



October 2008

Colleges and Universities Football League Competition Rules.

1.1 Register and College Contacts

The League Administrator will maintain a register of players. Teams should submit a register of players to the Administrator after the second game of the league and before the third game. Initial registration, prior to the second game, must be submitted 24 hours before each game. After this teams can only play registered players. All teams must comply with the player eligibility guidelines (below). Late registration of individuals would be allowed throughout the season provided they satisfy the player eligibility guidelines.

It is mandatory that each member college provides current contact information for the primary and secondary contact person (mobile number and email) to the League Administrator prior to league commencement.

1.2 Fixtures

- All fixtures must be played according to fixture calendar.
- All fixtures are automatically fixed for Wednesday at **2.00pm**.
- It is the responsibility of the home team to make contact (before Thursday prior to the fixture) and arrange the fixture.
- Games may be played on any other day or time during the week of the original fixture. If an alternative day or time is agreed. It is the responsibility of the home team to confirm the fixture by email to the League Administrator and to inform the Referee.

1.3 Failure to Fulfil Fixture

- Where a team claims an unplayable pitch and does not have use of an approved astro turf surface, there is an automatic venue switch to the away pitch.
- Where a team has failed to fulfil a fixture, three points will be awarded to the opposition as a three-nil victory.

1.4 Number of Substitutes allowed in a game

Each team may use up to a maximum of 3 substitutes from a list of 7 on the Official Colleges and Universities Football League match card in any League or playoff game.

1.5 Official Match Ball

It is a requirement for all teams to use Official Umbro match ball; clubs may be sanctioned if this is not adhered to.

1.6 Referees

It is the responsibility of the home team to arrange and pay match officials. Only FAI/IFA registered referees should be employed for all games. Three officials **must be used** for all premier league fixtures and all playoff fixtures in all divisions.

If there is a problem in sourcing match officials, you are required to contact Mr Pat Kelly FAI National Referees co-ordinator – 087 2258945.

1.7 Result Reporting

Results to be sent by email to the League Administrator by both teams by 10am the day after the match is played. The home side must also forward the Match Card signed by the Referee to the League Administrator by conventional post within 3 days of the game.

1.8 Abandoned matches

If the referee has to abandon a game, in no fault circumstances, that game shall be replayed at the same venue, at a date set by the League Administrator.

1.9 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 an automatic 3 match ban.
- A player who has received 4 Yellow cards during the entire season will be automatically suspended for the following league game in that season, after which their Yellow Card count will be reset.
- In the event of any team fielding ineligible players, or not complying with the competition rules, the Competition Committee shall have the authority to award the game to the other team or impose a sanction they see fit.

1.10 Protests

Protests must be emailed to the League Administrator within 3 days of the fixture. A protest Committee consisting of 3 officers of the organising committee (including the Chairperson) will assess the protest and decide on the issue within seven days.

1.11 Change of Strip

It is up to the home team to wear a change strip in the event of a clash. The colours should be checked when making the fixture arrangements.

1.12 Use of all-weather pitches

Games may be played on FIFA approved 1 star all weather pitches. In this instance, the home side should inform opponents giving due notice (as soon as the pitch is booked, or at least 36 hours prior to the fixture) to the pitch type so that opponents can bring appropriate equipment and clothing.

1.13 Ranking

Teams will be awarded 3 points when they win a league game. Teams in a drawn game will each receive one point. Teams in each division, section or group will be ranked in league tables by the application of the following criteria in the order listed here – accumulated Points, “Head to Head” between the teams involved, Goal difference, and finally “Goals for”.

1.14 Promotion/Relegation

Two teams will be eligible for Promotion and two teams will be eligible for relegation in each division depending on geographical area and required standard of facilities. For the 2008/9 season a years grace is being applied to this rule.

1.15 First Aid

All teams must have an appropriately stocked First Aid Bag. It is encouraged that someone qualified in First Aid would be present during fixtures. It is encouraged that the home team would have the necessary accident & emergency phone numbers available.

1.16 Player Eligibility

1. A student must be fully registered and hold a student card for the institution with which they are internally registered.
2. Undergraduate Students must be pursuing a course of study that is equivalent to 60 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) per annum in Ireland or 120 UK Academic credits per annum in Northern Ireland or that leads

to an award ranked at a minimum of Level 6 on the NQAI Framework (National Qualification Authority of Ireland).

To encourage participation, students pursuing a course of study that leads to an award at Level 5 on the NQAI will be eligible to compete in divisions lower than the Premier League.

3. Part time Masters Students or Postgraduate Students must be studying for at least 50% of the time a full time student would be studying.
4. There is no age restriction for National Competitions.
5. Professional athletes must have the permission of their National Governing Body and where relevant their Student Governing Body to compete in competition along side amateur competitors in that sport.
6. 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 equivalent to or lower than two courses for which they have previously registered.
7. The academic year shall be defined as October to September. Students in any institution with an academic calendar not running concurrently with this will be eligible for the academic year during which they enter and any subsequent academic years depending on the ECTS value of their course.
8. A sabbatical Officer of a Student Union, i.e. a student who is 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.
9. A student may only compete for one institution in any one academic year.

1.17 Facilities – Premier League

All teams competing in the Premier League must have their own playing and changing/showering facilities or a rental agreement for use of same for the duration of the academic year.