

RULES FOR THE MIDLAND SCHOOLBOYS/GIRLS LEAGUE.

(RULE CHANGES WERE RATIFIED AT THE AGM 23-05-12)

1. All questions of eligibility of qualification of competitors or of the application of these rules or laws of the game shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.
2. The Executive Committee shall have power to deal with any matter which is not particularly covered by these rules.
3. The Constitution and Rules of The M.S.L shall not be amended or added to except in accordance with proper procedure as outlined in the Constitution.
4. The M.S.L is subject to the rules of the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland (S.F.A.I), Women's Football Association of Ireland (W.F.A.I) and The Football Association of Ireland (F.A.I), which are not contained in this rule book. Each club should have at least one copy of the S.F.A.I, W.F.A.I and F.A.I. rule books in their possession and shall be bound thereby.
5. Any rule in this rule book which contravenes a rule of the S.F.A.I, W.F.A.I. or the F.A.I. shall be declared null and void.
6. Each Club should have at least one person with 1st Aid experience present on match day in case of serious injury.

7. Membership

(7.1)

Application from intending Clubs for admission to the League, which must be made in writing on the Official Club Registration Form, not later than July 31st, each year should include the following particulars:

- a) Situation of grounds and whether private or public.
- b) Club colours.
- c) Name and address of club secretary.
- d) Names and contact numbers of officers and members of the committee.
- e) The name of the previous League, if any, that the club was affiliated to and a clearance certificate from the previous League as well as approval from the S.F.A.I
- f) Clubs changing Secretaries or Secretaries changing their addresses must notify the Hon. Secretary of the League,
- g) A bona fide copy of a current and up to date Certificate of Insurance for Public Liability, covering the club in question.
- h) Name and contact details of their Club Child Officer

(7.2)

The Executive Committee reserve the right to refuse an application for membership and to suspend, fine, expel or otherwise deal with any Club or members or Officials of a Club for failing to obey any order or decision made by the Executive Committee or whose conduct is considered prejudicial to the interest of the League.

(7.3)

A club wishing to transfer from one league to another at the end of a season must obtain a transfer on the official S.F.A.I or W.F.A.I. Transfer Form, available from S.F.A.I. or W.F.A.I. The league to which the club is transferring into must first sign the form as acceptance of the club. The completed form must be submitted to the S.F.A.I or W.F.A.I. for ratification within 14 days of the release and acceptance date. Such transfer requests must be made before the 1st May in any season. Clubs will not be unreasonably refused such a release, and they have the right to appeal to the S.F.A.I and then if they so wish, the F.A.I. in accordance with the rules of these bodies.

(7.4)

In the event of two clubs registering the same colours, the home club must change when the clubs meet in competition. In the event of the match being a final, or any match being played at a neutral venue the choice of colours shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

(7.5)

All clubs must have a certified Child Officer.

(7.6)

All Club Chairpersons must complete a Child Welfare course and hold a current certificant

8. The League Structure

(8.1)

The league competitions shall be divided into sections as decided by the Executive each season.

(8.2)

All players must be under age for their respected division on or after the 1st of January of the season in which the competition finishes.

(8.3)

All fixtures and venues shall be arranged by the Fixture Secretary and teams will play home and away matches unless directed otherwise.

(8.4)

The League tables shall be calculated on the basis of 3 points per win and 1 point per draw. In the event of two teams being equal on points at the conclusion of competition the clubs concerned must play off on neutral ground to decide the winner. The same rule applies if there is a tie for runners up.

(8.5)

Any club knock out competition under the auspices of the M.S.L may be confined to a particular section or sections as will be determined by the Executive.

(8.6)

The names of the clubs entered for cup competitions shall be drawn in couples, the first team drawn having home venue for the fixture, except in the case of finals, where the venue will be selected by the Executive. The Executive may draw subsequent rounds before the winners of the previous rounds are declared. The Executive shall have the power to exempt any number of clubs from any number of rounds and byes may be given but the Executive must arrange four teams to compete in the semi-final rounds.

(8.7)

Any club or team who fails to fulfill a cup fixture will not be allowed enter a shield competition

(8.8)

Any club or team suspended from the League shall not take part in any competition under the auspices of the League.

(8.9)

Clubs playing against suspended clubs shall be dealt with by the Executive who shall have the power to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such offence.

(8.10)

Clubs playing ineligible players in any competition under the auspices of the M.S.L shall be fined an amount to be decided by the Executive for each offence and be otherwise dealt with as the Executive may determine.

(8.11)

Team membership of the M.S.L. will be cancelled if it is found that they let an overage player represent them in any competition promoted by the M.S.L, S.F.A.I or W.F.A.I. The team Manager will also be suspended for a minimum of three (3) years.

Team membership may be renewed under new management upon written application to the League.

(8.12)

A team in doubt as to the eligibility of its opponents shall be at liberty, at half time to ask the opposition manager to see the ID of any or all players by first approaching the match official and informing him/her of their suspicions and asking him/her to include these in his/hers match report. The team manager of the day signed on the match card may then ask the match official to accompany them in their approach to the opposition manager also signed on the match card to make their request. Refusal to accede will be taken as an admission of guilt and will be dealt with by the Leagues Disciplinary Committee. At the full time of the game a club would be at liberty to request to see the ID of any substitutes used in the game. If any club or player is not using player ID then their opposition shall be entitled to get the signatures and dates of birth of any or all of the opposition after informing the match official and being accompanied by them in their request. Failure to give this information will be taken as an admission of guilt and will be dealt with by the Leagues Disciplinary Committee.

(8.13)

Players sent off in S.F.A.I, W.F.A.I or Inter League games must serve their suspension in the next S.F.A.I, W.F.A.I or Inter League game. Players whose team was knocked out of these competitions must serve their suspension for their registered Club team in its next game. Subject to any disciplinary decision.

(8.14)

Players sent off or having accumulated four (4) bookings shall receive a one (1) match suspension and their club fined unless the circumstances warrant further disciplinary action. Teams playing suspended players will be fined and the game in which they played given to the opposition. All Fines must be paid immediately, player remains suspended until the fine is paid.

(8.15)

A player sent off in a game must serve an automatic 1 (one) match ban as per FAI rules. Any further suspension to be served on notice from the Disciplinary Committee.

9. Protests

(9.1)

When a player protested against is proven ineligible, the points/game may be awarded to the opposing club, providing no ineligibility of a player of the opposing club has been shown, in accordance with the rules and constitution, and subject to the Executive's discretion under these rules.

(9.2)

When both clubs are proven to have played ineligible players, no points shall be allowed to either. In the case of protests other than against players, the executive shall be allowed to have the power, to award points, order a replay, or make other decisions, as may be deemed by them to be proper.

(9.3)

Objections to grounds, posts, ball or flags, must be lodged in writing, before the start of the game, with the Referee, who shall have the power to remedy, if possible, the objection before commencing the game. If the cause of objection may not be removed, a formal protest in writing must be lodged in accordance with the rules and constitution of the M.S.L.

(9.4)

A club failing to appear in answer to a protest, when called upon, or failing to give an explanation to their absence, shall be dealt with as the Executive may determine.

10. Fixtures

(10.1)

Clubs will be notified of fixtures by e-mail or post by the League Fixtures Secretary. Clubs will be advised by the League Fixtures Secretary of any alteration to this arrangement. The League Fixtures Secretary may order teams to play midweek and/or evening games if necessary.

(10.2)

All fixtures shall be arranged by the League Fixtures Secretary who shall fix time and venue of kick-off. No club shall have the power to postpone or break fixtures or change the venue or kick-off time without prior consent of the League Fixtures Secretary. Postponements may not be granted.

(10.3)

Any club refusing to fulfill a fixture as directed by the League Fixtures Secretary may be adjudged to have lost the match and be otherwise dealt with as the Executive may determine.

(10.4)

Where a team requests “no fixture date”, 14 days notice for weekend games or midweek games must be given in advance of the making of the fixtures by e mail to the League Hon. Secretary for that period, such a request may be granted. The number of such requests may not exceed 2 for any one team in a season. One before Christmas and one after.

(10.5)

The League may grant a “no fixture date” for semi finals and finals only in other sports. Once the proper notice is given as per rule (10.4)

(10.6)

A “no fixture date” will be granted by the League for the occasions of Holy Communion, Confirmation, School enrolment or other religious events once the proper notice is given as per rule (10.4).

(10.7)

Any club suffering bereavement with direct links to that club may ask the Fixtures Secretary for games to be cancelled. The decision will be at the discretion of the League Fixtures Secretary/ Hon. League Secretary.

(10.8)

Cup Final and Semi Final will be set and cannot be compromised.

(10.9)

Five (5) substitutes may be used in all age groups.

(10.10)

Clubs may avail of the option to role on and role off any of their named substitutes in any match run under the auspices of the MSL. Clubs must advise the referee of their intention prior to the start of the game and must abide by the normal rules for the introduction of a substitute. The implementation of this rule by a team does not, in any way, oblige the opposition to implement a similar approach.

(10.11)

All under 16 cup finals will be preceded by the observation of a one (1) minute prayerful silence to commemorate the memory of all deceased members.

(10.12)

The month of July shall be deemed to be a “closed month”.

(10.13)

All home teams must ring in results before 5.00pm on the day of match or a fine will incur.

(10.14)

Clubs failing to complete League programme will be fined as per schedule of fines.

(10.15)

Any team failing to fulfill league or cup fixtures shall be fined and the opposition given a walkover (subject to investigation by the league)

(10.16)

Duration of games:

Under 8, 9, 10, 11 (7 and 9 a-side) = 20 minutes a-side

Under 11, 12, 13 (11 a-side) = 30 minutes a-side

Under 14 = 35 minutes a-side

Under 15, 16, 17 = 40 minutes a-side

Under 18 = 45 minutes a-side

(10.17)

Size 3 football for all under 8 and 9 games

Size 4 football for all under 10, 11 and 12 games

Size 5 football for all under 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 games

(10.18)

All Cup/Shield games will be played as per rules laid down for these competitions

(10.19)

Any Club Team failing to fulfill two (2) fixtures in a division will be brought before the Disciplinary Committee and may face removal from the competition.

(10.10)

If a third round is to be played in a division the Fixtures Secretary will set those fixtures as fairly as possible.

(10.21)

A team arriving late for a fixture will only be entitled to play a friendly in the time remaining for their game and the points will be awarded to the opposition.

(10.22)

Any team failing to fulfill a fixture will be fined €100 plus the full referee's fee and the points will be awarded to their opposition.

(10.23)

The Hon.Secretary of all Clubs participating in the MSL must be available on match days to answer their phone or inform the league in plenty of time of a nominated person who will be available on match days. Failure by clubs to be contactable on match days will incur a fine as laid out in the fines schedule.

11. Tournaments

Clubs/Teams/Players/Organizations or Firms wishing to run/organise or participate in Tournaments must seek the permission of the Executive and the SFAI or WFAI and not until after the 31st May, when the traditional Season should be finished. Parties taking part in unauthorized tournaments may be suspended and otherwise dealt with as directed by the League, The S.F.A.I, W.F.A.I and/or The F.A.I.

12. Intimidation by Spectators

When it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Executive that the partisans of a club which has a choice of ground systematically interfere with the play of the opposing club by using foul and abusive language or inciting any club to use violence towards their opponents etc, the Executive on the application of either club shall have the power to order the match to be played/replayed at another ground, neutral if possible, and shall deal with the offending club as they see fit.

13. Registration of Players

(13.1)

All players shall be registered on registration forms supplied by the League. This form shall be returned to the Registrar of the League. It is the duty of the Clubs to ensure that forms are in the possession of the Registrar before a player/players take part in competition. In the case of players who were never registered with the League these forms must be accompanied by an original of the players Birth Cert, Baptismal Cert, Health Board Cert or Passport and the appropriate fee. The Registrar will copy the proof of age and return the originals to the club.

The League from time to time may request club secretaries to fill forms indicating what certs they are sending to the registrar.

(13.2)

In league competitions the player must be correctly registered 48 hours before kick off. In cup competitions the player must be registered correctly 14 days prior to kick off of the match in question.

Players may be registered at any time during the season up until the 31st January.

(13.3)

All Transfers shall be requested on the official form, supplied by the League, and shall be granted or rejected by the Executive at their next meeting.

If a player is being transferred to or from a different League the transfer must be agreed from the league they are leaving.

The final date for all player transfers within the MSL shall be December 8th each year.

(13.4)

If a club has multiple teams in the same age group then the players registered to the A, B, C etc team can only play for that team in league, Cup and shield competitions for the duration of the season unless a proper transfer has taken place.

(13.5)

The Registrar of the League shall receive and file all documents in connection with players.

(13.6)

Any Club/Team deemed guilty of inducing or attempting to induce a player to sign from, or play for another club will be liable to sanction, as may be determined by the Executive.

(13.7)

A properly registered player may step up one age division for their club.

(13.8)

Clubs with multiple teams at any age group must fill and return a team sheet to the registrar. Players named on the team sheet are governed by Rule 13 (13.4)

(13.9)

It is compulsory for all players up to and including Under 13 to participate in the Player ID system from season 2012/2013 with no exceptions.

(13.10)

All new clubs entering the MSL must participate in the player ID system.

14. Referees

(14.1)

All appointments of Referees to games shall be made by the League Fixtures Secretary.

(14.2)

Referees fees shall be laid down after consultation with the referees committee by the Executive of the M.S.L.

(14.3)

Referees shall be paid their match fee prior to kick off.

(14.4)

The Referees decision in relation to fitness of ground on match day is final. The Hon Secretary of the League shall have the power to authorize a delegate to inspect a venue in order to alleviate the necessity of an away team traveling.

(14.5)

Any Complaints against Referees must be lodged in writing with the Hon. League Secretary within 4 (four) days of the cause of the complaint.

(14.6)

All match Officials must be treated with the utmost respect by players, officials and supporters before, during and after the game. Any breach of this rule shall be viewed in a most serious manner by the League and shall be dealt with as determined by the Executive.

(14.7)

Any player whom a Referee has reported as guilty of assaulting him before, during or after a game will automatically stand suspended until the next Disciplinary Hearing of the League has decided upon the case and notified the parties involved of their decision. In this context spitting at a Referee is regarded as an assault. This Disciplinary Hearing must be convened within 5(five) working days of the alleged assault.

(14.8)

Match fees will be shared equally by both teams except in cup finals, shield finals or league play off's where the League will pay the fees.

15. Match Cards

(15.1)

Match cards must be in all cases filled in with full names of each player in block capitals and must correspond with the numbers actually worn by the players on the day.

(15.2)

Match cards must be signed by both the Manager and the Linesman for the team on the day.

(15.3)

From time to time the League may send out team check lists which must be filled correctly and signed by all players opposite the numbers actually worn by the players on the day. Failure to accede will be taken as an admission of irregularity and the team will be dealt with by the Leagues Disciplinary Committee.

16 Standard Schedule of Fines

These fines will be set by the Executive Committee at their first meeting after the AGM and clubs will be notified of the fines.

17 Club Awards

(17.1)

The League shall promote annually a “Club of The Year Award”. This Award to be selected by the Executive on the following criteria; Disciplinary, Secretarial, Financial, Achievement and Development of a Club.

(17.2)

The League shall present a merit award at the end of the season to the best small club. This award to be voted on by the League Executive.

18 Disputes

- . In case of dispute, legal proceedings shall not be taken by any player, manager, club, club official or the league without first consulting the council of the S.F.A.I,
- . W.F.A.I or the F.A.I.