

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Colleges & Universities Football League

RULES

2009/10

Name:

1. The Competition shall be called the Colleges & Universities Football League (hereinafter referred to as CUFL) and is played under the auspices of the Football Association of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the FAI").

Definitions

2. In all references to the Committee in the course of these Rules, it shall be understood and accepted that the words "the Committee" shall read "the CUFL Committee".

Commercial rights

3.

(a) Participating clubs shall provide full support to the Committee in its exploitation of the commercial rights relating to the CUFL and shall not themselves exploit any commercial rights other than those rights that have been specifically assigned to them by the CUFL

(e) In all rounds of the CUFL, Clubs shall use Umbro footballs. Failure to use Umbro footballs may result in disciplinary action being taken against the offending club but shall not be the subject of protest or appeal.

Delegation of powers

4. The Committee shall have the power to delegate some or all of its powers or functions in relation to the running of the CUFL on a day to day basis to the FAI Domestic Football Department.

Prevailing Rules

5. The competition shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules (hereinafter referred to as "CUFL Rules"). In the event of a conflict between the CUFL Rules and the Rules of the FAI, the FAI Rules shall prevail, provided that such rules in all circumstances comply with the Laws of the Game as decreed by FIFA.

Information to be supplied by Clubs:

6. Each Club entering the competition must forward to the Competitions Manager on or before a date to be determined from season to season by the Committee, the following particulars:
 - (a) Whether ground is public or private.
 - (b) Name & full address of ground.
 - (c) Colours of Club Jersey, 1st and 2nd choice colours.
 - (d) The Name, telephone number and e-mail address of the Club Secretary.
 - (e) All Clubs participating in the competition must have adequate public liability insurance.
 - (f) All clubs must state the day and kick off time when they normally play their matches.
 - (g) All participant clubs shall complete a register of players (Name, Date of Birth, Student ID Number) wishing to participate in the CUFL. The details provided shall only be used by the CUFL for the purposes of running CUFL competitions.

Private ground: All Premier Division matches shall be played at private grounds. A private ground shall be taken to be a ground over which the Club has sole control, properly enclosed so as to prevent spectators entering the ground except by the admission gates. All grounds must have separate dressing rooms for each team and a separate dressing room for Referees. All grounds must have shower facilities for both teams and for Referees.

Eligibility:

7. (a.) The competition shall be played on a seasonal basis and shall consist of teams in membership of the Irish Universities Football Union and the Colleges Football Association of Ireland under the auspices of the Football Association of Ireland
- (b.) All teams competing in the CUFL shall only play players who are properly registered to play in the competition. In all cases, irrespective of whether the player in question is an amateur or non-amateur, the player, in order to be eligible to play in a CUFL match, must be properly registered to play 48hrs (Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays included) before the appointed match.
- (c.) **The conditions of eligibility are as follows:**
 - I. A student must be fully registered and hold a student card for the institution with which they are internally registered.
 - II. Undergraduate students must be pursuing a course of study that is equivalent 60 ECTS per annum in Ireland or 120 UK academic credits per annum in Northern Ireland or a course that leads to an award ranked at a minimum of Level 6 on the NQAI Framework. Students pursuing a course of study that leads to an award at Level 5 on the NQAI shall be eligible to participate in divisions lower than the Premier Division.
 - III. Part time Masters Students or Post Graduate Students must be studying at least 50% of the time a full time student would be studying.
 - IV. There is no age restriction for CUFL competitions
 - V. Professional Athletes must have the permission of their National Governing Body and where relevant their Student Governing Body to compete in competition with along side amateur competitors
 - VI. Academic progression must be shown, i.e. a student shall not be eligible to compete where they are registered for a course that is ranked by the NQAI at a level to or lower than two courses for which they have previously registered.
 - VII. The academic year shall be defined as October to September. Students in any institution with an academic calendar not running concurrently with this shall be eligible for the academic year during which they enter and any subsequent academic years depending on the ECTS value of their course.
 - VIII. A sabbatical officer of a student union, i.e a student who intermitting a year or more during an undergraduate or postgraduate course of study, who has paid the appropriate union subscription shall be eligible provided that the sabbatical is taken during their course of study

Qualification of players

8. While the players in each team may be changed from match to match, no individual shall play for more than one Club in this Competition during any one season, and he must register with the Club for which he proposes to compete at least 48hrs (Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays included) before the appointed match.

Players must wear registered colours:

9. Players in each competing team must wear the registered colours of the Club for which they are playing, except when opposing teams have similar colours, in which case the home club shall change their strip. The colours of the Club shall be taken to be the colour of the shirt or jersey, which must have a number. A goalkeeper must wear a shirt of a different colour, provided that said shirt is of a colour distinctive from that of his opponents.

Referees shall have the power to instruct a player to change a shirt if they consider the colours not sufficiently distinctive from that of his opponents. Referees shall have power to deal with any player refusing to comply with their instructions in this respect.

Competition Formats

10. The formats for competitions under the jurisdiction of the CUFL shall be decided by the Committee and may be amended from time to time but not whilst a competition is ongoing.

Artificial Turf and Artificial Lighting:

11. Matches under the jurisdiction of the CUFL may be played on artificial turf surface and under Artificial Lighting provided that the installed product complies with the FAI Community Use Standard

The duration of a match:

12. (a.) The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half. The match must be started at the appointed time, but no protest will be upheld for late starting, unless the Committee is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby.

(b.) **Lost time:** The Referee shall have power to allow lost time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final.

(c.) The Secretary or an authorized official of each contesting team shall prior to the commencement of the match, fill in the referee's card showing the first name and surname of the players and substitutes participating in the match. In all matches, the names of the substitutes must be given to the Referee prior to the start of the match. Substitutes not so named may not take part in the match. A club may at its discretion nominate seven (7) substitutes to the referee before the match commences. They may use any three (3) substitute players at any time during a match and any period of extra time, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the referee.

Proof of Qualification:

13. If the Committee has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in the Competition, they shall have power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs and/or for which he played, to prove he is qualified according to the CUFL Rules. Failing satisfactory proof the Committee may disqualify such player and/or impose such other penalty as they may think fit. Any Club making a frivolous objection will be liable to removal from the Competition.

Ground for Semi-Finals & Finals:

14. In Semi-Finals and Finals matches the ground shall be chosen by the Committee. In addition to arranging the venue at which the Semi-Finals and Finals shall be played, the Committee shall decide the date and day of the week on which the Semi-Finals and finals shall be played.

Appointment of Match Officials Referees Fees:

15. (a) In all matches only FAI/IFA registered Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed. Referees and Assistant Referees appointed to act in CUFL Matches up to and including the semi-finals are entitled to fees and expenses as laid down for the current season. In the Final, Referees shall be awarded medals and expenses only. The Committee shall have the power to vary these fees and make extra allowances in exceptional cases. The Match Referee or his representative shall have the sole responsibility for the inspection of the playing surface and shall decide on the playability of same. 3 Match Officials (Referee & 2 Assistants) shall be appointed to all Premier Division fixtures. Referees fees shall be as laid down in the FAI/ISRS Referees Fees agreement.

PREMIER DIVISION: INTERMEDIATE GRADE RATES

1ST DIVISION: JUNIOR GRADE RATES

2ND DIVISION: JUNIOR GRADE RATES

(b) Results;

All results must be sent by e-mail to the Competitions Manager by 10.00am on the day after each match. The home team must forward the match card to the Competitions Co-ordinator by post within 2 days after the match.

Protests:

16. (A.) Protests must be received in writing by the CUFL Competitions Manager, within four days after the cause of the protest, accompanied by a Money Order to the sum of €100.00 which shall be forfeited in all cases where the protest has not been sustained.

(B.) **Copies must be sent to Club protested against:** A copy of the protest must also be sent to the Club protested against, within four days after the cause of the protest.

In all cases, the Competitions Manager shall arrange for a protest committee, of no less than three persons from the CUFL Committee to hear the protest within ten days of the protest being received by the Competitions Manager unless exceptional circumstances deem this not possible.

(C.) **Objection to ground, etc.:** Goal-nets must be used in all fixtures. Any objection to ground, goal-posts, goal-nets or ball must be lodged in writing by the Club Secretary for the day with the Referee before the game is started, and the Referee shall have power to have such objection made right before the game starts.

(D.) **Referee to inspect ground:** The Referee shall inspect the ground and shall immediately give his decision as to fitness of ground for play.

(E.) Where one of the teams is travelling a distance of more than eighty miles, a pitch inspection must be arranged at least six hours before the match in question.

(F.) Where an away team incurs expenses travelling to a fixtures where the pitch is deemed unplayable, or the match is postponed for reasons outside of the control of the away team, the said away team shall submit a list of its expenses to Competitions Manager and the Committee shall decide what expenses are to be reimbursed to the away team.

(G.) In the event that a ground may be unplayable, it shall be the responsibility of the home club to contact the Referee in time for the inspection to take place.

Decision of Committee:

17. All the questions of eligibility or qualification of competitors or of application of these Rules or the Laws of the Game shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final, always subject to the right of appeal and they shall have power to withhold the Cup and Medals.

Agreement for Cup:

18. The CUFL shall present the Trophy to the winning Club in each competition which shall be responsible for its return to the CUFL at least two months prior to the following CUFL Final in good order and condition. Should the Cup be destroyed or damaged by fire or other accident whilst under the care or in custody of the Club, the Club shall refund to the CUFL the amount of its replacement value or the cost of thorough repair, and should the Cup be lost or destroyed from any other cause whilst under the care or in the custody of the Club, the Club shall, in addition to any other penalty which The CUFL may impose, pay to the CUFL a sum which, in the opinion of the Committee accurately reflects the full reinstatement value of the said Trophy.

Medals:

19. In addition to the Trophy, the CUFL shall present Medals to the winners of the Final Tie. The CUFL shall also present Medals to the runners-up. The cost of medals shall be borne by the CUFL, 23 medals to be awarded to the players and Technical Teams

Fixtures Controlled by the CUFL:

20. The Committee, at its discretion shall have the power to control any fixture in the CUFL at any stage of the competition if the Committee deems it necessary.

Clubs failing to play:

21. Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the Committee and without sufficient reasons for so doing may be adjudged to have lost the match, and the Committee may suspend the team in question from competing in the current and next CUFL Competition that the team in question would otherwise have been eligible to play in.

Committee may alter Rules:

22. The Committee shall have power to alter the CUFL Rules, but in no case shall they do so until after the Final Tie in any competition has been played.
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