game shall incur an expulsion and an automatic one match Suspension.
- 2 The following incur a one match mandatory suspension
 - A. Four cautions received in on Season
 - B. Eight cautions received in one Season
- 3 The following receives a two match suspension
Twelve cautions received in one season
- 4 The following receives a three match suspension
Sixteen cautions received in one Season
- 5 If an abandoned match is to be replayed any caution issued is annulled if the game is not replayed
The cautions stand
- 6 If a player receives a Caution and is later red carded the caution stands
- 7 Cautions do not carry forward to new Season.

25; DISMISSALS

- 1 A player receiving a red card serves a one match automatic suspension which cannot be appealed
Unless a case of mistaken identity is proven any further sanctions will be issued by the DCU
- 2 The automatic suspensions to be served in the next match of the competition in which the player
Received the red card if the players team is no longer in that competition it is served in the next
Domestic competitive game
- 3 Suspensions must be served at the level at which the player is dismissed i.e. A Team at A
B Team at B etc
- 4 In all friendly matches sanctions imposed shall be applied as directed by the body making the decision
- 5 An official dismissed from the Technical area by the Referee shall take no further part in the match
By managing directing assisting or communicating with his team in any way
- 6 Should a player be dismissed again in the same season the following minimum suspensions shall apply
 - A 2ND sending off one match suspension
 - B 3rd Sending off two match suspension
 - C 4th Sending off Four match suspension
 - D 5 or more dismissals six match suspension

- 7 Suspensions may take the form of a number of matches or a time definition
- 8 A dismissal automatically incurs an automatic one match suspension even if imposed in a match That is later abandoned or annulled The DCU may extend the duration of the suspension
- 9 Players and/or other Technical staff including Managers under suspension are not permitted to be Included in the list of officials on the technical bench or sit in the technical bench breaches of this regulation will be reported to the DCU for further possible sanction
- 10 In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player/official sent off in a match the Person concerned and their club must within 48 hours of the occurrence submit in writing to the DCU particulars upon which the claim is founded **including the identity of the person responsible** the particulars must also include a signed statement from the person reported by the referee that he was not responsible for the offence reported. If the DCU is satisfied that the claim Warrants further investigation they shall convene to deal with the matter before any automatic Sanction will take effect. If the DCU is satisfied that mistaken identity has been proved in a case the Record of the offence will be transferred to the offender who shall be subject to disciplinary action
- 11 Suspensions carry into the next Season

26 SANCTIONS

The DCU can issue the following sanctions

- A Ban from playing
- B Ban from Ground
- C Ban from all football related activities
- D Ban from coaching etc
- E Ban from dressing room and or bench
- F Deduction of points
- G Demotion to lower Division
- H Exclusion from Competition
- I forfeit of match
- J Ban from playing home games

27 SPECTATORS CONDUCT

- 1: **The** home club/team is liable for any improper conduct among all supporters regardless of the Question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight and depending on the situation may be fined further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances
- 2: The visiting club/team is liable for improper conduct or culpable oversight and depending on the Situation may be fined further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances
- 3: Improper conduct includes but is not limited to violence towards persons or objects throwing missiles letting off incendiary devices use of flares smoke bombs or fireworks displaying insulting slogans in any form uttering insulting sounds racist behaviour or invading or encroaching on the pitch
- 4; The liability described in Par 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neural grounds especially during finals of competitions

28 OBVIOUS ERRORS

The DCU may at its discretion rectify any error or omission contained in its decision any request by a party for such a rectification must be submitted to the DCU within 5 working days of receipt of the decision in question

29 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

Decision by the DCU shall be sent to Club Secretaries by email letters may be sent in certain circumstances

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Administrators at all levels in the game be they Committee members in a club or members of a League have a responsibility to act to uphold the highest standards of integrity within the game and to ensure that the reputation of the game and the Association And each affiliate is and remains beyond approach . It is their duty to ensure that the game is ruin in an orderly and seemly manner thereby encouraging the maximum levels of participation and enjoyment by all players and spectators regardless of the level of the game at which they compete or support. It is further the duty of the administrator that the Association maximizes the earning potential which the game enjoys thereby providing the finance required improving the standards and facilities throughout the entire game

- 1: An administrator must appreciate that football is an important part of the community at large and accordingly must take into account community feelings when making decisions
- 2; An administrator must emphasise that the Association is opposed to discrimination of any form and promote whatever measures are necessary to prevent discrimination either direct or indirect from infiltrating the game
- 3; when called upon to represent the game in the wider community an administrator should seek to promote a positive view of the game
- 4; Administrators are there to firstly serve the interests of the game and not their own self interests or any particular interests
- 5; Administrators must be constantly mindful of the best interests of the game in the decisions they make
- 6; The appropriate administrators must ensure that monies spent in the name of the game and in the pursuit of the interests and objectives of the game are monies well spent
- 7; All monies spent must be fully accounted for within the game
- 8; Administrators must carry the business of the game in a seemly and orderly fashion
- 9; Meetings must be carried on in a cordial and a business-like manner through the chair
- 10; An Administrator must abide by the standing orders regulating the conduct of meetings
- 11: It is the duty of the appropriate administrator to ensure that a complete and accurate set of minutes is available in respect of all meetings held in the name of the game
- 12: An administrator must recognize the sense of ownership felt by all those who participate at all levels in the game including players, mentors those who help out in many different ways those who officiate as well as supporters
- 13: An Administrator must acknowledge that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative propriety within the game and accordingly shall not tolerate corruption or improper practices of any kind at any time.
- 14: An administrator must seek to foster and uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game
- 15 An administrator must abhor and reject the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game
- 16 An administrator must be committed to fairness in dealing with all involved in the game
- 17: An administrator must set a positive example for other particularly players mentors and supporters
- 18: An Administrator must promote and develop the game of Association football having particular having regard to the interest of players supporters mentors and reputation of the game in Ireland
- 19: An administrator must share knowledge and experience when invited to do so taking into account the interests of the body that has requested these rather than personal or sectional interests
- 20: An Administrator must show due respect to others involved in the game
- 21: An administrator must avoid all forms of inappropriate behaviour and must be seen to challenge the use of inappropriate within the game
- 22: An administrator must refrain from making contributions to the media which are likely to lead to unfair criticism of other people within the game
- 23: An administrator must refrain from making contributions to the media which are likely to portray the game unfairly incomplete or inaccurately
- 24: Administrators must safeguard the confidentiality of information imparted to them in the exercise of their functions
- 25: Administrators should promote adherence to the code of practice by those within the game with whom they come into contact

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR MENTORS

Managers/Coaches are Key to the establishment of good practice in football. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision. Mentors must speak and act in a manner consistent with this reality

- 1; A Mentor must respect the rights dignity and worth of each person and treat each equally within the context of sport
- 2: A mentor must not subscribe to the ethos of “win at all costs”
- 3: A mentor must place the health well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations
- 4: A mentor must abide by the rules of the game
- 5: A mentor must strive to develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect
- 6; A mentor must have particular regard for when working with young players in the game
- 7: A mentor must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- 8: A mentor must guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- 9; A mentor must ensure that activities and strategies they direct and advocate are appropriate for the age maturity experience and ability of players involved
- 10; A mentor must at the outset of each season clarify with the players (and where the players are under 18 their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from the Mentor
- 11: A Mentor must co-operate with specialists within the game e.g. other coach’s officials sport scientist’s doctors and physiotherapists etc. in the best interest of players
- 12: A Mentor must honour the terms of agreement with his/her club and shall eschew any interest in alternative employment within the game whilst under contract save insofar as such interest enjoys the consent of the club
- 13: A Mentor must not act or speak directly or indirectly) so as to induce a Mentor or an employee of any other club to breach the terms of their agreement with that other club
- 14: A Mentor must be conversant with the laws of the game and rules of any competition in which a team under his/her stewardship is participating
- 15: A Mentor must exercise authority and control over the players under his/her stewardship particularly whilst on the field of play and with regard to the decisions of match officials
- 16; A Mentor must observe the highest standards of integrity and fair dealing
- 17; A Mentor must always promote a positive approach to the game eg: Fair play honest endeavour and genuine teamwork
- 18; A Mentor must not encourage or condone violations of the laws of the game behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game or the use of questionable strategies or tactics
- 19: A Mentor must not encourage or condone the use of prohibited substances
- 20; A Mentor must constantly display high standards of behaviour and comment
- 21: A Mentor must not use or tolerate the use of inappropriate language
- 22; A mentor must demonstrate due respect towards match officials
- 23: A Mentor must accept the decisions of match officials
- 24: In making public comments on a particular fixture or the game in general a mentor must be mindful of withholding and promoting the good name of the game and others involved in it and the wider community

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR PLAYERS

As players are constantly in the glare of public attention and are widely recognised as the most important people in sport there is a considerable onus on them to speak and act in a manner which promotes all that is good about the game

- 1; A player must make every honest effort to develop their sporting ability to include fitness skill technique and tactical ability
- 2: A Player must strive to set a positive example for younger players and supporters
- 3; A Player should safeguard the physical fitness of opponents avoid violence and rough play and where possible help injured opponents
- 4: A Player must give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during each game
- 5: A Player must avoid all forms of gamesmanship and timewasting
- 6: A Player must refrain from using inappropriate language particularly to referees/officials and other players during games
- 7: A player must make every effort consistent with fair play and the laws of the game to help their team to win
- 8: A player must resist any influence which might or might be seen to bring into question their commitment to the team winning
- 9: A Player should know and abide by the laws rules of the game and of any given competition both in fact and in spirit
- 10: A Player should accept victory and defeat with equanimity
- 11: A Player must resist any temptation to consume or otherwise imbibe any banned substances
- 12: A Player must treat opponents with respect at all times irrespective of the outcome of any game
- 13: A player must demonstrate due respect towards match official
- 14; A Player must accept the decisions of the match officials without protest
- 15: A Player must avoid words or actions which may mislead a match official
- 16: A Player must abide by the lawful instructions and directions of mentors and team officials
- 17: A Player must act towards the mentors and officials of the opposing side in a respectful manner
- 18: A Player must demonstrate due regard for the interest of supporters
- 19: A Player must not act or speak so as to incite or encourage supporters to act in a manner that may endanger the safety of anyone attending or participating in the game
- 20: A Player should not either directly or indirectly place a bet on the outcome of any game in which he is involved
- 21; A player must always have regard to the best interests of the game when publicly expressing an opinion on the game or on others involved in the game
- 22: In making public comments on a particular fixture or on the game in general a player must be mindful of upholding and promoting the good name of the game and others involved in it and in the wider community

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR SPECTATORS

Spectators convey to the wider community the values of the game

- 1; Spectators should appreciate the opposition as well as their own team
- 2: Spectators should be respectful towards all players whilst of the field of play regardless of nationality race religion or other affiliations
- 3: Spectators should show appreciation of the efforts of all players who are substituted

CODE OF BEST PRACTISE FOR PARENTS

Parents have a powerful influence on the level of fun and enjoyment which children derive from the game and on the degree of enthusiasm with which they participate in it. Positive encouragement is the key to a child's enjoyment of the game their sense of personal achievement their development of their skill levels and their self-esteem

- 1; Parents should avoid coaching their child during the game
- 2; Parents should not shout or scream
- 3: Parents should respect the decisions of the match officials
- 4; Parents should give attention to each participating child and not just to the most talented

