

COMPETITION REGULATIONS (FOOTBALL)

Adult Football Leagues

1) Purpose of the competition

- a) The league is a **development** competition, with a much higher **performance** (competing to win) ethos inherent in the top divisions. From division 6 down there is a higher **development** and **participation** ethos, hence the need to slightly modify regulations between the top and bottom divisions. More expansive knockout formats (Semifinals and relegation play offs) help clubs that provide county players and are disadvantaged for early league rounds. County players are typically unavailable until later rounds.

2) League Format

- a) Leagues shall be run on a league/knockout format as per GAA Official Code 11.1
- b) Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 shall operate under the following regulations;
 - i) Divisions shall comprise of 12 teams
 - ii) The top four teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall qualify for the semi-finals to determine promotion, (Division 2,3,4 and 5) with a final to decide the league winner.
 - iii) The second and third lowest ranked team as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall play in a Relegation Play-Off to determine which team is relegated. The bottom team will be automatically relegated.
 - iv) Semi-finals and play-offs will typically be played at a neutral venue. The CCC may fix higher ranked teams to play at home.
 - v) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league in Divisions 1 to 5, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team, and the offending team shall suffer a four point deduction.⁴
 - vi) League games in divisions 1 to 5 can be played down to 13 if one side has no more players available.
- c) Divisions 6 and below shall operate under the following regulations;
 - i) Divisions shall comprise 10 or less teams
 - ii) The top two teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall be promoted and qualify for the final.
 - iii) The bottom two teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall be relegated.
 - iv) The CCC may regrade teams outside of previous year's league placing where appropriate
 - v) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league from Division 6 down, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team.
 - vi) League games in 6 and below can be played down to 11 players if one side has no more players available.

3) League Regulations regarding Eligibility:

- a) Any player from a senior club, listed or otherwise, that starts **six** times or more for any team, shall not be eligible to play in a grade or division below that grade or division in the same competition, in the current year.
- b) Where a club has teams competing in a lower division of the football league, a list of players must be submitted to the C.C.C. before the competition starts, in line with Table 3 below.
- c) The list shall not contain the names of any players known to have out-migrated or retired.
Penalty: Two point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.
- d) Players who have played a senior competitive inter-county game for Meath (League or Championship) in the relevant code, in the current year or the previous year, and are not retired, should be listed and are only eligible to play for the first team.
Penalty: Two point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.

⁴ The team that gives the walkover shall forfeit the game, and shall suffer a four point deduction in their league point tally. The team that suffers the walkover shall be awarded the two points.

- e) **Where a team fails to submit a panel, the C.C.C. shall consider the fifteen players who start the first game in the league to be ineligible to play in a lower division of the football league.**

Table 3 Football League Eligibility Table

	Cannot Play Second Team or below	Cannot Play Third Team or below	Cannot Play Fourth Team or below	Cannot Play Fifth Team or below
	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4
Senior Clubs	15	13	11	9
Intermediate Clubs	13	11	9	
Junior Clubs	11	9	7	

4) Competition Regulations:

- a) In Divisions 1 to 5, seven substitutions are allowed in normal time. A maximum of three substitutes remains for extra time in knockout games.
- b) From Division 6 down, Unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time. A maximum of three substitutes remains for extra time in knockout games.
- c) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5) Failure to fulfill a fixture fine for League

- a) A minimum fine of €100 **shall** be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.
- b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.