



# ***Munster Football Association***

***General Rules,  
General Cup Rules &  
Provincial Cup Competition Rules***

***Season 2025-2026***

*Chairperson: Leslie Doyle*  
*Vice Chairperson: Ursula Scully*  
*Administrator: Barry Cotter*

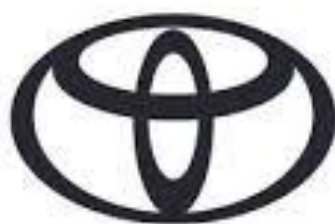
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**MFA FOOTBALL LTD., t/a**  
**MUNSTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**GENERAL RULES**  
**2025-26 Season**

**Title**

1. This Association shall be known as MFA Football Ltd., t/a Munster Football Association or in the Irish language “Cumamm Peile na Mumhan”

**Headquarters**

2. The Office of the Association and company shall be in the city of Cork.

**Objects of the Association**

3. The objects for which the Association is established are to promote, foster and develop the game of Association Football in the Province of Munster, and to take all such steps as may be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringement of the Rules of the game or other improper practices in the game, and for protecting it from abuses and to do such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them as the Council may determine.

**Affiliation to F.A.I.**

4. This Association shall be affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland and be bound by its rules and regulations.

**Interpretations**

5. In the interpretation of these rules the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings unless excluded by the subject or context:
  - (a) “Association” shall mean the Munster Football Association.
  - (b) “Council” shall mean the Council of the Munster Football Association.
  - (c) The words “The Association” and “This Association”, except where otherwise stated, shall include the Council of this Association as constituted under Rule 12.
  - (d) Days shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays unless the rule specifies calendar days.
  - (e) Associate Members shall not have the right of representation and voting at Special or Annual General Meetings of the Association.
  - (f) Clubs in these rules shall include teams of clubs, which teams shall be eligible to membership.

**Association Power to Deal with Breaches of Rules etc.**

6. The Association shall have jurisdiction in all matters concerned with the game in the Province of Munster, and the Council shall have power to deal with, as they deem fit, any League, Club, Club Official, members or players of clubs in membership of the Association guilty of misconduct or a breach of these rules, or in any way acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

**Membership of Association**

7. All clubs playing Association Football in the Province of Munster and other such counties or Districts as may be agreed with other Provincial Associations concerned, subject to the approval of the Football Association of Ireland and M.F.A. shall be eligible for membership. On admission each club, their respective officials, representatives, players and members shall be bound by the

decisions of the Council, and such decisions shall be final and binding on all concerned, subject to all existing rights of appeal. All such clubs, Officials, representatives, players and members shall be subject to the Rules, for the time being of the F.A.I. and such rules shall be read and held as part of these rules.

### **Affiliation of Teams**

8. The Administrator shall give clubs 14 days notice through their League Secretaries of subscriptions being due on the 30th September.

8(a) In addition to an affiliation fee, each team shall be required to pay an Annual Levy of €6 for Youths and €13 for Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams for the development of football.

### **Information to be furnished by Clubs**

9. Each club shall forward to the Hon. Secretary of their League, with its subscription, the names and address of its Chairperson, Secretary, and all committee members along with distinguishing colours and situation of its dressing room and ground, stating whether ground is public or private. Clubs shall be required to keep minutes of their meetings, showing the names and dates of election of new members, etc. and when members leave, transfer, or resign. Clubs must also provide a current e-mail contact address.

### **Clubs changing Secretaries etc.**

10. Leagues and clubs changing their Secretaries or Secretaries of clubs and Leagues changing their addresses, and telephone numbers are required to advise the Administrator of the Association of the alteration at once. Failure to do so will render such League or Club liable to a fine, suspension or expulsion as Council may deem fit.

### **Office Bearers**

11. The Hon. Officers of the Association shall be Hon. Asst. Secretary, to be elected at the AGM by a clear majority of the representatives in attendance, together with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to be elected at the first meeting of Council. The executive committee of the MFA shall form the Board of Directors of MFA Football Ltd.

11(a) The Association may appoint a full-time Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) for such period as may be agreed by Council. The Administrator shall assume the role of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the Association and the company and will be charged with all the duties and responsibilities hitherto assigned to the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. The administrator shall work with and report to committees as may be decided by the Council. The Administrator will be entitled to be a non-voting member of Council and any sub-committees or commissions established by Council and will be entitled to represent the Association (in accordance with the role of Hon. Secretary) at external committees, commissions and conferences.

### **Constitution of Council**

12. The Council of this Association shall consist of the following:

(a) Administrator

(b) Three (3) members to be nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Every candidate for election must send to the Administrator of the Association, on or before 31st March in each year by registered post, a nomination paper signed personally and containing his full name and address and the club if any to which he belongs, together with the names of nominators who must be members of the Association. Every candidate shall be nominated by at least four (4) clubs in membership of the Association, signed by the Secretary of the committee or on behalf of their respective clubs.

- (c) One (1) selected person to represent all National League clubs affiliated to the MFA.
- (d) The following leagues will have representatives as per affiliated teams from the previous season. Clare District League, Cork AUL, Cork Business League, Cork Women's League, Cork Youth League, Kerry District League, Limerick Desmond Ladies, Limerick Desmond League, Limerick District League, Limerick Ladies League, Munster Senior League, North Tipperary District League, North Tipperary Schoolchildren's Football League, Tipperary Senior Ladies, Tipperary South & District League, Waterford Junior League, Waterford Women's League, West Cork League.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 0 to 60 Teams   | 1 Representative   |
| 61 to 120 Teams | 2 Representative's |
| 121 plus Teams  | 3 Representative's |

No Affiliated League to the MFA shall have more than 1 representative on FAI General Assembly should a Affiliated League not be represented. Should a vacancy occur in Council membership, the League affected shall be empowered to elect a successor.

In the event of any representative being unable to act through illness or otherwise, he may be replaced by the respective body concerned.

- 13 The Council shall have the right to nominate persons as Hon.President and Hon.Vice President of the Association not later than the 30th April.
- 13 (a) In accordance with FAI rules the Chairperson shall be the Designated Child Welfare Officer. The Council shall have the right to nominate a person as a Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer. The Designated Child Welfare Officer and/or the Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer shall ensure that they discharge their duties in accordance with any legislation and all FAI rules, regulations, codes, policies, and guidelines in respect of child protection and welfare.

#### **Power to fill vacancy in Council.**

14. The Council of this Association may fill any vacancy in the Office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Auditor or Auditors, which may occur during the season.

#### **Election of Chairman etc.**

15. At the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting they shall elect from their number a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to act for the season. The Chairperson or in their absence the Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Council at which they are present, and shall conduct the business in accordance with the ordinary rules of procedure of which they shall be judge.
- In the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson they shall appoint a member from amongst those present to act as Chairperson. In the case of votes on any motion the presiding Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative one.

#### **Council may delegate its Powers**

16. The Council shall have power to appoint such committees or commissions as it may be considered necessary and may by resolution of Council or standing orders delegate all or any of its powers to

such committee or commission. The Council shall make such regulations for the control of the game for Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Youth football, by the setting up of Sub Committees or such other bodies as may be deemed desirable or directed by the Council of the Football Association of Ireland. The Council shall make such regulation for the control and remuneration of referees and for Cups and club competitions as they may from time to time consider necessary.

- 16 (a) The Association shall be entitled to hold, occupy, sub lease, licence, hire, charter and grant rights and privileges in respect of or otherwise deal with lands, peroditaments, houses, buildings and all property of every nature, kind, description and tenure belonging to the Association or in respect of which the Association may have any estate, interest, rights or licences, to deal with same commercially and to purchase lands and buildings and to borrow monies for such purposes and or levy members of the Association for such purposes. Any levy to be subject to approval of the membership at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

### **Disqualification of Members**

17. The office of an officer or a member of Council shall be vacated:

- 17.1. (a) If he/she absents themselves from three consecutive meetings of the Council or any committee or commission of same, without special leave of absence from or reason satisfactory to the Council, or any Committee or Commission respectively. This rule accounts for meetings both in person or virtually.

(b) If he/she receives payment for services either directly or indirectly (beyond out of pocket expenses for assistant referee, referee or otherwise in matches.) Payment of professional fees for professional service shall ‘not be deemed payment within the meaning of this rule

17. 2. (a) Any officer or member of Council or member of a League Committee shall be at liberty to contract with the Association and shall not be disqualified by reason of their having to contracted, and such officer or member of Council or member of League Management Committee shall not be bound to account to the Association from their having so contracted with it provided that at the time the contract is entered into he/she discloses their interest therein and does not vote on the matter.

(b) A non-amateur player or referee, during the period of their registration, or a paid representative of a Club outside the jurisdiction of The Association is not eligible to act as a Director of a Club or as a member of the Management Committee of a Club or sit on Council or act as a representative at any meeting of National Associations, Divisional Associations or Affiliated Leagues.

(c) Nominated representatives from The Irish Soccer Referees Society shall be permitted to represent the Society on the referees committee as provided for by the rules of the FAI.

(d) Amateur and Associate Referees are also exempt from this rule.

### **Power of Council**

18. The management of the business and the control of the Association shall be vested in the Council, who may exercise all such powers and carry out all such objects of the Association as are not by these rules expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Association in General Meeting.

- 18 (a) The Council may appoint and remove solicitors, bankers, agents, officials or servants and confer on them respectively, such powers or duties as they may consider fit.
19. The Annual General Meeting which shall consist of the office bearers of the Association, members of the Council, members of League Management Committees, and one representative from each affiliated team shall be held no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in June. Seven days notice of such meetings shall be given. Clubs with two or more teams must have different representatives for each team. The President and Vice Presidents, members of League Management Committees shall be entitled to speak at all General Meetings of the Association but shall not be entitled to vote except as a club representative. Notification for AGM and SGM shall be through the various League Secretaries.
- 19 (a) The venue and date of the Annual General Meeting be decided at the March Council meeting.

### **Special General Meeting**

20. Special General Meetings may be called by the Council as they deem necessary. A Special General Meeting shall also be called upon receipt by the Administrator of the Association of a requisition signed by the Secretaries of one third of the total affiliated clubs in membership accompanied by a deposit of one thousand euro (€1,000) to be paid by the clubs signing the requisition, to defray expenses incurred; balance if any to be refunded. No business shall be conducted at such meeting except that specified in the requisition to or contained in the Agenda issued by the Administrator of the Association.

### **Ineligibility to attend General Meeting**

21. No club shall have a right to a representative to the Annual General Meeting unless the Club's subscription has been paid on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September preceding. No club shall have a right to a representative to a Special General Meeting unless the Club's subscription has been paid at least fourteen days before the date fixed for such Special General Meeting, and in no case later than 31st October in any season. In the case of clubs formed after the 31st October such clubs shall be entitled to a representative at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting provided their subscription has been paid within twenty one days of election to membership.

### **Protests, Appeals and Investigations**

#### **Appeals**

22. Clubs, players or members of clubs and all others dissatisfied with the decisions of any League, combination of Leagues or similar organisations under the jurisdiction of this Association shall have the right to appeal to this Association against such decisions. Appeals must be sent by registered post within four days of the date on which the written notification of the decision being appealed against was received by the appellant. For the avoidance of doubt time limits begin from the day after receipt of the notification. Appeals must be addressed to the Munster Football Association. In the event of a postal dispute or similar emergency, the appellant shall contact the MFA to ascertain what temporary alternative arrangements have been put in place by the MFA. The initial appeal documents must include a copy of the decision being appealed against, the appeal fee in accordance with rule 22(b), it must indicate the date upon which such decision was received by the appellant, and must confirm that notification of the submission of appeal has been sent in accordance with Rule 22(a), The registered postal receipt should be retained by the appellant and should be brought to the appeal hearing, as proof of the time and date of posting the appeal.

**NOTE:** No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following in accordance with FAI Rules:

- a match caution
- an automatic suspension (except in the case of mistaken identity)
- a mandatory suspension

- (a) A letter of notification of the submission of an appeal to the MFA shall be

simultaneously sent by registered post to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal. The letter of notification shall identify the decision which is the subject of the appeal.

- (b) Appeals must be accompanied by a Bank Draft or Postal Order for the Appeal Fee of €350, made payable to the MFA and crossed. This fee shall be refunded only if the appeal is successful.

**NOTE:** A suspension remains in place even when an appeal has been lodged with the MFA. The suspension can only be lifted by a successful outcome of an appeal.

- (c) The body against whose decision the appeal is made, must forward to the Hon. Secretary no later than 7 days after receipt of the appeal, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting which made the original decision and any other requested documentation relevant to the appeal. Failure to comply with the correct procedure as outlined above may result in disciplinary action being taken by the appeals committee against either party. The appellant must set out clearly the grounds on which the appeal is based. The appeals committee shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal and / or to vary the sanction and / or fine. In the event of an appeal being deemed frivolous or out of order, a fine up to a maximum of €300 may be imposed.

(d) **Protests**

Protests must be lodged in accordance with the Cup rules of the Munster Football Association.

**Protest and Investigations**

23. In cases of protests, appeals or investigations of any kind, members of the club or clubs concerned who may be members of Council, and members of the League of which the club are members shall not have the privilege of being present (except in the capacity of a witness) and such members shall not be entitled to vote at any subsequent meeting of Council on matters arising from such previous protest, appeal or investigation.

**Mode of Voting**

24. At the Annual General Meeting all questions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a demand be made by a member of the meeting, supported by at least a fourth of the representatives in attendance and voting, for a ballot.

**Delegates**

25. The Council shall have power to appoint representatives to the Football Association of Ireland, to any League or like body under its control, or delegates to any conference of Association.

**Duties of Administrator of the Association**

26. The Administrator shall conduct the correspondence of the Association and shall present a report of the season's work at the Annual General Meeting. The Administrator shall take charge of the funds of the Association and keep regular accounts of same. They shall submit statements of receipts and disbursements to the Annual General Meeting and to the Council at all finance meetings. They shall audit their accounts on the 31st December each year and shall submit audited statement thereof to be available to each club seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Council may order intermediate audits at any time.

**Keeping of Accounts**

27. Annual audited accounts shall be kept and made available to the Revenue Commissioners on request.

### **Checking Gate Receipts**

28. All gate receipts of the Association shall be checked at the conclusion of the game by the Administrator and a member of the Finance committee, or in the absence of the Administrator by two members of the Council and at the first meeting of the Council thereafter a report of the receipts shall be made and inserted in the minutes.

### **Funds and Accounts of the Association**

29. The funds of the Association shall be lodged in such bank as may be approved by the Finance committee and Board of Directors. The finance committee shall set guidelines for the payment of accounts and shall also decide who the signatories on cheques should be.

### **Members of Council's Rights of Access to Books**

30. Every member of Council shall have the right of access at all reasonable times to the books, documents, accounts, and vouchers of the Association, and shall be entitled to receive from the Council and Administrator such information and explanations as he may consider necessary in connection with any items of receipts and expenditure.

### **Clubs & Players cannot play under any Rules other than this Association's**

31. No club or player shall be permitted to play in any matches with clubs not affiliated to the FAI except with the special permission of the latter body.

### **Clubs or Players infringing these Rules**

32. Any infringement of any rule of the Association or the Laws of the Game shall render the offending club and any member of same and offending player of a club liable to expulsion, suspension, fine or such other penalty as the Council may think fit.

### **Suspended Person or Player ineligible to hold Office etc.**

33. A player or member of a club or League shall not during the period of the suspension, play or take part in any match or fixture under this Association, hold any office in his club or act in any capacity under this Association.

### **Objectionable Conduct**

34. In the event of ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any player in any match under the jurisdiction of this Association, such player shall be cautioned by the referee and the incident and player reported to the Council. In the case of violent conduct the referee shall rule the offending player out of play and order them off the ground, transmitting their name and address and official card to the Council of this Association, but such player having served their automatic suspension shall be at liberty to assist their club in any subsequent matches until their case has been dealt with by the Council. It is recommended in accordance with FAI Guidelines that any player reported by the referee for committing an assault on the referee or assistant referee shall have their case heard within five days of the incident happening. The Council shall have the power to suspend, fine or otherwise deal with any player proved guilty of ungentlemanly behaviour or violent conduct on the field of play.

### **Appeal against Punishment**

35. Clubs, players or members of clubs and all others dissatisfied with decisions of the Council of this Association shall have the right of appeal to the FAI and such appeal must be made in accordance with the Rules of that body.

### **Suspension of Clubs**

36. The suspension of a team shall mean the particular team concerned, and officials of such team from participating in any way under the jurisdiction of the Munster Football Association. The suspension of any such team shall not affect any other team from the club.

### **Suspension of Members or Officers**

37. The Council shall have power to suspend or otherwise deal with as they consider fit, any of its members or any Hon. Officer of the Association who in its opinion may be deemed guilty of conduct likely to bring discredit on the Association, the Council or the game. Divulging information regarding business transacted or to be transacted by the Council shall be deemed misconduct under this rule. Members or Officers who may feel aggrieved by the result of a decision under this rule shall have the right of appeal to the Council of the FAI.

### **Suspension of Member of Club**

38. Any member of a suspended club who may be on the Council of this Association shall not act in such capacity or any other capacity under the Association during the period of their suspension. A person may be elected in their stead to the Council or committee affected, but the person so appointed shall only act during the period of suspension, and not in any case beyond the time the member of Council or committee would have acted under these rules.

### **Players at Disposal of Council**

39. Each club shall be bound to place its players at the disposal of the Council for representative and other matches arranged by Council.

### **Powers to deal with Players refusing to play in Representative Matches**

40. Any player selected to play in any Inter Provincial or other match arranged by this Association and without good and sufficient cause, failing to comply with the arrangements of the Council for playing in the match or failing to play in such match, may be adjudged by the Council to be guilty of misconduct, and shall be dealt with as the Council thinks fit. The Council shall also deal with (as it thinks fit) any Club or Clubs that may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated such player in the breach of instruction of Rules.

### **Clubs Responsible for actions of its players etc.**

41. Every club is responsible to Council of this Association for the action of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials during or at the conclusion of matches.

### **Dates Reserved by the Council**

42. Leagues or clubs must not arrange fixtures on the date of Semi-Finals and Finals of Munster Senior, Junior & Youth Challenge Cups, Inter-Provincial or other representative games arranged by the MFA except by special permission from the Association. This prohibition applies only to towns or cities in which such matches are played.

### **Cup Competitions**

43. Cup-ties shall take precedence over all other matches in their respective grades.

### **Protests relating to Ground etc.**

44. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game, shall not be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible club to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the progress of the match. When an objection has been lodged with the referee a protest must be made to the Association accompanied by a deposit of €250. If in the opinion of the Council, the complaint is frivolous the deposit shall be forfeited.

### **Transfers**

45. No player, either non-amateur or amateur, shall play for two clubs during the same season without first getting a transfer from their original club and satisfying all the valid claims of that club. "Original" shall mean the club which the player first registered for. Transfers must be carried out in accordance with the rules of the FAI.
- 45 (a) The closing date for the transfer of players from one club to another, or from one League to another, shall be in accordance with the rules of the FAI.

### **Referees to be Neutral and Pass Examination / Referees Fees**

46. All referees shall be neutral and shall be appointed by the Council. All referees before appointment must have satisfactorily passed a qualifying examination held by the Examination Committee. Referees fees and expenses to be paid prior to the commencement of each match.

### **Professional Referees or Players ineligible to attend Meetings**

47. A non-amateur player or non-amateur referee is ineligible to act as a representative at any meeting of this Association or at any meeting of its constituent bodies, or of any League combination etc. subject to the rules of the FAI.

### **Complaints against Referees**

48. All complaints against referees, giving full details, must be received by the Administrator of the Association within four days from the cause of such complaint, and the Council will not entertain any complaint against referees unless made in accordance with the foregoing.

### **Indemnity**

49. Every Officer, member of the Council, Administrator or other officials or servant of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them, respectively, in or about the discharge of their respective duties, except such as may happen from their own respective wilful acts or defaults.

### **Members of Council entitled to Free Admission to Grounds**

50. Members of the Council of this Association shall be entitled to free admission to all grounds under the jurisdiction of the Association on producing their card of membership.

### **Expenses allowed to Members**

51. Members of the Council, Committee, Sub-Committee and Commissions shall be allowed such expenses as may be incurred in the performance of their duties as this Association shall approve.

### **Owners of Cups, Money etc.**

52. The Board of Directors of MFA Football Ltd., shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owners of the cups, monies and the property of the Association and shall deal with same, according to the direction of the Council.
- 52(a) That while Association Football in the entire Province of Munster is to remain heretofore under the ultimate control of the Munster Football Association, nevertheless the right is conceded to the committees of the various affiliated Leagues to organise and control the Leagues and similar competitions in their respective areas. No team or club in these areas may enter any Leagues or competitions of the other areas without sanction of the Munster Football Association. This rule to apply to all clubs under the control of the MFA.
53. Applications for permission to organise Summer League, tournaments etc., must be made to Council before the 1st June in each year. Council shall at the commencement of each season fix the amount of Associate fees to be paid by each club. A financial statement of accounts shall be submitted to Council in respect of all tournaments and competitions, players officials and referees

participating in unauthorised competitions shall be liable to be fined, suspended or otherwise dealt with by Council. (*Associate fees €13 per team.*)

#### **Rules to be furnished to each Club**

54. Each League shall be furnished with a copy of any amendments to these rules to be distributed to all clubs in membership of that League, not later than 1st October each year and shall be bound thereby.
- 54 (a) The Administrator of Council shall appoint all referees relating to all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Munster Football Association involving teams of different leagues and must advise the Fixture Secretaries of the Leagues concerned not later than 10 days preceding the game.

#### **Amendments to Rules**

55. Any alteration or addition to these rules being deemed necessary, notice of the proposed alteration shall be sent in writing per registered letter to the Administrator of the Association by the 10<sup>th</sup> April in each year, signed for and on behalf of the Club or other constituent body by the Secretary. Particulars of all such proposed alterations or additions to the Rules shall be available on request to the clubs and Leagues not later than 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Such alterations shall not be made unless supported by a two-third majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Additions, alterations or amendments**

- 55 (a) No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to or in the provisions of this Constitution for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners.

#### **Production of Books etc.**

56. The Council shall have power to call upon clubs, Leagues, Alliances and other organisations, members of same and players of a club, to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence the Council may desire.
57. Leagues must receive the approval of the Association annually. The rules of Divisional Associations and all affiliated Leagues must be in conformity with the rules of the FAI and the statutes and regulations of FIFA and UEFA. In the event of any discrepancy between the rules of the FAI and the rules of Divisional Associations and all affiliated Leagues, the rules of the FAI shall prevail. Applications to this Association for the approval for the formation of new Leagues or the approval of alterations in the constitution of rules of existing Leagues, or other bodies, must be made by the 15th July or 10 days after formation, or they may not be entertained. Leagues or other bodies seeking sanction for alterations shall call attention of their amendments therein. Alterations to rules or the approval of new formation of rules will not have binding force until passed by the Football Association of Ireland. Any League or other body not complying with the provision of this rule may be dealt with as the Council shall think fit. Any club taking part in a competition not so sanctioned will be liable to be fined, suspended, expelled or otherwise dealt with as the Association shall think just. The Association shall have power at any time to make enquires into the working of such Leagues etc., and to deal with same.

#### **Council to deal with matters not provided for**

58. The Council shall have power to deal with matters not provided for in these rules.
59. In the event of any discrepancy between the rules of the FAI and the MFA or its affiliated Leagues, the rules of the FAI shall prevail.

#### **Income and Property**

60. The income and property of the Association, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its main object(s) as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the association's income and

property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to the members of the association. No Officer shall be appointed to any office of the association paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the association. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the association of:

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member of the association (not being an officer) for any services rendered to the association;
- (b) interest at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum on money lent by Officers or other members of the association to the association;
- (c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the association (including any Officer) to the association;
- (d) reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the association;
- (e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member holding no more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

### **Winding-up**

61. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the association there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the association. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the association. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the association under or by virtue of rule 61 hereof. Members of the association shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.

### **Obligations**

62. All members (including players, management, committee and supporters) of the Munster Football Association have the following obligations where appropriate:
- 1. To be bound by the rules of the MFA and the rules of any competition in which they are participating.
  - 2. To safeguard children involved in the game of association football, to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to fulfil this obligation and to comply with all legislation, rules, regulations, codes, policies, guidelines, directives and decisions in respect of child protection and welfare. In particular members shall ensure compliance with Child Welfare rules prior to admitting a person to membership of their organisation.

# **CUP RULES**

# **MUNSTER**

# **FOOTBALL**

# **ASSOCIATION**

# **SEASON 2025-2026**



# **MUNSTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## **GENERAL CUP RULES**

1. The trophies shall be competed annually by eleven members of each competing team who are duly qualified according to the rules of the association. While the players in each team may be changed, no individual shall play for more than one team in each of the competitions during any one season, and they must be a registered playing member of the club. All players must be registered in accordance with FAI rules. For the purpose of this rule, an unused substitute is deemed not to be cup tied.

**NOTE:** **The onus is on a club to ensure their players are registered with their League in accordance with rules.**

2. Teams wishing to compete in these competitions must complete the official competition entry form Via the FAI Connect System which shall include the team Hon. Secs., name, postal address, e-mail address, phone no., club colours and League affiliated to. The entry form will not be valid until the entrance fee has been received before the specified closing date for entries as decided by council.

3. A team may at its discretion use five from nine (9) named substitute players at any time in a cup match except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the referee. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. Only five substitutions by each side will be permitted in any match and the name of the substitute players must be entered on the FAI Connect Team Sheet prior to kick off.

4. If the council has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in the competition, it shall call upon the team to which they belong, or for which they have played to prove to their satisfaction that they are properly qualified and failing such proof, the council shall have the power to deal with the club and player in accordance with FAI rules on ineligibility.

5. 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 visiting team shall have choice. A goalkeeper must wear a shirt of different colour, provided that said shirt is of a colour distinctive from that of his opponents. Referees shall have power to instruct a player to change his shirt if they consider the colours not quite distinctive from that of his opponents. Referees shall have the power to deal with any player refusing to comply with their instruction in this respect. **For the Final of competitions both finalists may be supplied with a set of playing kit by the MFA which must be worn in the game. In the event of a clash of colours for both teams, the club in whose area the game is being played must change. The Committee will have the final say in relation to any advertising logos or emblems that might appear on the strip.**

6. The names of the teams entered for the competition shall be placed in one lot or lots as the council may decide and shall be drawn and played in couples. The first team drawn in each couple to be considered the home team, but the council shall have the right to decide the venue on which the tie is to be played.

7. The council shall have the power to exempt any number of teams from any number of rounds and byes may be given so that four teams shall compete in the semi-finals.

8. When a game is not played at the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at a venue because of ground or weather conditions, the game will be reversed to the away venue. This will also apply if a game is commenced but not concluded because of ground or weather conditions. This rule is not applicable to finals. A club may transfer their fixture to another suitable ground if their own ground is deemed unplayable by the match referee provided the visiting team does not have to travel no more than an extra 32 kilometres (20 miles) to the nominated ground. Should a club be transferring ground or transferring surface then they must notify the MFA and the opposition no later than 6 hours before kick-off.

9. In the event of one of the competing teams lodging a protest that the ground of their opponent is not fit to be played upon, a committee of inspection shall be appointed by the council to investigate and decide the question, all

expenses to be paid by the club decided against. This protest must be lodged with the Administrator of the association four days prior to the date of the match accompanied by a fee of €350. The decision of the officially appointed referee as to the fitness of the ground on the day of the match will be final.

**10.** The Administrator through the Leagues shall arrange all fixtures and appoint the referees up to and including the ¼ finals. The Administrator in conjunction with the Senior referee's assessor shall have the right to appoint the referees and assistant referees in the semi-finals and final.

**11.** The Administrator shall have the right to power to re-arrange any matches and to appoint referees and assistant referees in case of any emergency.

**12.** In the case of the appointed referee not attending the match and the two teams agreeing to one on the ground, such referee shall be considered as official for the match provided he/she is a registered referee with FAI.

**13.** Any team refusing or failing to play the team against which it has been drawn on the date fixed by the council and without sufficient reasons for so doing shall be adjudged to have lost the match and otherwise dealt with as the council may determine.

**14.** No team shall have power to break or postpone a fixture and any team that does so may be adjudged to have given a walk-over. In the event of the two teams agreeing to postpone a match without covering authority, the council shall have power to fine and / or expel both from the competition. Once a date and time for a fixture has been arranged, neither can be changed without the agreement of both teams or at the discretion of the MFA Council. Any team adjudged to have given a walkover, shall be removed from the competition and will be fined a minimum of €150. Any team giving a walkover will also be ineligible to enter their respective competition the following season.

**15.** The secretary or other responsible person of contesting teams shall before the match, fill in on the FAI Connect system no later than 30min before the match, the surnames and full Christian names of their team plus the substitutes. The number of the players Jersey must correspond with the number their name is beside on the FAI Connect system.

**16.** When it can be proved that the partisans of the team which have choice of ground, systematically interfere with the play of opposing teams by using improper language or inciting the home team to use violence to their opponents, on the application of the team which is to play against the said team, the association shall have power to order the match to be played on another ground, neutral if possible.

**17.** The council shall have power to deal with any club or member of any club whose conduct may be deemed objectionable in any matches played.

**18.** Protests must be received by the Administrator of the association per registered letter bearing postmarks within four days (*Saturday's, Sunday's and Bank Holiday's excluded*) after the match accompanied by the correct fee as laid down by the MFA which shall be forfeited in all cases where the protest has not been sustained. An exact copy of the protest must be sent to the Hon.Secretary of the club protested against per registered letter at the same time as that to the Administrator of the Association. The onus of proof shall rest with the protesting team.

**18a.** All protests must be lodged in accordance with Rule 22 of the General rules of the Munster Football Association.

**18b.** Outside of Protest times the MFA may investigate an allegation surrounding the eligibility of a player, if the allegation is lodged in writing by the secretary of a club or League, or if raised by a member of the Council of the MFA.

**19.** Teams playing ineligible players will be fined for each offence and dealt with in accordance with FAI rules on ineligibility.

**20.** Teams changing their Hon,Secretary, or registered colours, or Hon. Secretaries changing their postal or e-mail addresses are required to advise the Administrator of the Association of the alteration at once.

- 21.** In all matches with the exception of the semi-finals and final the home team shall be entitled to keep all gate receipts after payment of the match officials fee and expenses.
- 22.** In the final tie of the Senior, Junior and Youth competitions the receipts after the payment of all expenses including medals and travelling expenses shall be divided in the proportion of 40% to the association and 30% to each of the competing teams.
- 23.** In the open round stages of the Junior (32) and Youth Cups (16) all matches must be played on an enclosed ground where dressing facilities and showers are available at the ground. If the home team cannot supply an enclosed ground the match shall switch to the away side's enclosed ground.
- An enclosed ground is defined as a ground where access can only be gained through official entrances and where spectators are separated from the playing area by ropes and / or railings. The executive committee shall be final arbiter on whether a ground is or is not an enclosed ground.**
- 24.** Referees appointed to act in this competition are entitled to fees as decided by the FAI.
- 25a** A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction offences as identified by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game. Cautions shall result in fines. One point shall be recorded against the player. Fines shall be applied on an accumulative basis. A caution in any game will be reported to the League concerned by the MFA and a record must be kept by that League. No caution may be appealed. Clubs shall be fined when at least five (5) players/coaches are cautioned or sent from the field of play during one match or at least three (3) players/coaches are sent off during a game. The Club fine is in addition to any action taken against the player.
- 25b** Any player/coach sent off in a match in these competitions automatically incurs a one match suspension from the subsequent match of the same competition. If it is not possible to impose the automatic one match suspension in the current season, the automatic one match suspension shall be served in the next domestic competitive match. A player/coach sent from the field of play shall serve an automatic suspension at the same level of club football. (*i.e. a player sent from the field of play in a 1<sup>st</sup> team fixture may not serve an automatic suspension in a reserve team fixture and vice-verse*) Following receipt of the referee's report the disciplinary committee may at its discretion extend the duration of the suspension and / or impose fines.
- NOTE:** *There is no appeal against an automatic suspension except in the case of mistaken identity.*
- 26a** Any player/coach sent off in a match in these competitions may submit a written explanation to the Administrator of the Association within four (4) days of the sending off. If no explanation is received, then the case may be tried solely on the referees report.
- 26b** A player/coach may seek to have a personal hearing of their case, by applying in writing to the Administrator of the Association within four (4) days of his sending off.
- 26c** Minimum disciplinary sanctions imposed by the MFA shall be in accordance with FAI rules.
- 27a.** Matches in these competitions can be played with the use of artificial lighting provided they are installed as per FIFA directives for Leagues and clubs (class 2) as may be revised from time to time.
- 27b.** Matches in these competitions can be played on an artificial turf surface only where the surface has been certified in accordance with the FIFA/IATS (International Artificial Turf Standard) or FAI standards appropriate to the relevant competition. In the event of a match being played on an FAI approved Artificial Turf Surface the home team shall make the away team aware of the possibility of same.
- 28.** The council shall have power to alter these rules but in no case shall they do so until after the final tie in any year has been played.

## **SENIOR CUP RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association Senior Challenge Cup”.
2. The Board of Directors of MFA Football Ltd., shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owners of the Cup for the Association.
3. This competition shall be open to all affiliated League Of Ireland, National League (Tier 3) and Munster Senior League intermediate clubs. All players must be registered and confirmed on the FAI FMS system to be eligible to play.
- 3(a) No club may field more than one team in this competition.
4. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match being still undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by each side taking five penalties. If still undecided, each team shall take penalties alternatively until a result is reached.
5. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the Semi Finals provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.

## **MUNSTER JUNIOR CUP RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association Junior Challenge Cup” and is the property of the Association.
2. (a) The competition shall be annual and shall be open to all affiliated Junior teams in the province of Munster and any such teams at the discretion of council. Players who play in National or Provincial Senior & Intermediate cups after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September shall not be eligible to take part in this competition subject to rule 2c below. A Junior player may take part in not more than a total of five Intermediate or League of Ireland grade matches or a combination of matches in these grades during the current season without losing his Junior status subject to rule 2(e). For the purpose of this rule League of Ireland matches shall include games in the League of Ireland and League Cup. For the purpose of this rule also, a player who plays in League of Ireland underage competitions, shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing more than 5 games at these levels and is eligible to play in this competition. Any player that has played in the newly formed National League (Tier 3) after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September is ineligible to play in the Munster Junior Cup.
2. (b) For the purpose of these rules the League of Ireland & National League (Tier 3) season shall be the year in which the Junior season starts.
2. © A Junior player assisting a Junior club in the FAI Senior Cup shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing in that competition.
- 2.(d) No player on professional forms is eligible to play in the Junior Cup. Any professional player may apply to be reinstated as an Amateur player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his last match as a Professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forwarded in writing to the FAI Competitions Department for consideration by the (FAI Competitions Department).
2. (e) Any player who plays more than 5 games at League of Ireland & National League (Tier 3) or Intermediate level in the current season may be re-graded by his League and notice of this re-grading must be forwarded to the MFA Secretary by registered post by the League concerned. No team may play more than 4 players re-graded in the current season in any one Junior Cup game. All applications for re-grading must be made prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> January in accordance with FAI rules.
3. The trophy shall be competed annually by eleven members of each competing team who are duly qualified according to the rules of the association. While the players in each team may be changed, no individual shall play for more than one team in the competition during any one season, and he must be a registered playing member of the club for which he proposed to compete.
4. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match being still undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by penalties.
5. In the semi-final ties the net gate receipts, after payment of all expenses shall be divided in the proportion of one-third to the association and the remaining between the two competing teams.
6. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the quarter-finals provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.
- 7a. Semi Finals will take place in 1 of the 2 regions who are contesting them.
- 7b. Venue for Final will be decided by the MFA Executive.

## **JUNIOR SHIELD RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association Junior Challenge Shield” and is the property of the Association.
2. The competition shall be annual and shall be open to all affiliated Junior teams in the province of Munster in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier or lower of their affiliated league.
3. Should a team in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier or lower wish to enter the Munster Junior Cup they can do so but then become ineligible to take part in the Munster Junior Shield.
4. (a) The competition shall be annual and shall be open to all affiliated Junior teams in the province of Munster and any such teams at the discretion of council. Players who play in National or Provincial Senior & Intermediate cups after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September shall not be eligible to take part in this competition subject to rule 2c below. A Junior player may take part in not more than a total of five Intermediate or League of Ireland grade matches or a combination of matches in these grades during the current season without losing his Junior status subject to rule 2(e). For the purpose of this rule League of Ireland matches shall include games in the League of Ireland and League Cup. For the purpose of this rule also, a player who plays in League of Ireland underage competitions, shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing more than 5 games at these levels and is eligible to play in this competition. Any player that has played in the newly formed National League (Tier 3) after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September is ineligible to play in the Munster Junior Shield.
4. (b) For the purpose of these rules the League of Ireland & National League (Tier 3) season shall be the year in which the Junior season starts.
4. (c) A Junior player assisting a Junior club in the FAI Senior Cup shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing in that competition.
4. (d) No player on professional forms is eligible to play in the Junior Shield. Any professional player may apply to be reinstated as an Amateur player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his last match as a Professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forwarded in writing to the FAI Competitions Department for consideration by the FAI.
4. (e) Any player who plays more than 5 games at League of Ireland & National League (Tier 3) or Intermediate level in the current season may be re-graded by his League and notice of this re-grading must be forwarded to the MFA Secretary by registered post by the League concerned. No team may play more than 4 players re-graded in the current season in any one Junior Cup game. All applications for re-grading must be made prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> January in accordance with FAI rules.
4. (f) No player may play for more than one team in the Munster Junior Cup or Munster Junior Shield competitions in any one season.
5. The trophy shall be competed annually by eleven members of each competing team who are duly qualified according to the rules of the association. While the players in each team may be changed, no individual shall play for more than one team in the competition during any one season, and he must be a registered playing member of the club for which he proposed to compete.
6. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match being still undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by penalties.

7. In the semi-final ties the net gate receipts, after payment of all expenses shall be divided in the proportion of one-third to the association and the remaining between the two competing teams.
8. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the quarter-finals provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.
- 9a. Semi Finals will take place in 1 of the 2 regions who are contesting them.
- 9b. Venue for Final will be decided by the MFA Executive.

### **MUNSTER YOUTH CUP RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association Youths Challenge Cup”.
2. The competition shall be open to all Youth teams that are members of affiliated Leagues to the MFA.
3. No individual shall be allowed to play for more than one competing team during the competition, but the members of any team may be changed during the series of matches.
4. (a) All players must be under the age of 18 years on the 1st January of the year the season finishes and must be registered by the team with the League in which they participate. Any team participating in this competition shall have the right to secure on request a photograph of the opposing team and the signatures of any player participating in the match. Failure to comply with this request will render the team liable to disciplinary action by the council and possible removal from the competition.  
  
(b) **Any player who has played in the League of Ireland Premier Division, League of Ireland First Division, League of Ireland Underage Competitions, at any stage after 23<sup>rd</sup> September during the season of this competition is not eligible to participate in this competition. Any player that has played in the newly formed National League (Tier 3) after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September is ineligible to play in the Munster Youth Cup.**
5. In relation to rule 18 of General Cup Rules the postmark is to be taken as evidence of time of posting. Certificate of Birth, required by protesting team if the protest is proved under age, must be paid for by the protesting team. A period of 48 hours after receipt of protest shall be afforded to the team protested against to lodge a counter protest. The onus of proof shall rest with the protesting team.
6. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. Council shall have the power to fine any team or teams responsible for late starting. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match and being undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by each side taking five penalties. If still undecided, each team shall take penalties alternatively until a result is reached.
7. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the Quarter Finals provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.
- 8a. Semi Finals will take place in 1 of the 2 regions who are contesting them.
- 8b. Venue for Final will be decided by the MFA Executive.

## **MUNSTER U17 CUP RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association U17 Challenge Cup”.
2. The competition shall be open to all Under 17 teams that are members of affiliated Leagues to the MFA.
3. No individual shall be allowed to play for more than one competing team during the competition, but the members of any team may be changed during the series of matches.
4. (a) All players must be under the age of 17 years on the 1st January of the year the season finishes and must be registered by the team with the League in which they participate. Any team participating in this competition shall have the right to secure on request a photograph of the opposing team and the signatures of any player participating in the match. Failure to comply with this request will render the team liable to disciplinary action by the council and possible removal from the competition.  
  
(b) **Any player who has played in the League of Ireland Premier Division, League of Ireland First Division, League of Ireland Underage Competitions, at any stage after 23<sup>rd</sup> September during the season of this competition is not eligible to participate in this competition. Any player that has played in the newly formed National League (Tier 3) after the 23<sup>rd</sup> September is ineligible to play in the Munster U17 Cup.**
5. In relation to rule 18 of General Cup Rules the postmark is to be taken as evidence of time of posting. Certificate of Birth, required by protesting team if the protest is proved under age, must be paid for by the protesting team. A period of 48 hours after receipt of protest shall be afforded to the team protested against to lodge a counter protest. The onus of proof shall rest with the protesting team.
6. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. Council shall have the power to fine any team or teams responsible for late starting. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match and being undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by each side taking five penalties. If still undecided, each team shall take penalties alternatively until a result is reached.
7. The Clubs which are in each instance first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground up to and including the Quarter Finals provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.
- 8a. Semi Finals will take place in 1 of the 2 regions who are contesting them.
- 8b. Venue for Final will be decided by the MFA Executive.

