



FAI Intermediate Cup

Corn Comortais Peile na h-Éireann

COMPETITION RULES 2022/23

TITLE

1. The Football Association of Ireland Pat O'Brien Intermediate Challenge Cup is an annual cup competition owned, run and promoted by the Football Association of Ireland.
2. The FAI Pat O'Brien Intermediate Challenge Cup shall be otherwise known as "The Intermediate Cup" or "Corn Comortais Peile na hÉireann" and/or any title designation granted under any sponsorship agreement.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Any definitions not contained hereunder but contained within the FAI Rules may be relied upon in interpreting these Rules.

The following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings in the context of these Competition Rules:

"*Club*" means a Club which is competing in the Competition.

"*Competition*" means the FAI Pat O'Brien Intermediate Challenge Cup.

"*days*" shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, unless otherwise specified.

"*Disciplinary Bodies*" means the Disciplinary Bodies under FAI Rules.

"*Disciplinary Rules*" means the Disciplinary Rules of the FAI.

"*FAI Board*" means the Board of Management of the FAI as described in FAI Rules.

"*FAI Rules*" means the Rules and Regulations for the time being of the FAI.

"*Competition Manager*" means the FAI Competitions Manager.

"*FIFA*" means the Federation of International Football Associations.

"*Home Club*" means the Club which has been drawn first in the original tie or, in the event of a replay, the away team from the original tie.

"*Away Club*" means the Club which has been drawn second in the original tie or, in the event of a replay, the home team from the original tie.

"*Host Club*" means the club owning or leasing a ground on which a competition match is being played. The Host Club may not necessarily be one of the participating teams.

"*Match Delegate*" means a person appointed to report on a fixture on matters outside of the remit of the Match Officials.

"*Match Official*" means Referees and Assistant Referees and includes Reserve Officials and Fourth Officials.

"*Official*" means any official, technical official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an affiliated body or competition.

"*Referees Allocations Officer*" means the person appointed by the FAI to appoint Match Officials for all fixtures in the Competition.

"*Rules*" means these Competition Rules as may be amended by the Competition Manager from time to time.

"*UEFA*" means the Union of European Football Associations.

Words importing the singular only, include the plural and vice versa and words importing the masculine only, include the feminine, neuter and vice versa.

In the event of a conflict or divergence between these Rules and the FAI Rules, the FAI Rules shall prevail.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

3. FAI Competition Manager

- 3.1. The management and control of the Competition shall be the responsibility of the Competition Manager unless otherwise agreed by the FAI Board.
- 3.2. The Competition Manager may delegate some or all their powers or functions to the Competition Administrator or a Sub Committee, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day control and management of the Competition.

4. Competition Manager Powers and Responsibilities

The Competition Manager shall:

- 4.1. approve the composition of the Competition;
- 4.2. ensure the draw for each round of the Competition is correctly supervised;
- 4.3. agree the programme of fixtures;
- 4.4. appoint other sub-committees as required;
- 4.5. have the discretion to investigate a complaint made in writing if they deem it appropriate;
- 4.6. refer matters where appropriate to the Disciplinary Control Unit, FAI Board or to any other body or person if in the opinion of the Competition Manager the dispute is more appropriately dealt with under the jurisdiction of another body;
- 4.7. oversee the proper distribution of prize monies and any distributable fund;
- 4.8. have the power to withhold or withdraw the Cup, medals and prize monies;
- 4.9. have power to alter the FAI Intermediate Cup Rules, but in no case shall they do so until after the Final Tie in any competition has been played;
- 4.10. make decisions in relation to the Competition which shall be final unless otherwise provided for by these Rules.

5 Competition Manager

The Competition Manager shall:

- 5.1. conduct all such administration as is necessary for the management of the Competition;
- 5.2. implement and carry out the policy decisions of the FAI Board.
- 5.3. deal with all disciplinary proceedings involving the affairs of the Competition as required;
- 5.4. take such steps, impose such restrictions, penalties, sanctions and take such measures against any person or Club, without prejudice to any disciplinary proceedings and where not otherwise provided for in these Rules.
- 5.5. request the FAI to, withhold or deduct money from any monies due to a club from the FAI for the purpose of payment of a fine or fines;
- 5.6. have the power to delegate functions to administrative staff within the Competitions Department.

6 Clubs

- 6.1. Clubs participating in the Competition accept and agree to be bound by these Rules and the FAI Rules.
- 6.2. Clubs confirm that they are responsible for ensuring that their players, directors, members, officials, representatives and employees involved in any way in the Club's participation in the Competition are made aware of and are bound by these Rules and the FAI Rules.
- 6.3. Each Club entering the competition must forward to the Competition Manager on or before a date to be determined from season to season, the following particulars:
 - 6.3.1. The name, address, contact telephone number(s) and email address of the Club Secretary.
 - 6.3.2. Name & Address of Ground.

- 6.3.3 The day & kick off time when they normally play their matches.
- 6.3.4 Details of club playing kit including 1st and 2nd choice colours.
- 6.3.5 Confirmation that the Club has adequate insurance in place to participate in the Competition.
- 6.3.6 Register of players including their name, address and date of birth as verified by the relevant League Secretary including league stamp prior to their first match in the Competition.

7 Notice and Service of documents

- 7.1 The Competition Manager may conduct correspondence and all correspondence shall be done through email unless otherwise specified.
- 7.2 The Competition Manager shall address all correspondence to the Club's Secretary.
- 7.3 Any notices or communications which are required to be given shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, be given in writing and may be delivered personally or sent by email, post or fax.
- 7.4 Any notice or communication shall be deemed to have been served if delivered personally or emailed at the time of delivery or, if sent by post, 48 hours after same was posted.
- 7.5 Notices and communications relating to Disciplinary matters shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Rule 25 of these of Competition Rules.

COMPETITION AND REGISTRATIONS

8 Format of the Competition

- 8.1 The competition for the Cup shall be played on a seasonal basis and shall consist of all senior teams competing in the Senior Divisions of Senior Leagues except those teams competing in the FAI National League Premier Division, First Division and Under 19 Division.
- 8.2 Clubs shall be permitted to enter only one (1) Team in the Competition.
- 8.3 All teams competing in the Competition must be members of a League which is affiliated to the FAI and to one of the four divisional associations.
- 8.4 Any Team participating in a summer league and are still in the Competition on the 1st December must resubmit a complete register of players to the Competition Manager prior to their next tie in the Competition.
- 8.5 Teams from the "Round of Sixteen" of the Competition may be invited to compete in the FAI Senior Cup. The decision of the Competition Manager to invite any team is final and not subject to appeal.

9 Protests & Objections

- 9.1 A protest must be sent by registered post to the Competition Manager accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for €400 made payable to the Football Association of Ireland.
- 9.2 Protests must be sent within four (4) days of the relevant fixture being played.
- 9.3 An exact copy of the protest must also be sent by simultaneous registered post to the club protested against, within four (4) days after the cause of the protest.
- 9.4 A period of four (4) days after the receipt of protest by the Competition Manager shall be afforded the club protested against to lodge a cross protest by registered post which must be accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for €400 made payable to the Football Association of Ireland.
- 9.5 The protest and copy sent to other club must be accompanied by documentation outlining the reasons for the protest and, if necessary, supporting the protest.
- 9.6 Once the Competition Manager is satisfied that the Protest is in order he shall create a Protest Committee which shall consist of at least three (3) members, one of whom shall be nominated as Protest Committee Chairperson.
- 9.7 The Protest Committee shall convene within ten (10) days of the protest being ruled in order by the Competition Manager unless exceptional circumstances deem this not possible.
- 9.8 The decision of the Protest Committee can be appealed to the FAI Appeal Committee as per the FAI Rules.

- 9.9 In the event of a protest not being sustained, the protest fee shall be forfeited.
- 9.10 Outside the protest time, the Competition Manager may investigate an objection surrounding the eligibility of a player if the objection is lodged in writing by the Secretary of a club or league, or if an objection is raised by the Competition Manager.

9.11 Any Club making a frivolous protest or objection will be liable to removal from the Competition and/or a fine to be decided by the Competition Manager.

10. Cessation of Involvement during a Season

- 10.1 If any Club ceases to participate in the Competition for any reason during a season then the Club whom it is drawn against in the next tie shall be awarded a forfeit victory and progress to the next round of the Competition.
- 10.2 If any Club ceases to participate in the Competition for any reason during a season and before the draw for the next round ties takes place, it shall not be replaced in the Competition by any other Club. A bye or byes, as applicable, shall be drawn.
- 10.3 Disciplinary matters and records of members, officials, players accruing suspensions, disciplinary points and/or serving suspensions or any other sanction relating to the Club ceasing involvement will be retained.

11 Player Eligibility

- 11.1 All teams competing in the Competition shall only play players who are properly registered to play in the competition.
- 11.2 All players must be registered in accordance with the rules of their affiliated League and Divisional Association.
- 11.3 A player must be properly registered to play with his League as a member of the Club for which he proposes to compete at least one (1) calendar day between the date of receipt and stamping of the registration form by the League and the day of a match.
- 11.4 There shall be no restrictions on the number of players a club may register to participate in the FAI Intermediate Cup.
- 11.5 If the Competition Manager has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in the Competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player and the Club to which he belongs and/or for which he played, to prove he is qualified according to the Competition Rules.
- 11.6 Failing satisfactory proof being provided the Competition Manager may disqualify such player and/or impose such other penalty as they may think fit including but not limited to the removal of the Club from the Competition.
- 11.8 The registration of players must be in accordance with the rules of the affiliated League and Divisional Association. In the event of a conflict between the registration rules of any of the Leagues and Divisional Associations on the one hand and the registration rules as contained in the FAI Rule Book, the FAI Rules shall prevail.
- 11.9 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. Any player who does play for more than one Club renders himself ineligible for his second Club and his Club will be sanctioned accordingly.
- 11.10 If a Club is found to have played an ineligible player they will be sanctioned under the FAI Rules.
- 11.11 Any Club, which is found to have played an unregistered or suspended player(s) in any match in the competition shall be reported to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit (DCU) to initiate disciplinary proceedings.
- 11.11.1 The onus is upon the Club to satisfy itself that the player is properly registered.
- 11.11.2 The onus is upon the Club to satisfy itself that the player is not under suspension.
- 11.12 Any Club, which is found to have included an unregistered or suspended player on its team sheet in any match in the competition, shall be reported to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit (DCU) to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the Club and shall be sanctioned with a fine.

- 11.12.1 The onus is upon the Club to satisfy itself that the player is properly registered.
- 11.12.2 The onus is upon the Club to satisfy itself that the player is not under suspension.

12. Admission Charges

The Competitions Manager shall set the admission prices for the Semi Final and Final matches.

13. Private Grounds

- 13.1 All FAI Intermediate Cup matches shall be played at a private ground.
- 13.2 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. A rail or fence must also enclose the field of play.
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 Subject to the consent of the Competitions Manager, a Club may register a private ground not later than ten (10) days prior to the date fixed for the particular tie.
- 13.5 In the event of a Club registering a private ground which, in the opinion of the Competitions Manager, is not adequate for the hosting of an FAI Intermediate Cup match, the Competitions Manager may, at its discretion, but not later than seventy two (72) hours before the appointed kick off time of the match in question, nominate an alternative private ground upon which the match is to be played.
- 13.6 The Competitions Manager may also nominate, at any time, an alternative private ground at which a match may be played if the original venue is likely to be deemed unplayable.
- 13.7 The Competitions Manager may also direct that the match be played at the ground of the team drawn second in the tie provided that the said ground shall also be approved by the Competitions Manager and that both Clubs are given a minimum of seventy two (72) hours' notice of the venue and time of the match.
- 13.8 Should a Club not have a private ground it shall be at liberty to procure one and it must be submitted to the Competitions Manager for approval.
- 13.9 In the event of one of the competing Clubs protesting that the ground of its opponent is not private or fit and proper to be played upon, a Committee of Inspection shall be appointed to investigate and decide on the matter. The protest must be lodged with the Competition Manager within four (4) days after the draw has been made together with the protest fee of €400 (Bank Draft or Postal Order only). The Committee of Inspection shall, where at all possible, make a determination as to the suitability of the ground in question at least seventy two (72) hours prior to the kick off in question.

14 Drawing of Ties

- 14.1 The drawing of ties for each round shall be conducted by the Competitions Manager.
- 14.2 The Clubs which are, in each instance, first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the quarter-finals.
- 14.3 The Competitions Manager may draw subsequent round or rounds before the winners of the previous rounds have been declared, and the winners of the previous rounds, when decided, shall proceed according to such draw(s).
- 14.4 The Competitions Manager shall have power to exempt any number of Clubs from any number of rounds, and byes may be given so that eight (8) Clubs shall compete in the quarter-finals.
- 14.5 After the ties have been drawn matches will be played as the Competitions Manager may determine.
- 14.6 Immediately after each drawing the Competition Manager shall forward to each of the Clubs drawn, a copy of the draw and the date upon which the tie is to be played. Prior to the commencement of the competition all clubs shall receive a copy of the Competition Rules, a full list of fixture dates.

15 Ground for the Semi-Final

- 15.1 In the semi-final ties, the clubs which are first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground, but the ground chosen must meet the criteria of the Preliminary Category as laid down in the FAI Stadium Infrastructure Criteria (2011 edition).
- 15.2 The Competitions Manager may grant an exception to a specific structural criterion for the preliminary stadium category in cases of particular hardship and upon reasoned request. Such decisions are final.

16 Ground for Final

- 16.1 In the Final Tie the ground shall be chosen by the Competitions Manager and must meet the criteria of the Preliminary Category as laid down in the FAI Stadium Infrastructure Criteria (2011 edition). In addition to arranging the venue at which the Final shall be played, the Competitions Manager shall decide the date and day of the week on which the final shall be played.

17 Playing of Matches

- 17.1. The duration of each match shall be ninety (90) minutes.
- 17.2. All fixtures will be set by the Competition Manager, taking into account the day and time provided upon registration for the competition by the team drawn at home in that round, on or before the round date as set by the Competition Manager. No protest will be upheld for late starting, unless the Competition Manager is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby.
- 17.3. Where a team is travelling more than eighty (80) miles / one hundred & thirty (130) kilometres one way (from their ground address to the fixture venue) to fulfil a fixture, said fixture should not kick off before 2pm unless by mutual agreement between both clubs and the relevant Area Co-ordinator.
- 17.4. Where a team is travelling more than eighty (80) miles / one hundred & thirty (130) kilometres one way (from their ground address to the fixture venue) to fulfil a fixture, said fixture should take place on a Saturday or Sunday (determined by the norm in the home team's league) unless by mutual agreement between both clubs and the relevant Area Co-ordinator.
- 17.5. In all Rounds and the Final fixture if the match is drawn after ninety (90) minutes, two periods of fifteen (15) minutes extra-time shall be played. If the match is drawn after extra-time then the match shall be decided by kicks from the penalty spot as per FIFA Penalty Kicks rule.
- 17.6. A club may at its discretion nominate seven (7) substitutes to the referee before the match commences. A club may use any five (5) substitute players at any time during a match and any period of extra time, except to replace a player who has been expelled from the game by the referee.
- 17.7. The Secretary or an authorized official of each contesting team shall, prior to the commencement of the match, fill in the appropriate team sheet showing the first name and surname of the players and substitutes participating in the match.
- 17.8. In all matches, the names of the substitutes must be given to the Referee. Substitutes not so named may not take part in the match. Failure to complete the team sheet in accordance with this rule may result in the defaulting team being fined by the Competition Manager.
- 17.9. The team sheet must be given to the Referee at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time of the match in all rounds up to and including the Semi Final round. The team sheet must be given to the Referee at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time of the Final.
- 17.10. Goal-nets must be used in all Cup Ties.
- 17.11. Any objection to ground, goal-posts, goal-nets or ball must be lodged in writing by the Club Secretary on 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.
- 17.12. 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.
- 17.13. The Match Referee shall inspect the ground at least two hours prior to the scheduled time of kick-off, and shall immediately give his decision as to fitness of ground for play.

- 17.14. Where one of the teams is travelling a distance of more than eighty (80) miles / one hundred & thirty (130) kilometres and there is a concern that a ground may be unplayable, a pitch inspection must be arranged by the home team and conducted by a Grade 1 referee. The result must be communicated to the away team at least six (6) hours before the match in question and the Competitions Manager should also be informed.
- 17.15. In the event that there is a concern prior to matchday that a ground may be unplayable, it shall be the responsibility of the home club to arrange for the match referee or another Grade 1 referee to carry out a pitch inspection at least 24 hours prior to kick-off and to determine, taking into account the weather forecast for the area, if the pitch has a chance of being playable the following day at kick-off time. The outcome of this inspection should be relayed immediately to the Competition Manager who will consider this and other factors, such as road conditions, prior to making a decision in relation to the postponement of the match.
- 17.16. Where an away team incurs expenses travelling to a cup tie 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 may submit a list of its expenses to the Competition Manager who will decide what expenses, if any, are to be reimbursed to the away team.
- 17.17. Postponed or abandoned matches are subject to the proviso hereinafter contained, shall be replayed within and not later than fourteen (14) days (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays included) and in the event of further postponement within and not later than seven (7) days (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays included).
- 17.18. In the event of a match being postponed due to an unplayable ground, the match shall be re-fixed at the same ground or an alternative venue, once approved by the Competition Manager.
- 17.19. In the event of a ground being declared unplayable for a second time, the match shall be re-fixed at their opponents ground where the same system shall apply.
- 17.20. The Competition Manager shall have the power to cancel, in exceptional circumstances, a fixture or fixtures and order that Clauses 17.23 and 17.24 shall not apply.
- 17.21. Clubs with two (2) or more players or one (1) player if a goalkeeper selected to play for an FAI International team may apply for an alternative date for their Intermediate Cup fixture provided the International team concerned is participating in an official match. Alternative dates will not be facilitated for training or trials.
- 17.22. Matches under the jurisdiction of the Competition Manager may be played on artificial turf surfaces provided that the installed turf product complies with FAI Rules.
- 17.23. The fixture list, including rearranged matches shall not be subject to appeals or protests.
- 17.24. The Competition Manager at their discretion shall have the power to control any fixture in the Competition at any stage they deem it necessary.
- 17.25. Each team in a fixture is entitled to the use of the match pitch for warm-up and warm-down purposes, unless otherwise agreed.
- 17.26. In order to protect the surface of the match pitch players shall not warm up on the match pitch until 60 minutes before the time of kick-off. Managers and Coaches should endeavour to minimise damage to the playing surface during the warm up.
- 17.27. In order to protect the surface of the match pitch the warm down period must not exceed 15 minutes.
- 17.28. After the team sheets have been completed and handed to the Referee and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following shall apply:
- 17.28.1 If any of the first eleven players listed on the team sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced only by any of the seven substitutes listed on the initial team sheet. The substitute(s) in question can then be replaced by a player(s) not listed on the initial team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match,

five players can still be substituted. The replaced player(s) must be removed from the team sheet and not be available for selection for this fixture.

17.28.2 If any of the seven substitutes listed on the team sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they can be replaced by any player not listed on the initial team sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, five players can still be substituted.

17.29. For all matches, teams shall be required to take the field of play together preceded by the Match Officials not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off. (Covid Protocols to Apply during Covid Pandemic)

17.30. Clubs responsible for the late start of matches may be fined.

17.31. In all matches, the half-time interval shall be of fifteen (15) minutes duration.

17.32. Substitutes should follow the instructions of the match officials as to where they are permitted to warm-up and how many can warm up at any one time during the match.

17.33. The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.

17.34. Only those Technical Officials and substitutes (and any substituted Player) listed on the team sheet are permitted to sit on the bench in the technical area.

17.35. All persons seated on the bench in the technical area must remain seated at all times except for the Manager or a Coach but not both simultaneously.

17.36. The Manager or a Coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his team and may remain there providing he behaves in a responsible manner.

17.37. All personnel seated on the bench in the technical area must comply with any instruction from any of the Match Officials including the Fourth Official.

17.38. Any Technical Official removed from the technical area by the referee shall position himself in the in the Stand/dressing room area of the ground for the remainder of the match and take no further part in assisting his team as described in FAI Rules.

17.39. Each Club must have a designated "Blood Jersey" available in the technical area so as to comply with the Laws of the Game which prevent a player from wearing clothing with blood on it.

18 Clubs Refusing or Failing to Play a Fixture

18.1 Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the Competition Manager may be adjudged to have lost the match.

18.2 The team in question may be suspended from competing in the current and next FAI Intermediate Cup Competition that the team in question would otherwise have been eligible to play in.

18.3 The Competition Manager may also impose a fine.

18.4 In order to ensure the timely completion of the competition during the Covid Pandemic, any club failing to fulfil a fixture due to Covid-19 shall be deemed to have forfeited the fixture.

19 Club Colours / Sponsor Logo / Squad Numbers

19.1 Each competing team shall submit for approval by the Competition Manager their Kit colour and design of their first and second choice playing kits.

19.2 Goalkeepers must wear colours which clearly distinguish them from other players and the match officials.

19.3 Both Clubs shall have two registered kits available on match day. In the event of both Clubs playing in the same colours, the Away Club shall change colours. In the event of there still being a colour clash, the Home Club shall change colours to the referee's satisfaction. In all cases the referee's decision on the necessity for any Club to change colours shall be final.

- 19.4 Referees shall have the power to instruct a player, including goalkeeper to change their kit if they consider that the colours are not sufficiently distinctive from the opponents or the Match Officials. Referees shall also have the power to deal with any player refusing to comply with instructions in this respect.
- 19.5 Clubs wishing to use squad numbers must ensure that the numbers used are between 1 and 99 only. Numbers between 1 and 9 inclusive must not be prefixed by a 0.
- 19.6 Strapping (tape, bandages etc) is permissible provided that the strapping is underneath the player's socks (i.e. directly on the skin) or the same colour as the socks.
- 19.7 All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable. The Referee's decision is final under this Regulation and he will not allow any Player to enter onto the pitch in breach of this Regulation.
20. In the Final, in the event of a clash of colours, the team designated as the away team will change to their second strip. Finalists must wear the relevant logos, branding etc.

20 Trophies and Medals

- 20.1 The FAI shall present the Cup to the winning Club who shall be responsible for its return to the FAI at least two (2) months prior to the following FAI Intermediate Cup Final in good order and condition.
- 20.2 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 FAI the amount of its replacement value or the cost of thorough repair.
- 20.3 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 FAI may impose, pay to the FAI a sum which, in the opinion of the Competition Manager, accurately reflects the full reinstatement value of the FAI Intermediate Cup.
- 20.4 In addition to the Cup the FAI shall present Medals to the winners of the Final Tie.
- 20.5 The FAI shall also present Medals to the runners-up.
- 20.6 The cost of medals shall be borne by the FAI.
- 20.7 A total of twenty five (25) medals shall be awarded to the players and Technical Team of each club.

21 Referees

- 21.1 In all matches the Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the FAI Referees Department.
- 21.2 A minimum of three (3) Match Officials (Referee & two Assistants) shall be appointed to all last sixteen (16) FAI Intermediate Cup fixtures.
- 21.3 A minimum of four (4) Match Officials (Referee, two Assistants and a Fourth Official) shall be appointed to the semi-finals and final.
- 21.4 Referees and Assistant Referees appointed to act in Competition Matches up to and including the semi-finals are entitled to fees and expenses as laid down for the current FAI / ISRS Referees Fees & Expenses Agreement.
- 21.5 In the Final, Referees shall be awarded medals and expenses only.
- 21.6 The Competition Manager shall have power to vary these fees and make extra allowances in exceptional cases.
- 22 Referees team sheets must be returned within **24 hours** of the completion of the match **by email** to cupcompetitions@fai.ie

23 Match Delegate

A match delegate may be appointed to Competition matches. The role and duties of the match delegate shall be decided by the FAI Stadia & Security Group and may be amended from time to time.

24 Division of Gate Receipts

- 24.1 In all rounds of the Competition except the Final, the Home Club shall retain the gate receipts.
- 24.2 The Home Club shall be responsible for all match expenses.
- 24.3 In the Final Tie, after all expenses have been paid, the FAI shall be entitled to 25% of the gate receipts and the remaining 75% shall be divided equally between the two competing Clubs.
- 24.4 The percentage of receipts due to the FAI must be paid to the FAI Venue Director following completion of the Gate Receipt Form.

DISCIPLINARY

Disciplinary matters are dealt with by the Disciplinary Bodies unless otherwise provided for in the Competition Rules.

25 General

- 25.1 All Disciplinary matters relating to the Competition shall be under the remit of the FAI Disciplinary Bodies. All such disciplinary matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the FAI Rules.
- 25.2 The Competition Manager shall report all complaints or alleged breaches of FAI Rules or these Rules.
- 25.3 Disciplinary decisions may be communicated electronically, or by registered post. An electronic report or registered post receipt is sufficient evidence that a decision has been properly notified.

Fines

- 25.4 In addition to the imposition of a minimum one match suspension, expulsions will attract a minimum €25 fine in fixtures played in the Competition. The Disciplinary Committee shall have power to impose any additional sanction it deems fit, and the terms of the sanction shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee and set out in its decision.
- 25.5 All fines imposed by the Disciplinary Bodies must be paid within ten (10) days of the notification being sent.
- 25.6 Non-payment of fines within the specified time period shall be an offence and may result in the imposition of an additional fine by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 25.7 In the event of an unsuccessful Appeal, the Appeal Fee shall not be refunded and shall not be used for the purpose of payment towards any fine imposed.
- 25.8 In the event that a Club fails to make payment of a fine, the FAI may withhold, or set off against the amount owed, any monies payable to the Clubs by the FAI.

COMMERCIAL RULES

26 Scope

The Commercial Rules apply to and are binding on all Clubs who participate in the Competition. As a condition of participation in the Competition the Clubs shall acknowledge the FAI's ownership of all commercial rights in relation to the Competition.

27 Commercial Contracts

- 27.1 The FAI is empowered to enter into any commercial contract which it considers to be in the best interests of the Competition and the Clubs shall provide full support to the FAI in the exploitation of the commercial rights relating to the Competition.
- 27.2 Any commercial contract entered into by the FAI shall be binding on Clubs unless otherwise provided for in these Rules.
- 27.3 Where there is a conflict between an FAI contract and a new commercial contract entered into by a Club then the FAI contract shall prevail.
- 27.4 The FAI may inform Clubs of the relevant terms and obligations of commercial contracts entered into by the FAI which may have an effect on new commercial contracts proposed to be entered into by a Club.

- 27.5 A Club may request advice and assistance from the FAI on their obligations under this schedule and in particular, a Club should seek the advice and assistance from the FAI on any potential conflicts between their own contracts and FAI contracts.
- 27.6 Participant Clubs acknowledge that commercial relationships between the FAI and its sponsors shall be respected at all times and such relationships are built in order to protect and promote the Competition. Interactions between the Participant Clubs and FAI sponsors shall be through the FAI Board and the Competition Manager and Participant Clubs shall refrain from contacting any FAI sponsor directly without the prior written consent of the FAI.
- 27.7 The FAI may from time to time assign certain rights to Clubs including for example perimeter advertising space and concessions at match venues to exploit directly subject to the approval of the FAI. The approval of the FAI shall not be unreasonably withheld, provided that such commercial rights shall not be in conflict with any of the FAI sponsorships or partnerships.
- 27.8 Clubs will not exploit any rights apart from those that have been specifically assigned to them by the FAI.
- 27.9 In all rounds of the FAI Intermediate Cup, except the final, Clubs shall provide and 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.

28 Broadcasting/Media and Communications

- 28.1 All rights of exploitation of the Competition vest in the FAI. Clubs shall not grant any rights or facilities to any party without the prior written consent of the FAI.
- 28.2 The FAI or duly authorised agent or broadcaster (and its respective employees, servants and agents) shall be allowed full and unrestricted access to the grounds and facilities of all clubs for the purpose of recording or broadcasting matches arranged under the jurisdiction of the Competition Manager.
- 28.3 Each Club agrees to assist, facilitate and cooperate with the FAI or duly authorised agent, media partner or broadcaster (and their respective employees, servants and agents) in respect of broadcast and media requests which includes but is not limited to requests for interviews, press conferences and facilities.
- 28.4 Clubs shall not take part in any match, which is to be televised or recorded or transmitted by satellite or cable or through any other communications platform without the prior written consent of the FAI.
- 28.5 No TV, Radio or other broadcaster shall be permitted access to any Competition or Club venue without the prior written consent of the FAI.
- 28.6 No match in the Competition shall be televised or recorded or transmitted by satellite or cable or on any other communications platform without the prior written consent of the Competition Manager.

29 Marketing / Branding / Advertising

- 29.1 If required, the FAI shall be responsible for the cost of producing and distributing branding to Clubs. Such branding shall be carried out by the FAI or authorised agents. The Logo agreed by the Competition Manager shall be displayed on:
- 29.1.1 Both sleeves of the jerseys of all Participant Clubs. The form and size of such branding shall be in accordance with FIFA and UEFA regulations.
- 29.1.2 The front cover and team list page of all programmes of matches forming part of the Competition.
- 29.1.3 All tickets (where printed) of matches forming part of the Competition.
- 29.1.4 Pre match poster advertisements in the catchment areas of Clubs.
- 29.1.5 If required, each Club shall provide the following advertising opportunities:
- 29.1.6 Competition Sponsor's names and corporate message shall be mentioned over the PA at the beginning, half time and the end of each match forming part of the Competition as provided by the Competition Manager.
- 29.1.7 The FAI shall be entitled to a full page advertisement in each Competition Programme for the Competition Sponsor. If the programme produced is a colour programme the advertisement must be a colour version.

29.1.8 The Competition Sponsors will be entitled to two (2) A-Boards in television view at each Competition fixture. The positioning of these boards will be advised to the clubs prior to the start of each season. The sponsor will be responsible for the production and installation of these A-Boards.

30 Breach of Commercial Rules

- 30.1 Prior written consent shall always be sought from the Competition Manager for any derogation from the commercial rules.
- 30.2 A breach of any Commercial Rule shall be subject to fine save where derogation has been granted in writing by the Competition Manager. The DRO shall submit a recommendation to the Disciplinary Committee regarding appropriate fines for such breaches.
- 30.3 The Competition Manager shall have the power from time to time to designate certain breaches as strict liability offences. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee regarding strict liability offences shall be final, binding and not subject to appeal.
- 30.4 The Competition Manager shall decide the level of fines for first, subsequent offences and for non-payment of fines.

