

# **LIMERICK WOMENS AND SCHOOLGIRLS SOCCER LEAGUE**



## **Rules and Regulations**

**2019**

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## **1 General Rules**

- 1.1** The LIMERICK WOMEN AND SCHOOLGIRL SOCCER LEAGUE (hereafter referred to as the League) shall consist of teams accepted by the Management Committee, subject to the rules of the League and of the F.A.I.
- 1.2** Teams and Players affiliated to The League shall be of Amateur status. Teams and/or Players who accept financial consideration/reward in connection with the transfer of Players, for playing with a particular Team, or for any other reason in respect of their participation in The League shall not be eligible for membership and if in membership shall be liable to expulsion.
- 1.3** All matches played under the auspices of The League shall be played and conducted under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland.
- 1.4** Only the Management Committee shall have the power to authorize League representative/Teams. Players who agree to play in representative matches shall place themselves at the disposal of The League for this purpose.
- 1.5** That all Clubs undertake to assist the League run its affairs in a professional manner.
- 1.6** The LWSSL or its Committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage to equipment/personal possessions, etc or for injury to any Player or Club Official for any event run under the jurisdiction of the LWSSL
- 1.7** Email will be the normal form of communication by the LWSSL Management Committee. Where 'In writing' is referenced in the Rules, this will also mean Email.

## **2 Annual General Meeting**

- 2.1** Each member of the league shall be entitled to be present, but only one nominated representative of any team shall have the power to vote on the procedure of the meeting.
- 2.2** The business of the A.G.M. shall be:
  - (a) To receive annual report and if thought fit, to adopt them;
  - (b) To elect a President. This position shall be honorary and the person appointed to this office shall no interfere with the running of the League. The President shall be elected for a term of two years;
  - (c) To elect officers. The officers shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Fixture Secretary, Child Protection Officer and Underage Officer. Hereafter referred to as the Management Committee. The Management Committee can co-opt a further 2 members
  - (d) To deal with any other business.

- 2.3** Officer shall be elected for term of one year.
- 2.4** Nominations and proposals to be considered at the AGM must be forwarded to the League Secretary, two weeks prior to the date of the AGM.
- 2.5** The agenda for the AGM and all nominations and proposals shall be issued to all Teams in membership of The League no less than seven days prior to the date of the AGM. For the purpose of this clause seven days notice shall include the date of posting and the day for which the meeting is convened.
- 2.6** All Proposals for acceptance must have a majority of one.
- 2.7** The Rules of the League cannot be altered except at the AGM.

### **3 Management Committee**

- 3.1** Control of the League shall be vested in the Management Committee who shall have the power to decide on all matter including those not provided in the Constitution.
- 3.2** The Management Committee shall have full authority to act on all matters pertaining to the efficient running, development and promotion of the The League.
- 3.3** The Management Committee shall have the power to make whatever banking arrangements it considers necessary for the efficient running of the The League.
- 3.4** The Management Committee shall amongst other activities:
  - (a) Consider application for membership;
  - (b) Determine the number of league divisions and the composition of such divisions;
  - (c) Be responsible for organizing any competitions under the auspices of The League.
- 3.5** The Management Committee shall
  - (a) For all intents and purposes be the legal owners of Cups, monies and the property of The League;
  - (b) Be in possession of a list of all such assets;
- 3.6** At its first meeting, the Management Committee shall, in addition to any other business, appoint:
  - (a) The Appeals and Protest Committee;
  - (b) The Disciplinary Committee;
  - (c) The Underage Committee;
  - (d) FAI Council Representative;

Its members shall consist of representatives of teams affiliated to The League where possible.

- 3.7** The Management Committee shall be empowered to arrange representative matches for The League and to enter a representative side in any Inter-league or Inter-area competition. The Committee will appoint the Managers of the Limerick League representative Teams. The Managers are responsible to the Committee and shall furnish reports as required.
- 3.8** The League shall indemnify every member of the Management Committee against all costs, and expenses incurred by him/her in the discharge of his/her duties, except as occurred from his/her own willful acts and defaults.
- 3.9** Together with other duties necessary for the running of The League:
- (a) The Chairperson shall chair any meeting under the jurisdiction of The League. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall chair any meeting under the jurisdiction of The League;
  - (b) The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes and records of all meetings held under the jurisdiction of The League, for correspondence, and for the efficient running of The League. In the absence of the Secretary, the Asst Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes and records of all meetings held under the jurisdiction of the League, for correspondence, and for the efficient running of The League;
  - (c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances;
  - (d) The Fixtures Secretary shall be responsible for the efficient running of the fixtures schedule;
  - (e) The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for the publicity of The League.
- 3.10** The Management Committee shall, at its discretion, appoint a member to supervise all fixtures and to travel to various venues and report to the Management Committee on Referees, match equipment and Club organization.
- 3.11** Delegate meetings shall be held once a month unless otherwise informed.
- 3.12** Clubs must have one delegate present at Delegate Meetings and absence will result in a €10 fine. Second and subsequent absences will result in a €20 fine per absence.

## **4 Appeals and Protest Committee**

- 4.1** The Appeals and Protest Committee shall be appointed by the Management Committee (as per Rule 3.6). The hearing shall be chaired by an appointed member of the Management Committee to act as Chairperson, (or other member of the Management Committee in their absence), who shall only have a casting vote.
- 4.2** The Appeals and Protest Committee shall have the power to hear all appeals against decisions of The Management Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and protests lodged by teams/players.
- 4.3** At a hearing of an appeal or protest of any kind, members of team/s concerned who are members of The Appeals Committee cannot be present except as witnesses.
- 4.4** Appeals and protests must be sent to the Secretary of The League by Registered Post, bearing a postmark within two days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays) of the Club or Player receiving notice of the matter being appealed/protested and if applicable, a copy sent to the Secretary of the other Team as per Rule 14.1. An appeal/protest fee of €100.00 must accompany it, which is refundable if the appeal/protest is successful.
- 4.5** Where an appeal/protest is not lodged in accordance with the above provisions then the appeal/protest shall not be regarded as a valid appeal/protest and the Secretary shall so advise them and shall return the fee.
- 4.6** The Appeals/Protests Committee shall hear the appeal/protest within two weeks of receiving same. The Appellant and the Team Secretary (or two members of a team if appeal concerns disciplinary action against a Team) can be present at the hearing.
- 4.7** The decision of the Appeals/Protests Committee shall be issued in writing within three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays) of the hearing.

## **5 Disciplinary Committee**

- 5.1** The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the Management Committee (as per Rule 3.6). The hearings shall be chaired by an appointed member of the Management Committee to act as Chairperson, (or other member of the Management Committee in their absence), who shall only have a casting vote.
- 5.2** The Disciplinary committee shall have the power to discipline any player, official or team registered with The League.
- 5.3** The Disciplinary committee shall hold its hearing within seven days of receipt of the referees report by, or notification of the matter to the Management Committee.
- 5.4** The person being disciplined is entitled to attend at the Disciplinary Hearing. The decision will be given in writing within 3 days of the Hearing. The LWSSL will notify the Club Secretary the date & time of the Hearing and the Club Secretary must confirm back to the League Secretary if the offending Person will attend the Hearing.

## **6 Underage Committee**

- 6.1** The Underage Committee shall be appointed by the Management Committee (as per Rule 3.6). The meetings shall be chaired by an appointed member of the Management Committee to act as

Chairperson, (or other member of the Management Committee in their absence), who shall only have a casting vote.

## **7 Finance**

- 7.1** The Treasurer shall receive all monies due to The League and discharge liabilities to The League under the direction of the Management Committee.
- 7.2** All cheques shall be signed by a minimum of two members of the Management Committee.
- 7.3** All books shall be kept by the Treasurer in which receipts and disbursements shall be entered.
- 7.4** All outstanding monies must be paid before a team can be considered by the Management Committee for membership within the league.

## **8 Registration**

- 8.1** All players must be registered with the league on FAInet Electronic Registration System.
- 8.2** Registrations will be notified to the Secretary/Registrar via Email when a new Player is entered on the FAInet and ready to be registered by the League.
- 8.3** A Player registered with any team on the FAInet Registration System shall remain registered with that team until 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year in which the registration is received unless she is transferred to another club in accordance with Rule 8.5.
- 8.4** Players seeking transfers must do so according to FAI Rules. The standard FAI Player Transfer Form shall be used and the fee shall be as per FAI fees.
- 8.5** A Player of a team, which has been removed from membership of the League for any reason, cannot register as a Player for any other Team in membership without firstly receiving the sanction of the Management Committee.
- 8.6** The Secretary shall keep a full record of all Players registered with the League and Club Secretaries or a nominated Officer of the Club may examine these records upon paying a fee of €10.00 and of giving sufficient notice of their intention to do so. Club Secretary or a nominated Officer of the Club may be accompanied by one other nominated Club representative.
- 8.7** Every Team seeking to register with The League shall complete a league application form. Where a Club is registering more than one Team a separate form must be submitted for each and they must clearly show to which team each refers.
- 8.8** Every team shall register its colours. In the event of two teams in a fixture having the same colours, the home team shall change colours. In the event of two teams with the same registered colours having to play a test or other match on a neutral ground, choice of colours shall be decided on a coin toss supervised by the Secretary.
- 8.9** Where the details supplied on the League application form change, the Team Secretary must notify the Management Committee in writing immediately. The Committee shall then inform all other teams.
- 8.10** The Management Committee shall decide the Registration Fee annually. The fee charged shall include the team's affiliation to the LWSSL and to the FAI. All Teams intending to register

must do so by a specific date, laid down at the first delegate meeting after the AGM. Teams registering and then failing to compete shall forfeit their registration fee. Registration Fees must be paid by the relevant closing date for receipt of applications or where affiliation is being accepted after that date immediately on affiliation. Any Team failing to pay fees and or subscriptions by the due date shall, after receiving notice giving the team seven days to pay, forfeit their right to play.

- 8.11** Registration will not be accepted unless it is accompanied with the fee.
- 8.12** Teams found playing unregistered/illegal or overage Players in underage competitions not agreed as per Rules shall be fined according to the fines schedule and possible deduction of points from the game in which the incident occurred. Subject to an investigation by the Management Committee.
- 8.13** Lower Division Teams can only register recognized players from the Higher Division Teams, subject to an investigation by the Management Committee. See also Rule 8.17.
- 8.14** A Player is only eligible to play in a League or Cup match if there is at least one calendar day between the date of receipt of the registration form by the League and the day of the match.
- 8.15** Clubs entering 2 teams must register both teams separately and players for both teams to be registered separately, i.e., Players must sign an A Team Registration Form or a B Team Registration Form prior to season commencement. A minimum of 14 players must be signed on an A Team Registration Form. Where a club has two teams entered in the same league the fixtures secretary, at the request of the said club, shall organize fixtures for both teams to be on different days so as to facilitate the use of B team players by the A team as per rule.
- 8.16** Players registered for a B team can play with the A team but A Players cannot play on the clubs B team. Players can only play divisional cup matches with either A or B team [whichever they have signed with]. B Players may play with the A Team but once the B player has played three games for the A team then that player can no longer play in the B Team and automatically becomes an A registered player in the LWSSL League and Cups. In the case of the A team goalkeeper being injured the B team goalkeeper may play on both teams for an unspecified amount of league games only once cleared by the management committee. Proof of injury (doctor or physio note) may be requested by the committee.
- 8.17** LWSSL Clubs are permitted to register their underage Players who are registered in a different local underage league provided these players are registered as members of the same Club in both leagues. These players must be separately notified to the League Registrar (on the appropriate form) prior to playing in any LWSSL competition. Note: this rule provision only applies to competitions run under the governance of the LWSSL.



## **9 Transfers**

- 9.1** A Player shall not play for more than one team during a season unless her transfer has been obtained from her previous Team. In order to affect a transfer, a transfer form must be signed by the Secretary of both Teams and the Player concerned. The completed transfer form together with a registration form registering the Player with her 'new' Club must then be lodged with the League Secretary. A Player shall not be eligible to assist her new Club until the completed forms referred to above have been received and endorsed by the Secretary as per Rule 8.15.
- 9.2** No Team in membership of the league shall withhold a Player's transfer. Where a Player feels that such a situation arises she may apply to the Secretary of the League or to the Secretary of the FAI for adjudication.
- 9.3** Following their initial registration each year a Player will be considered as graded to that division. A Player wishing to transfer to a lower division must apply to the Management Committee for permission to do so and detailing the circumstances of the required transfer.
- 9.4** Where a Team withdraws from the League during the season the following shall apply;
- (a) A maximum of two Players may sign with any one Team within the same division;
  - (b) A maximum of two Players may sign with any one Team in a higher division;
- 9.5** Any Player wishing to play for a Team in a lower division must apply to the Management Committee in accordance with Rule 9.3.

## **10 Substitutes**

- 10.1** Unlimited roll on/roll off substitutions are permitted in all LWSSL games, both Adult & Underage, in all local League & Cup Competitions and friendly games. A substitute cannot be used to replace a Player who has been sent off by the Referee. Substitution can only take place with the referee's permission and the substitute should enter the pitch from the half way line.

## **11 Match, Pitch and Equipment**

- 11.1** Every Team shall wear a uniform set of jerseys, shorts and socks where possible.
- 11.2** (a) Every Team shall nominate a pitch for home matches. They must ensure this pitch is properly marked and grass cut for each home game. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be subject to discipline by the Management Committee.
- (b) The Home Team must provide suitable Changing Room and Toilet facilities within the Grounds.
- 11.3** (a) Each home team shall provide:
- i. Two nets
  - ii. Four corner flags
- (b) Each team shall provide:
- i. Medical Kit
  - ii. One football of match standard

- 11.4** Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of officials and supporters attending a fixture. The LWSSL will use the FAI Rule Book for matters relating to this subject.

## **12 Matches**

- 12.1** The Management Committee shall arrange all matches, venues and times of kick-off.
- 12.2** All games must be played on the days and times appointed.
- 12.3** Upon notification of Fixtures, Teams wishing to change Fixtures or Venues must contact both the League Secretary & Fixtures Secretary 14 days before scheduled Fixtures. Fixture changes will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- 12.4** In the event of any match being unfinished due to any reason the Management Committee, having regard to the circumstances, may refix the match or award the result as appropriate and take any other action it considers appropriate.
- 12.5** Teams having two or more players selected to play in a representative International match may apply to the Fixture Secretary for the postponement of a fixture.
- 12.6** Duration for 1<sup>st</sup> Division League games will be 45 minutes each way. Duration for 2<sup>nd</sup> Division League, Open Cup and Cup games will be 45 minutes each way.
- 12.7** Home and Away Clubs must phone or text in the result of the match to the Fixtures Secretary the same evening after the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in a 10 Euro fine for Home Team only.
- 12.8** All Teams are required to confirm the availability of their pitch on the morning of a game when bad weather conditions prevail. Should the pitch be unavailable they must notify the Fixture Secretary immediately. Where the match can be switched to the opposition's home pitch then, where this will not result in a loss of home advantage to one of the teams in the series, then this should be done. Where the Home Team can provide an alternative pitch then this should be done, such pitch shall be regarded as the home pitch for that fixture. In the event of no pitch being available on the day then the matter will be decided upon by the Management Committee having regard to all the circumstances involved.
- 12.9** Walkover/Forfeit of Match
- a) When a Team fails to arrive for a fixture the following applies:
    - (i) The Team in attendance will pay all referee fees and shall be reimbursed pending Management Committee findings.
    - (ii) The Home Team claims points by notifications to the Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture.
    - (iii) Teams failing to turn up for a fixture must pay full Referees fees and expenses to the Treasurer within 14 days of the fixture.
  - b) Teams sanctioned with a walkover are considered to have lost the match by 0-3.
  - c) If the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on pitch is upheld.
- 12.10** Teams who give a walkover in any fixture shall be subject to a fine of €30 for a first offence. If a team gives a second walkover in any fixture, the Management Committee shall decide on such

punishment that will apply up to and including removal of the Team from the League. The Team who gives a walkover shall be responsible for the Referee and Linesman fees and expenses, as per Rule 12.9 (iii).

- 12.11** Where a Team withdraws during any part of the season the Management Committee shall decide on what action if any will be taken vis a vie matches played and unplayed by that Team.
- 12.12** The position of winners and runner-up in each division of The League shall be adjudged by the total number of points awarded to the Teams. At the end of each divisional competition the Team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winners and the Team scoring the second highest number of points the runners-up. In the event of two or more Teams being equal in points the Teams involved must play off to decide order of placing at either end of the divisional table. Where a play-off is necessary to decide first or second place in any division the Management shall arrange that, where possible, a neutral and marked pitch is made available for the match.
- 12.13** In all divisions a system of promotion and relegation shall apply, i.e. One team up and one team down, subject to the provisions provided for under Rule 3.4.
- 12.14** Permission for friendly games or Tournament must be applied for in writing to the League Secretary.
- 12.15** Team traveling outside a 10-mile radius will be allowed 15 minutes from said time of kick-off.
- 12.16** No changes are permitted to time or date of fixtures as set by the relevant fixture secretary. Changes can only be permitted with the consent of the fixture secretary and BOTH teams. If the home Team is unable to comply due to pitch availability issues, then the home Team must find an alternative pitch, or else the match reverts to the away Team's home ground.
- 12.17** That it is the responsibility of the club to inform the fixture secretary of their involvement in National cup competitions or similar commitments that could legitimately result in fixture postponements. This notification to be provided to the fixture secretary as a matter of urgency. Late notification of such commitments will result in fixtures of the LWSSL standing
- 12.18** . That the league format adapted in Division 2 in the 2005 Season be maintained and that similar consideration be given to such modifications as can be made, to make Division 1 more competitive, subject to the provisions provided for under Rule 3.4 in consultation with Club representative from Clubs concerned.
- 12.19** Based on Tuesday/Thursday night Fixtures – should a Team request a certain night of the week as their preferred night for games then this night will be guaranteed for their Home games. I.E. If Team A request Tuesday as their preferred night then all their home games will be fixed for Tuesday nights. Away games cannot be guaranteed.

### **13 Referees**

- 13.1** The LWSSL are solely responsible for the appointment of all Referees for all fixtures. No exceptions.
- 13.2** In the event that a Referee does not attend, the game need not take place.
- 13.3** Teams must inform the Fixtures Secretary within 24 hours if a Referee does not turn up.
- 13.4** Any written report received from a registered Team, regarding a Referee should be investigated by Management Committee.
- 13.5** Referees fees must be paid prior to kick-off.
- 13.6** Referees fees and expenses must be borne equally by each Team. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Referee Society shall set Referee fees and expenses
- 13.7** In the League the Secretary or other responsible person of each contesting team in a match shall, prior to kick-off, fill in the Referee card showing the full First Name and Last Name of the Players participating in the match and shall sign the card. Any Team failing to complete the Referee card in accordance with this rule shall be fined as per the fines schedule.
- 13.8** The Referee shall have the power to decide on the fitness of the ground for play. Any objections to the pitch or equipment provided must be made to the Referee before the start of the game.
- 13.9** Referee cards must reach the Fixture Secretary within 3 clear days of the match.
- 13.10** Referees written reports in respect of cautions and sending offs must reach the Fixture Secretary within three clear days of the match in which the cautioning or sending off took place.
- 13.11** All referees reports on conduct or foul play be noted.

### **14 Protests**

- 14.1** Where a protest is lodged in accordance with Rule 4.4 the Secretary shall forward a copy of the protest to the Secretary of the Team/Person being protested against. This Team will be afforded a period of 48 hours excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays upon receipt of the letter to lodge a reply with the Management Committee. A copy of the reply must be sent to the protesting Team.

### **15 Discipline**

- 15.1 (a)** A Player with two or more cautions may be called before the Committee and warned or fined in accordance with the fines schedule.
- 15.1 (b)** A Player who receives 3 Cautions in the Season will automatically be banned for 1 match and fined as per fines schedule

- 15.2** Any Player or Official who is sent off by Referee will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one match and must appear before the Disciplinary Committee.
- 15.3** The LWSSL shall use the FAI Rules of the Association as reference for all Team, Player or Official Discipline/Misconduct matters.
- 15.4** Teams failing to observe any rules of The League shall, except where other penalties are provided for, are fined in accordance with the fines schedule.
- 15.5** The Management Committee shall levy fines for breach of rules.
- 15.6** Any player of a team registered with Limerick Ladies Football League found bringing the Association into disrepute, is to be severely dealt with by the Management Committee.
- 15.7** Fines Schedule

1 <sup>st</sup> Walkover	€30.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Walkover	€50.00
Meeting Non-Attendance (1 <sup>st</sup> Offence)	€10.00
Meeting non-attendance (2 <sup>nd</sup> and subsequent offences)	€20.00
Players Unregistered	€50.00
Failure by Home Team to phone/text result to Fixture Secretary	€10.00
Three or more cautions per Player	€30.00 minimum
Dismissal per Player	€30.00 minimum

Additional fines may be levied by the Management Committee where deemed fit.

- 15.8** The Management Committee, at its discretion, can sanction any Club/Player who has not paid outstanding fines after 14 days of issue.

## **16 Holidays**

- 16.1** No holidays will be given to teams during the season. Teams may apply for one fixture only to be re-scheduled during the season. This should only be done in exceptional circumstances. Teams must apply in writing to the Fixtures Secretary at least 7 days prior to this particular fixture, stating the reason for needing the game to be re-scheduled.
- 16.2** It is at the Management Committee's sole discretion to grant a postponement based on the written application received. Their decision will be final.

## **17 Underage Section**

- 17.1** The LWSSL Management Committee is responsible for the management of all underage activities of the League. At the commencement of each season, the Management Committee shall decide:

- (a) The age groupings;
- (b) The format of the League for each group
- (c) Special provisions relating to small-sided games.

Once adopted by the Management Committee they cannot be altered until the following season.

- 17.2** The relevant date for eligibility at the various age groups shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current calendar year or as amended by FIFA rules.

## **18 Rules of Cup Competitions**

- 18.1** In cup competitions the first drawn shall be the home team.
- 18.2** In the event of a drawn game, 20 minutes extra shall be played. If still a draw, penalties shall decide. This shall apply to all stages of cup competitions, including finals.
- 18.3** The Management Committee shall fix the dates, venues and officials for the finals.
- 18.4** Any Team refusing or failing to play the Team against which it is drawn on the date fixed by the Management Committee and without sufficient reason for doing so, shall be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be dealt with as the Disciplinary Committee see fit.
- 18.5** All trophies, medals, etc., to be presented to the winners and runners-up of Cups and League on the field on the night of the final unless Clubhouse facilities are available.

## **19 Agreement for Cups, Shields, etc**

- 19.1** The LWSSL shall present Cups, Shields, etc. to winning Clubs. The Club shall be responsible for its return to the LWSSL at least two month prior to the following competition in good order and condition.
- 19.2** Should the Cup, Shield, etc. be destroyed or damaged whilst under the care or in the custody of the Club, the Club shall refund to the LWSSL the amount of its replacement value or the cost of thorough repair.
- 19.3** Should the Cup, Shield, etc. be lost or destroyed from other cause whilst under the care or in the custody of the Club, the Club shall, in addition to any other penalty which the LWSSL may impose, pay to the LWSSL a sum which, in the opinion of the Management Committee accurately reflects the full reinstatement value of the Cup, Shield, etc.
- 19.4** It is expected that, where appropriate, the Club will be responsible for the engraving of the Cup, Shield, etc.

**The LWSSL will not be responsible for loss, injury or damage to any player.**