

## Competition Rules of the Wicklow and District Schoolboys/girls' League 2015 - 2016

### **RULE 1. League Structure**

- a) The 'Executive' shall form Divisions for each age group on the basis of applications received from Clubs in membership of the 'League' at the start of a season, Under 8, 9 will be 5 aside twin format .Under 10 will be 7-a- side, non-competitive .Under 11 7-aside competitive (this season only) Under 12 9-aside. Under 13 and over 11aside.
- b) Team applications must be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. All forms to be returned to the registrar
- c) Leagues will be formed in the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August and sent to all Clubs. Clubs will have 2 weeks to request a change of division. Club's request will not guarantee a change.
- d) WDSL request all Teams to play in their own age group. Any team wishing to play up, after applying for same, will be at the discretion of the league
- e) Managers, coaches and club officials should encourage their playing members to try out for county representative teams and to attend coaching workshops provided for by the WDSL.

### **RULE 2. Player Registration**

- a) Eligible schoolboys/girls who wish to play in leagues under the jurisdiction of the 'League', must be registered on official 'WDSL' forms and comply fully with the particular details requested on the form, i.e., name, address, date of birth, etc., and be signed by the player plus a parent or guardian.
- b) A player shall be eligible to play in a game providing his registration has been received and duly accepted by the Registrar of the 'League' at least 24 hours prior to the playing of the match fixture the player wishes to participate in.
- c) The final date for receipt of completed team Registration forms will be Registration night. A fine of €50 per team per week after that **may** apply.
- d) It is the clubs responsibility to ensure the information on the Registration Forms is fully completed and correct.
- e) Single Registration Forms for players, which have not previously signed for any club under the jurisdiction of the SFAI during that season, will be accepted up to 31<sup>st</sup> March of that season.
- f) The final date for team registrations for teams that did not take part in the league in that season will be 15<sup>th</sup> January of that season
- g) Any player registered to play with a club or team outside the WDSL, cannot be registered to play for a club or team in competitions run by the WDSL
- h) Girls can now play football up to the age of U16, as to FAI Rule

### **RULE 3. Transfer of Players**

- a) A player can play for only 1 (one) Club in membership of the 'League' in anyone season, unless he receives a transfer from the Club, which holds his 'League' registration.
- b) A player wishing to register with another Club in membership of the 'League' must submit a completed 'League' transfer form, prior to or at the same time as a new registration form is received by the 'League' Registrar.
- c) Once registered with the 'League', a player cannot play for another team, at the same age group, within his Club in any match organised by the 'WDSL ' without first obtaining a transfer. i.e. play across divisions.
- d) Transfer forms will be deemed incomplete unless signed by the Hon. Secretary of The transferring club, i.e. the club the player wishes to leave.
- e) A player cannot be transferred more than once in anyone season, unless with the Approval of the 'Executive'.
- f) The date, after which, transfers will not be accepted by the 'League' in any season shall be the same as that governed by the 'SFAI' Rules i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> October of that season.

### **RULE 4. Resignation from the 'League**

- a) In the event of a Club or team in membership of the 'League' either resigning or been removed from the 'League', all players registered with the said Club or team shall become the **property** of the 'League'.
- b) The 'Executive' may give permission to such players to re-register for other Clubs in membership of the 'League', the number permitted to be at the discretion of the 'Executive'.
- c) The latest date for such re-registration shall be the 31<sup>st</sup> March of that season.

### **RULE 5. Playing of Matches**

- a) The 'League' Fixture Secretary's shall arrange all matches, venues and kick-off times by Monday of that week.
- b) Where a Club fails to fulfill a fixture, the 'Executive Officers' on the recommendation of the 'League' Fixture Secretary's shall award a walkover to the opposing team on 3:0 score line and decide and sanction a fine of €25, to the offending club/team.
- c) Any Club requesting a match cancellation must do so at least 14 days in advance to the relevant Fixtures Secretary.
- d) In all Cup matches, where the home team venue is deemed unplayable, a postponement of the match fixture will be allowed on the first occasion. If the home team venue is deemed unplayable on the second occasion, the fixture shall be reversed to the opponent's ground.

## COMPETITION RULES OF THE WICKLOW AND DISTRICT SCHOOLBOYS/GIRLS' LEAGUE

- e) All matches shall be played according to the rules of the 'FAI' and 'SFAI' or local 'League' rules, if permissible.
- f) Details of all players, including substitutes, who may participate in a match, must be entered in block letters including manager and linesman in accordance with the instructions on the official referee match card. A fine of €25 may be sanctioned for unsigned cards.
- g) All referee match cards must be filled in fully before the game starts by the official in charge of the team, who shall certify, by signing the card, as to the eligibility of each player to play in the game. The match card must be returned to the League immediately.
- h) From U8's to U16's substitutes can be used on a roll on roll off basis.
- i) Girls can now play football up to the age of U16, as to FAI Rule.
- j) All match cards for **non-competitive** games U8/9/10 must be used in each match and returned by the home team to the registrar or league office. A fine of €25 **may be imposed per match card on non-returned cards.**
- k) Where an official referee has not been assigned to a small sided game, it shall be the responsibility of the home Club to organise a referee. The team managers of either team participating in the match may not referee the fixture.
- l) In small sided games where an official referee has been assigned but does not turn up, it shall be the responsibility of the home club to appoint a referee. This person is deemed the official referee.
- m) All 9-aside and 11-side games will be assigned a referee. Where no referee is assigned or fails to turn up, the game will not take place.
- n) Where no official has been assigned it is the responsibility of the home team to return the cards to the league immediately.
- o) In the Cup semi-finals draw the 1<sup>st</sup> team drawn will have home advantage.
- p) All finals to be played at grounds designated by the League.
- q) In the event of a clash of colours in League match or Finals, the Home Team or team drawn out first must change.
- r) Any team that gives 3 walkovers in any one season **may** be removed from that League. See Disciplinary Guidelines for fines.
- s) Once a team plays 3 matches in a League type competition then any withdrawal of the team from that competition will mean all previous results will stand, and walkovers will be awarded for their remaining fixtures in that season, and recorded so on all league tables produced that season.
- t) Clubs who fail to e-mail or text in results to the fixtures secretary shall incur a fine of €25.00
- u) All fees to Referees are to be paid before the games commences.

### **RULE 6. Eligibility of Players**

- a) Any Club seeking confirmation as to the eligibility of an opposing team player to participate in a match played under the jurisdiction of the 'League', may at full time, having first notified the match referee at half time, obtain the signature and date of birth of the player(s) concerned on the referee's card.
- b) The maximum number of players, including substitutes, whose signature may be requested, is 4 (four).
- c) Refusal by any team to accede to such a request will be regarded as an **admission** of guilt and shall be dealt with as such by the 'Executive'.
- d) Within 24 hours of a fixture being played, a Club Secretary, may request from the 'League' Registrar or in his absence another Executive Officer, an inspection of the registration forms of the opposing team. A fee of €50 will be charged for such inspection.
- e) Any team found guilty of playing over age players or unregistered players can be removed from the League.

### **RULE 7. Misconduct during a Match**

- a) Any registered player sent off by the referee, during or after a WDSL match, is automatically **suspended** for the next competitive WDSL game at all age groups and fined €20.
- b) Any Manager sent off by the referee, during or after a WDSL match, is automatically **suspended** for the next competitive WDSL game at all age groups.
- c) Players sent off in National Cup Competitions as per SFAI Rules.
- d) The 'League' may, on receipt of the referee match card and where deemed necessary, after the holding an oral hearing, impose an additional suspension and/or fine on the club, team or registered player.
- e) 'League' representatives who may attend such oral hearings, shall be 1 'Executive' officer and 2 other Committee Members.
- f) It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure all their club officials, managers, trainers, and players are aware of the rules.
- g) Managers and coaches are required to show good example to players by not abusing referees or opposing team managers/officials from the sidelines. Disciplinary action will be taken against clubs in breach of this rule with regard to the referee's report.

### **RULE 8. Protests**

- a) All protests must be sent, by **registered post, not email**, to the 'League' Honorary Secretary within 3 (three) working days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays) of the date of the match the protest refers and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee of €100.00(refundable if successful), which shall be a postal order, cheque or bank draft in favour of the 'WDSL'.
- b) An exact copy of the protest shall be sent, within the same timeframe, by registered post to the Secretary of the Club, named in the protest.
- c) If the Club, named in the protest, wishes to lodge a cross protest, they must do so **within a further 3 (three) working days** (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays), by registered letter to the 'League' Honorary Secretary accompanied by

the appropriate fee (€100.00 refundable if successful), which shall be a postal order cheque, or bank draft in favour of the 'WDSL'.

- d) An exact copy of any cross protest shall be sent, within the same timeframe, by registered post to the Secretary of the Club, making the original protest.
- e) The 'League' shall decide all protests.
- f) Decisions of the 'League' maybe appealed to the 'SFAI', as per their rules for lodging an appeal.

#### **RULE 9. Leagues/Trophies**

- a) Under 8 / U9 & 10 Football is Non Competitive.
- b) In small sided games promotion/relegation shall be 2 up and 2 down in leagues of 6 or more and the following season's league placings.
- d) All trophies shall remain the property of the 'League' and be deemed as part of the assets of the 'League'.
- e) Any Club, on receipt on a 'League trophy, shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the said trophy until such time as it is returned to the 'League'
- f) The cost of all repairs to 'League' trophies damaged, while in the possession of a Club, shall be borne by the offending Club.
- g) League trophies to be returned by the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Sanctions may apply if trophies are returned late.

#### **RULE 10. Infringement to Rules**

- a) The 'Executive' Committee shall have the power to deal with any club, team, registered player or member of a team proven to the satisfaction of the 'Executive' to have committed an infringement of any of these rules, **or of any action, which might bring discredit to the 'WDSL' or be deemed to be detrimental to the objectives of the 'League'**.
- b) The 'Executive Committee shall have the sole responsibility to review such matters.
- c) Fines levied on any club, team, registered player or member of a team must be paid Within 14 (fourteen) days of the fine being imposed. Failure to pay fines, within This timeframe, may result in addition sanctions being imposed.
- d) Decisions of the 'League' maybe appealed to the 'SFAI', as per their rules for Lodging an appeal.

#### **RULE 11. Powers**

- a) **The Executive Committee have the Power to decide on all matters not covered in the rules.**

#### **RULE 12. Disciplinary**

- a) No member should have involvement in any disciplinary meeting if connected in any way with either team involved in a match from which the disciplinary is in review of.

- b) The WDSL should document the disciplinary process with guidelines for the Disciplinary Committee including a fine structure and place it on record for all Clubs before the start of the season.
- c) A list of the charge(s) facing a Club at each disciplinary meeting should be communicated to the relevant Club Secretary prior to the disciplinary meeting and no other charges can be brought against the Club facing the disciplinary meeting for that charge.

**RULE 13. Laws of the Game**

- a) All matches shall be governed by FIFA laws of the game.
- b) Duration of games with the exception of the U11 for 2015/16 be the FAI plan...
- c) Duration of games played under the auspices of the Association shall be:
 

Under 8&9	4x 12mins RO RO Sub 75% playing time
Under 10	2x 25mins RO RO Sub 50% playing time
Under 11	2x 30mins RO RO Sub 50% playing time
Under 12&13	2x 30mins RO RO Sub 25% min playing time
Under 14&15	2x 35mins RO RO Sub 25% min playing time
Under 16	2x40mins RO RO Sub 25% min playing time

Extra time and FIFA penalties rule may be introduced where necessary in competitions.
- d) Size of football to be used if club does not have new SFAI ball:
 

U 7 & 8	Size 3 Ball
U9, 10, 11, 12	Size 4 Ball
U13, 14, 15, 16	Size 5 Ball

Opponents must play game with **ball provided by home club** be it old as above or new SFAI size 5 weighted ball. 290g for U8/9. 320g for U10/11. 370g for U12/13/14. 450g for U15/16. New ball to be used in all SFAI National cup games and from 2016/2017.
- e) Points, in all League type competitions, there will be three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.