



FAI JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP 2022/23 RULES

The Cup shall be called "**The F.A.I. Junior Challenge Cup**" and is the property of the F.A.I.

Please be advised that the Registration /Re-Instatement/Regrading of players comes under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland Rule book and teams entering this competition should familiarise themselves with same.

Please note it is not the responsibility of the Competition Manager to confirm if players are eligible to play in the competition, clubs should ensure that players playing in the competition are eligible to play having been registered/re-graded or reinstated properly with their League.

In relation to International Transfer Certificates (ITC's) the onus is on the club to ensure that a player signing the registration form for them does not require an ITC. Copies of the FAI rules can be obtained from www.fai.ie

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:

"Season" means the current Junior winter season.

"Competition" means the FAI Junior Challenge Cup.

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

"FAI Rules" means the current Rules and Regulations of the FAI.

"Competition Manager" means the Competition Manager of the FAI Junior Challenge Cup as appointed by the FAI Board.

"Area Manager" means the Area Manager appointed by the Competition Manager to assist with the regional Rounds of the competition.

"Rules" means these Competition Rules as may be amended by the Competition Manager from time to time. In the event of a conflict or divergence between these Rules and the FAI Rules, the FAI Rules shall prevail.

Governance and Administration

Competition Manager

The management and control of the competition shall be the responsibility of the Competition Manager. The Competition Manager may delegate their functions to the Competition Administrator who shall be responsible for the day-to-day control and management of the competition.

Competition Managers Responsibilities

The Competition Manager shall:

- Ensure the draw for each round of the Competition is correctly supervised.
- Agree the programme of fixtures.
- have the power to delegate functions to administrative staff within the Competitions Department.
- Appoint other sub-committees as required.
- Allow for the investigation of any complaint.
- Oversee the proper distribution of prize monies.
- Have the power to withhold or withdraw the Cup and medals.
- Conduct all such administration as is necessary for the management of the Competition.
- Implement and carry out the policy decisions of the FAI Board.
- Deal with the disciplinary proceedings involving the affairs of the Competition as required.

Rule 1

The competition is annual and is open to all Junior teams under the jurisdiction of the Association.

Teams eligible to play.

Rule 1(a.)

Clubs wishing to compete in the competition must complete the official Junior Cup entry form along with the prescribed fee and return same on or before the prescribed date determined by the Competition Manager.

Rule 1(b.)

Clubs competing in the National League of Ireland Premier Division, First Division , Under 17 & 19 National League) and Intermediate teams are not eligible to compete in the Junior Challenge Cup.

Player eligibility.

Rule 2

Each player must sign in accordance with the Rules of the Football Association of Ireland. He must sign an Official FAI approved Registration form for the Club he wishes to play for, and this must be registered properly with the League in question.

A player is only eligible to play in a League or Cup match if there is at least one (1) day between the date of receipt of the registration form by the League and the day of the match.

Rule 2(a.)

No player can play for more than one team in the competition in the same season.

Rule 2(b.)

Any player that plays in the F.A.I. Senior Cup or F.A.I. Intermediate Cup after the 31st of August 2021 is not eligible to play in the F.A.I. Junior Challenge Cup. Teams and players, playing in the Leinster Senior Cup, Munster Senior Cup or Ulster Senior Cup will not lose their Junior status. The four semi-finalists competing in the Senior Cup are exempt from this rule should they progress in the Senior Cup.

Rule 2(c.)

No player on a Professional contract may play in the FAI Junior Cup. Players released from League of Ireland clubs must receive a transfer from the League of Ireland. Any player who was on a professional contract must request from the FAI Competitions manager a reinstatement to enable him to play as an amateur.

The FAI Competitions Manager shall have the power to reinstate any Professional Player to Amateur status.

Any Professional Player may apply to be reinstated as an Amateur Player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his/her last match as a Professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forwarded in writing to the FAI Competitions Department for consideration by the FAI Competitions Manager. Only after the reinstatement has been approved can a player sign as an amateur.

Any player who has played (5) five or more matches in the current season at Senior / Intermediate level may be re-graded by his League to play at Junior level.

All Leagues must facilitate application for re-grading, which must be submitted before the 31st of January.

A record of all players re-graded by the League must be maintained and is open to inspection should a protest or clarification be required.

No team may play more than 4 re-graded players in any one Junior Challenge Cup game. This only applies to players re-graded in the current season.

Rule 2(d.)

The transfer windows as determined at the start of each season shall apply. The two transfer periods for the Amateur game shall be the 1st of June to the 30th September inclusive and the 1st of December to the 31st of January inclusive.

Rule 2(e.)

Any players entering the jurisdiction of the Association after playing in another jurisdiction with another Association must receive an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) from the Association prior to playing.

Rule 2(f.)

If the Competition Manager/Area Manager has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in the Competition they shall have the power to call upon such player or team to which he belongs, or for which he has played, to prove he is a qualified according to the rules and failing satisfactory proof, the disciplinary committee may disqualify such player and may remove the team from the competition.

Playing Rules**Rule 3**

The referees match card must be filled in prior to the start of the match. No amendments to the cards can be made during or after the game. Either team may inspect the match card should they have reason to do so. The names on the match card must correspond to the numbers on their jerseys.

Rule 3(a.)

A team may at its discretion use five (5) substitutes from a named seven (7), these must be recorded on the match card prior to the start of the game.

Rule 3(b.)

All Leagues whose clubs are competing in the FAI Junior Cup must allow other clubs competing in the competition permission to search registrations and forms subject to a payment of the normal League search fee.

Rule 3(c.)

Teams playing in the competition must give an undertaking that their players do not or have not competed in any Leagues or Competitions outside the jurisdiction of the Association in the current season. Completion of the entry form for the competition will be deemed to be confirmation of the above undertaking.

Rule 3(d.)

Teams playing in the competition must use their registered colours as recorded by their Leagues, in the event of a clash of colours the home team must change. The Referee shall have the final say in relation to a clash of gear.

All player's shirts must be numbered, and their names must correspond with the names entered on the Referees match card. The Match Card must be completed prior to the game. The onus is on the home club Secretary to contact both the Referee and away team to confirm the fixture and colours.

Rule 4

All matches up to and including the Final shall be 90 minutes duration. If the tie is a draw after 90 minutes, ten (10) minutes each way extra time will be played, if playing level after extra time the FIFA penalty rules will apply.

Teams late for a kick-off and reported by the Match Official will be liable to a fine or may be removed from the competition.

Rule 5

Kick Off times

All kick off times are as defined and should be the same time and day as their league division. However, in the interest of fair play, if a distance to be travelled by the away team for a specific day or time is deemed to be excessive by the Competition Manager/Area Manager, the kick-off time may be changed to a day or time that suits all parties

Kick-off times no later than 3pm, unless fixed by the Competition Manager/Area Manager. First named team in the fixture will have home advantage, if the first named team cannot supply a ground the tie will revert.

Teams opting to play their FAI Junior Cup ties on a day other than Sunday morning or afternoon (excluding the Dublin Saturday Division) may do so by agreement with the opposing team and the Competition Manager/Area Manager. The Competition Manager/Area Manager will have the final say should a dispute arise.

All matches in the last thirty-two (32) of the competition must be played on an enclosed ground. If a team can't supply an enclosed ground, then the tie will revert.

An enclosed ground is defined as a ground where access can only be gained through an official entrance where spectators are separated from the playing area by railings or ropes and all such grounds should contain dug outs and a Technical Area. All grounds used in the last thirty-two (32) of the competition must have dressing rooms and showers.

The Competition Manager may grant an exception to a specific structural criterion in cases of particular hardship and upon a reasoned request.

A ground used for FAI Junior Cup ties shall be understood to be a ground of sufficient length and width, properly delineated and marked according to the Laws of the Game, in the event of a ground not been marked or properly marked the Competition Manager/Area Manager will have the power to either remove the team, re-fix the match or impose a fine on the offending team according to the circumstances of the case.

The Competition Manager/Area Manager shall be the final arbiter.

Postponed or abandoned games due to weather conditions are to be played on opponents ground if deemed playable provided it does not exceed 10km, if both grounds are unplayable the game will be re-fixed on the opposition ground as soon as possible. If a game is abandoned for any other reasons this will be investigated and the game may or may not be re-fixed.

No free weekends will be granted in the FAI Junior Challenge Cup.

The Competition Manager shall have the power to cancel or re-schedule, in exceptional circumstances, a fixture or fixtures.

Rule 6

Any team intending to scratch must notify in writing the Competition Secretary and the Secretary of the opposing team at least four days prior to the tie. Any team failing to conform to this rule shall be dealt with by the Competition Manager/Area Manager.

Any team refusing or failing to play the team against which it has been drawn on the date fixed and without sufficient reason, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be fined.

Any team changing their secretary must notify the Competition Secretary in writing, failure to do so may render a team liable to a fine.

Any team changing Secretary must notify the Competition Manager in writing, failure to do so may render a team liable to a fine.

Rule 6(a) Covid-19

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.

Rule 7

For Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final the Competition Manager shall decide on the venue for the same. In the Semi-Finals the first team drawn out in each Semi-Final shall play in their own County subject to confirmation from the Competition Manager.

Rule 8

A player who receives a Red Card in an FAI Junior Cup fixture will stand suspended for a minimum of one game in the next round of the competition if his team advances. If his team is eliminated from the competition, he stands suspended for a minimum of one game in his next competitive domestic game. Domestic suspensions except in the case of a Referee assault or serious misconduct are served at domestic level unless otherwise stated.

The automatic one game suspension may not be appealed.

A player sent from the field of play in a 1st team match shall not serve an automatic suspension in a reserve match. Following receipt of the Referees report the relevant disciplinary body may at their discretion extend the duration of the suspension and/or impose a fine, notice of which will be forwarded to the club secretary. A club may request a personal hearing on any Rough Play report by contacting the Competition Secretary/Area Manager.

All rough play decisions will be forwarded in writing to the Secretary of the club and the League in question.

All yellow cards received in the FAI Junior Cup will be passed on to the various Leagues for recording. The Leagues will notify the players of any fine or suspension that might arise during the season in relation to Yellow Cards received in the FAI Junior Cup.

Please be advised that all fines must be paid within 7 days of receipt of notice, the Secretary of the Club is responsible for making sure the fine is paid and that any suspension imposed is served by the player or players in question. Failure to adhere to these could result in an additional fine, expulsion from the competition or a hold up in Domestic fixtures.

Rule 9

Protests must be received by the Competition Secretary by registered letter within 4 days {Saturdays/ Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted} after the match. A Bank Draft or Postal or Money Order of €400 must accompany the protest.

Clubs protesting must state the reason for protesting in the registered letter and they must present evidence to support their case at the hearing. Please note the onus is on the team protesting to prove their case at the hearing.

In the case of a protest on the eligibility of a number of players, the club protesting must submit an individual protest and fee for each player named.

An exact copy of the protest must be sent by registered letter to the Club protested against, within 4 days, as foresaid, after the match. If a club is successful with its protest the protest Fee will be returned.

Affiliates, players, or others dissatisfied with the decision of the sub-committee shall have the right to appeal its decision to the FAI as per rule.

No appeal can be made under any circumstances, regarding the appointment of Referees, Assistant Referees or Fourth Officials.

The scheduling or rescheduling of all fixtures and re-arranged matches, shall not be subject to appeal.

Rule 10

Every Club is responsible to the FAI for the action of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all reasonable precautions to prevent verbal and racial abuse, threatening or assaulting match officials, players, administrators, or club officials before, during or after a match. All reports will be investigated, and sanctions will be imposed if found guilty.

The FAI will not tolerate any racial abuse based on colour, religious beliefs, nationality and any reports received will be thoroughly investigated and the maximum punishment will be delivered to those found guilty.

Rule 11

In all rounds up to and including the Quarter-Finals a gate may be taken, if a gate is taken the home team will keep the gate and pay all expenses incurred in relation to the hosting of the game.

The Competition Manager will sanction all grounds and dates for the Quarter-Final and Semi-Finals, and these may be subject to inspections The dates for the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals will be confirmed prior to the Quarter Final Draw.

If for whatever reason a game in the Quarter Final or Semi Final fails to finish on the day the re-fixed date and venue will be confirmed by the Competition Manager/Area Manager.

In relation to gates from the Semi-Finals these will stand alone as will the final. Takings from the semi-final and final gates shall be divided between the clubs and FAI.

In the event of a clash of colours for both teams' choice will be decided by a toss of a coin. The Competition Manager/Area Manager will have the final say in relation to any advertising logos or emblems that might appear on the strip.

The finalists will each receive twenty-five (25) medals any additional medals must be requested in writing and sanctioned by the Competition Manager.

The FAI shall present the Cup to the winning Club which shall be responsible for its return six (6) weeks prior to the following FAI Junior Cup 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 FAI the amount of its replacement value or 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 Competition Manager 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 Junior Cup.

The Club shall insure against Fire, Burglary and Larceny with an Insurance Company for a sum which, in the opinion of the Competition Manager accurately reflects the full reinstatement value of the FAI Junior Cup.

The winning Club must sign a receipt on winning the trophy for the care and safe return of the FAI Junior Cup.

Rule 12

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 Competition Manager, whose decision shall be final and shall have the power to withhold the Cup and Medals.

The Competition Manager shall have power to alter these Rules, but in no case shall they do so until after the Final Tie in the competition has been played. The Competition Manager prior to 1st Round Draw have the power to agree the format for the Competition.

Referees:

Any player or official may be requested to attend before a Disciplinary Committee based on a Referees report, persons failing to attend without a satisfactory reason will be dealt with as the Committee deems fit.

In the case of an alleged assault on a Referee or Assistant Referee, the person or persons concerned shall stand suspended from the time of the alleged report. Those reported shall not play or take part in any football activities until their case is heard. All cases must be heard within 5 days of the offence.

In all games up to and including the Quarter-Finals the home team must pay the Referees expenses. In the Round of the last 64 and after, all Leagues are requested to provide 3 Officials for these games.

In the last 16 of the Competition and all subsequent rounds the match officials will be appointed from another League and these appointments will be made by the Referees Manager of the Football Association of Ireland.

In the Final the Match Officials shall receive a medal and match expenses only, they will not receive a match fee

Please note;

The FAI Junior Cup is run by the FAI and all media rights associated with the competition are the property of the FAI. Permission for use of these images by third parties for commercial gain must be sought by application to the Competition Manager, failure to do so may result in legal proceedings.

