

THE COLLEGES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Competition Rules

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Scope of the Competition Rules

All Competitions played under the control of the CFAI are subject to these rules. Currently these competitions are: the UMBRO Colleges Cup, the UMBRO Colleges Plate, the Bob Eustace Cup and the B Teams Cup.

1. Player Register

In order to be eligible to play in the CFAI Cup competitions, players must be registered to play in the CUFL for that academic season.

In addition to the register, a copy of student ID cards may be required to be produced in the event of any dispute regarding a player's eligibility

1. Eligibility

Eligibility for CFAI competitions will be the same as the eligibility for the CUFL.

A player may only play in one of the cup competitions in any one season. The Colleges plate is considered a follow on from the Colleges Cup. i.e. A player having played in the Colleges Cup or plate is ineligible to play for his college in the B teams cup or the Bob Eustace Cup (and vice versa).

2. Insurance

It is the responsibility of each member college to have their players covered by Insurance before participating in any CFAI competition. Proof of Insurance acceptable to the association and the FAI must be provided to the Competitions Co-ordinator on or before the AGM in any relevant year.

3. Arrangement and Confirmation of Fixture

After the draw has been announced, it is the responsibility of the home team to contact the away team to arrange the fixture. Games must be played on or before the fixed date.

Fixtures are to be agreed between the respective colleges and confirmed to the Competitions Co-ordinator by email to admin@cfai.ie before 1 O'Clock on the Friday preceding the fixed date.

The match is to be played at the home teams ground unless the home team agrees to travel to a neutral or away venue.

The home team should arrange, if required, food after the game for the travelling team.

4. Changes to fixtures

Changes to the fixture list must be forwarded to the Competitions Co-ordinator at least 24 hours before the game is due to be played. The re-fixture date must be forwarded to the competitions Co-ordinator, and must not interfere with scheduled CUFL and National Team fixtures.

In the event of unplayable grass pitches, and the option of using a suitable all weather pitch is not available the home side must provide maximum notice to opponents so that buses and that match officials etc. can be cancelled. In such cases home advantage will switch to the other team.

5. Use of all-weather pitches

Use of FAI approved all weather pitches is approved for all CFAI fixtures. When making fixtures, the home team must inform opponents giving due notice to the pitch type so that opponents can bring appropriate equipment and clothing.

6. Kick-off times

In order to allow for extra time and penalties, Cup Games should Kick-off **no later than 2:00pm** accept where flood lights are available and the KO time has been mutually agreed in advance. The home side must inform opponents of kick-off times when confirming pitch details and availability 48 hours before the game is due to be played, by email and a copy sent to the Competitions Co-ordinator (admin@cfai.ie).

7. Change of Strip

It is up to the home team to wear a change strip in the event of a clash. All teams have a duty to ensure that their team colours are correctly represented on the Associations web pages (www.cfai.ie).

8. Disputes over fixtures

Where teams cannot resolve fixture arrangements between them, the Competitions Co-ordinator shall arbitrate between them and has the power (subject to appeal) to fix, alter or postpone the dates of matches.

9. Number of players allowed in a game

Each team may list up to a maximum of 18 players on the match card and may use up to 5 substitutes from the list of 7.

10. Official Ball for All CFAI Games

The UMBRO match balls should be used in all CFAI competitions. It is the responsibility of the home side to provide two UMBRO match balls for the referee prior to the game. Teams in breach of this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action in the form of a fine.

11. Referees

The home team is responsible for arranging the referee. Only referees registered by the I.S.R.S (or N Irish equivalent) should be employed for all CFAI games. Three officials should be employed for the 3rd round and subsequent rounds of all cup competitions. It is the responsibility of the home club to pay the referees fees before they leave the ground.

12. Result Reporting

Results should be sent by text message to the Competition Coordinator (086 195 3854) by both teams by 5pm on the day the match is played, and emailed to admin@cfai.ie by both teams within 24 hours. The home side must also forward the Match Card signed by the Referee to the Competitions Co-ordinator by conventional post within 3 days of the game. Failure to return the match card will result in a fine of €100.

13. Abandoned Matches

Where the referee has to abandon the game in no fault circumstances, that game shall be replayed at the same venue, at a date agreed by the teams or set by the Competitions Co-ordinator.

14. Team Misconduct

A team will be guilty of team misconduct and may face sanction if:

- 5 players or more are cautioned during a game
- 3 players or more are sent off during a game
- Several players or team officials together make threats or show force against a match official

15. Disciplinary Sanctions

The following sanctions shall apply to individual players.

- ◆ Any player receiving a Red Card during a competitive fixture in an Association competition shall be automatically suspended for the following fixture.
- ◆ A player expelled for violent conduct shall receive a minimum automatic 2-match ban.
- ◆ A player who has received 3 Yellow cards during the competition will be automatically suspended for the following game in that competition, after which their Yellow Card count will be reset.
- ◆ Suspensions will carry over from one season to the next if necessary.

Any player, whose actions endanger others or bring the Association into disrepute, may be suspended for a period to be determined by the Executive Committee.

In the event of any team fielding ineligible players, the executive shall have the power to apply one or all of the following sanctions:

- ◆ Award game to other team
- ◆ Fine offending team
- ◆ Suspend the player involved

Where teams do not comply with the competition rules, the Executive Committee shall have the power to apply one or all of the following:

- ◆ Award game to other team
- ◆ Fine offending team
- ◆ Take whatever action is deemed appropriate given the circumstances.

Where a team has failed to play a match arranged, without giving appropriate notice, the Executive Committee shall have the power to apply the following sanctions, depending on the circumstances:

- ◆ Rearrange the fixture, with a venue switch to the compliant team's ground (this is the default measure).
- ◆ Award the match to the compliant team.
- ◆ Fine the defaulting team. The default fine for failure to fulfil a fixture is €250.
- ◆ Disqualify the defaulting team from competition

Similar powers shall apply in the situation where a referee determines a game cannot be played due to inadequate equipment or facilities, e.g. unplayable pitch. The Executive will deal with all other cases in accordance with FAI/UEFA regulations.

16. Colleges Cup and Plate

The Colleges Cup shall take place on an annual basis. The name of the Association's current primary sponsor should be prefixed to Colleges Cup. The format of the Cup Competition shall be determined by the executive. All members of the association with teams playing in the premier or first division can enter a team in the Colleges Cup.

The Colleges Plate competition shall also take place on an annual basis. The name of the Association's current primary sponsor should be prefixed to Colleges Plate. The format of the Plate Competition shall be determined by the executive. The plate will be competed by teams who are defeated in the first round of the cup.

17. Bob Eustace Cup and B-Teams Cup

The B-Teams cup is for the second teams of members competing in the College Cup. The Bob Eustace cup is for members whose first teams play in division 2, but may also include College third teams.

18. Determining winners in Cup and Plate games

Such games tied after normal time shall be decided by playing an extra-time period of 15mins each wayde, followed by penalty kicks if needed in accordance with the provisions of FIFA's *Laws of the Game* document.

19. Awards

The Association will present awards as follows:

- ◆ Perpetual Trophies will be awarded for all competitions.
- ◆ Medals will be provided to 20 players and coaching staff of Winners and Runners up.
- ◆ A Man of the match award will be made for each Final

20. Doping Control Regulations

To be eligible to participate or assist any participant in any event or activity organised or authorised by or held under the rules of the CFAI a person/member/participant must comply with the FAI Doping Control Policy as set out in **FAI Rule 66** and complete any necessary documentation required by the policy.