

**COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

**1.** In these regulations:

“DGA” means the Domestic Games administrator.

“The Competition” means, as the context may require, the Leinster League Senior Cup or League and any other competition designated from time to time by the Executive Committee to be a Competition;

“The Branch” means the Leinster Branch of the I.R.F.U.;

“The Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Leinster Branch I.R.F.U.;

“The Sub-Committee” means the Competition Sub-Committee of the Domestic Game Standing Committee as appointed by the Executive,

“The All Ireland League” means the competition organised by the I.R.F.U. which consists of three divisions.

**2.** The competitions shall be governed by the Sub-Committee.

**3.** An individual shall not be allowed to play in the Competitions for more than one Club in any one season without the majority consent of the sub-committee.

**4.** The Competitions Committee shall be entitled to make decisions on all matters not provided for in these regulations.

**5.** No proceedings or decisions made pursuant to these regulations shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

**6.** In case of any inconsistency between these Regulations and the Bye-Laws of the Branch, the said Bye-Laws shall prevail.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING COMPETITIONS  
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE  
LEINSTER BRANCH I.R.F.U.**

**SECTION 1**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR ALL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS  
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LEINSTER BRANCH**

**1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The relevant Committee shall mean the Sub-Committee and the Relevant Secretary shall mean the Honorary Secretary of the Leinster Branch, the Honorary Secretary of the School’s Section, the Honorary Secretary of the Youth’s Section or the DGA as appropriate

**1.2 DEFINITIONS**

**(1) Junior Club** means any affiliated Club other than one graded as Senior, School, Youth or Occasional

**(2) Junior Committee** means the Committee of the Junior Section of the Branch

**(3) Schoolboy/schoolgirl** means any person who is a bonafide schoolboy/girl within the meaning of the regulations governing the Schools’ Competitions.

**(4) The Competitions Committee** shall be a sub-committee of the Rugby Standing Committee as appointed by the Executive. The quorum of the said Committee shall be three members and the Sub-Committee shall be composed of a minimum of seven people.

**(5) Competitions** shall (in the context of Regulation 1.3 (1)) be taken to mean all Competitions under the control of the Leinster Branch Executive Committee and the Junior Committee and the Area Competitions organized by the Provincial Area organizations.

**(6) Played from the start** shall be taken to mean played in the match other than as a replacement/substitute.

**(7) Youth** means any person who is not over 19 years within the meaning of the regulations governing Youth's Competitions.

### **1.3 ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS TO TAKE PART IN COMPETITIONS**

**(1) All Clubs must be affiliated to the Leinster Branch and have paid the relevant affiliation fee and insurance premium.**

**(2) All Clubs must pay the relevant Competition Fee for each League or Cup Competition.**

(3) The Sub-Committee shall have the power to consider representations as to the eligibility or otherwise of Clubs to take part in the various Competitions.

(4) If a Junior Club is invited by the Sub-Committee to take part in the Leinster Senior Cup/League in a particular season, the fact that the Club plays in the Competition shall not render such Club, or any member thereof who played for it, ineligible to compete in any Competition run by the Sub-Committee, provided that such Club or player is otherwise eligible.

### **1.4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS TO TAKE PART IN ADULT COMPETITIONS**

**(1) No individual shall be permitted to play in any Competition unless they are registered with a Club and have been issued with a registration number.**

(2) No individual shall be permitted to play in Competitions for more than one Club in any current season without the consent of the Sub-Committee. (Players who register for U21's teams, and if they are not being regularly selected, may apply by 1<sup>st</sup> of February in that season to transfer to another Club and play competitive football for that Club for the remainder of the season.)

(3) In the event of a Club being defeated in a Cup match or winning any Cup Final (other than the Senior Cup/League), the members of such Club who played in that match from the start shall be ineligible to play in any lower Cup Competition in that season. A Club may apply to the Sub-Committee to seek clearance for a player, who is otherwise ineligible to play, clearly detailing the circumstances surrounding that application.

(4) Any players falling within the categories as set out below are ineligible to participate in the competitions as follows:

Junior 2 and below League and Cup Competitions:

– Players who during the last 3 years have been selected to play on any International representative team (other than the Club, Schools, Youths or U21 teams) and/or Players who were contracted to play for Leinster or for any of the other Irish provinces or an equivalent overseas professional team. Any current fully contracted players cannot play J1 competition other than Academy contracted players who can only play to J1 level.

Clearance for players to play in particular competitions, if required, should be sought in accordance with the procedures for regrading as set out elsewhere in these Regulations.

(5) No player who plays from the start in any match shall be eligible to start for any other team within 48 hours, in the interest of player welfare.

(6) Any player who plays from the start in six competitive matches for a higher team or teams shall be ineligible to play for a lower team for the remainder of the season without the consent of the Sub-Committee in all Competitions, with the exception of the Leinster Senior Cup, Presidents Cup, AIB Cups, Junior Round Robin and Area Competitions. Dual Status Players who play in the AIB League **are** subject to this rule.

(7) Where the consent of the Sub-Committee **is** required to enable a player to play in a Competition, notice in writing applying for such consent must be given to the DGA setting out the fullest possible information regarding the player in question.

(8) A player who has played for a Club in the All Ireland League (excluding a dual-status player) shall be ineligible to play for any other Club in any competitions under the control of the Sub-Committee during the same season without the consent of that Committee.

### **1.5 SUBMISSION BY CLUBS OF NAMES OF PLAYERS SELECTED FOR MATCHES AND NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

(1) Team sheets signed by the manager (or captain) of both teams and by the referee must contain the full names and unique identity number of all players who start the match, dual status and all substitutes and their positions, in particular front rows.

There will be an automatic minimum fine for non-compliance of €200 ranging up to a maximum of €2000 and further sanctions may be imposed by the Competitions Committee.

(2) The final score of the match and number of tries, conversions, drop kicks, yellow cards, red cards, and penalties scored must be contained on the team sheet.

(3) Any overseas player selected must be indicated 'OS' on the team sheet.

(4) In the event of the official referee failing to attend at a match, or being incapacitated during the match, in any of the Competitions, a qualified referee mutually agreed upon by the captain's of the respective teams may officiate, and if not agreed the Home Club shall appoint a suitably qualified referee but such fact must be notified when the result of the match is being communicated to the Secretary of the Sub-Committee.

### **1.6 PLAYING ENCLOSURE AND TECHNICAL ZONES**

(1) All **Leinster Branch** approved fixtures shall be played on pitches that conform to the regulations stated by the **International Rugby Board**.

(2) The playing enclosure of the main (first XV) pitch should be defined by a fence unless impractical when it shall be defined by a rope.

(3) If there is a stand seats should be made available for subs.

(4) Two technical zones to be designated, clearly marked with white paint, each nine metres long and three metres wide and not less than two metres from the touchline, one on either side of the halfway line, in which benches shall be placed to accommodate substitutes, and three members of the coaching/medical staff. If there is no bench the substitutes must remain outside the barrier. The referee shall order them out of the playing enclosure if they fail to adhere to this requirement. A persistent failure to comply shall result in the team being reported to the Leinster Branch and sanctions applied as provided and set out elsewhere in these regulations.

(5) Coaches are precluded from entering the playing enclosure (excluding the players' technical zone) during the course of a game except at half time.

(6) The "**minimum**" requirements for the staging of fixtures under floodlights are as follows:

**Lux (Eav): Uniformity (U): Glare (GR): Colour (Ra)**  
**200            0.6            <50            <60**

(This is an IRFU Class 11 minimum and may be subject to change.)

## **1.7 CANCELLATION OF MATCHES, THE POWER OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE TO FIX DATES AND RELATED PROCEDURES**

(1) The date of any Official Fixture shall not be changed without the consent of the Sub-Committee. Any Club contravening this regulation may be dealt with as provided and set out elsewhere in the regulations.

(2) Clubs must cancel competitive matches from the bottom up e.g. if a Club cannot field a team on a particular weekend, then the match to be cancelled (with the permission of the relevant Committee) must be the lower competitive match rather than any higher competitive match. In cases of non-compliance with this direction, sanctions and/or penalties as provided and set out elsewhere in the regulations may be applied by the relevant Committee.

(3) The Competitions Sub-Committee shall provide a list of nominated persons to act on a ground fitness panel who shall be available for consultation when the fitness of the ground is to be considered. A club which has doubt about the fitness of its ground shall contact the Ground Fitness Panel nominee following an inspection at 9am. This nominee will discuss the situation with the club and if necessary visit and inspect the ground. Where there is a doubt about the fitness of the ground and there is reasonable prospect that with improved weather conditions the ground could be playable by kick-off time, a decision on whether or not the pitch is playable shall be postponed until close to kick off time. Matches may not be postponed on grounds that the safety of players might be prejudiced unless with the additional approval of the match referee.

(4) In cases where doubt arises regarding playing conditions for a cup or league tie, the home club shall nominate a suitable alternate ground locally or offer the away team the option of hosting the match. The Committee reserves the sole right to re-fix for a different venue on the same day or on a future date.

(5) Games may be re-fixed for a different day in the same weekend or re-fixed for an earlier date, with the consent of the Sub-Committee, if application is made, at least three week before the fixture is due to take place.

(6) With the exception of games cancelled or re-fixed under (4 or (5) above any League game cancelled or re-fixed may be subject to the following sanctions:

- Games cancelled at the request of the Home team: the re-fixed fixture shall be played on the opponent's ground and no bonus points (if relevant) shall be available to the team seeking the cancellation.
- Games cancelled at the request of the Away team: No bonus points (if relevant) shall be available to the Away team.

(7) Clubs failing to fulfill fixtures shall be dealt with by the relevant Committee and sanctions applied as provided and set out elsewhere in these regulations.

## **1.8 AWARDING OF TROPHIES**

(1) The successful Club in the final match of the Competitions each season shall be entitled to hold the Perpetual Challenge Cup appropriate to such Competition from the date of such final

match until such date in the ensuing year as may be specified by the Sub-Committee. The successful Club shall be responsible for returning the said Cup to the Honorary Secretary of the Leinster Branch in as good an order and condition as it was received. Failure to do so will result in the costs of restoring or replacing the trophy being borne by the offending Club.

(2) The Honorary Secretary for the time being of the Leinster Branch shall be, to all intents and purposes, the legal owner, in trust for the Branch, of the Cup appropriate to each Competition played under the control of the Sub-Committee.

### **1.9 REGRADING OF PLAYERS**

(1) All applications for the regrading of players must be submitted in writing to the DGA. Applications for regradings will be considered on a weekly basis; applications must be received on or before 5pm on Wednesday. Any applications received after 5pm on Wednesday will be dealt with the following week. Every application shall be submitted on the form provided containing full particulars of the playing record of the player to whom it relates.

### **Rules Relating to Substitutions, front row replacements and Overseas Players**

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Subs</b>	<b>P &amp; H subs</b>	<b>Overseas players</b>	<b>Rolling Subs</b>
<b>Senior League Cup</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Leinster League 1A,1B,2,3</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per season</b>	
<b>Metro J1 League</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>J2 League</b>	<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Leinster Seconds League</b>	<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>J3 League</b>	<b>Junior 3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>J4 &amp; J5 League</b>	<b>Junior 4,5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>JP Fanagan</b>	<b>Under 21's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Pennant</b>	<b>Under 21's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Gale Cup</b>	<b>Under 21's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Towns Cup &amp; Plate</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Metro Cup</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Spencer Cup</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Inter County Cup</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None allowed</b>	
<b>Prov 2nds Cup &amp; Plate</b>	<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>O'Connell Cup</b>	<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Anderson Cup</b>	<b>Junior 3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Moran Cup</b>	<b>Junior 3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dunne Cup</b>	<b>Junior 4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Winters Cup</b>	<b>Junior 4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>O'Connor Cup</b>	<b>Junior 5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Fox Cup</b>	<b>Over 35's</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>McCorry Cup</b>	<b>Under 21's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	
<b>Purcell Cup</b>	<b>Under 21's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 per match</b>	<b>Yes</b>

(a) P and H subs shall mean front row substitutes/replacements capable of playing both prop forward positions and hooker position respectively and must be identified on team sheets as P and H.

(b) Substitution is permitted as well as replacement due to injury. Players who have been substituted may not re-enter the game, even to replace an injured player, except in the case of a player having an open or bleeding wound, or in the case of a front row player where non-contested scrums would occur if the player did not return. This rule only applies to players who have been tactically replaced (not injured).

### **1.10 FAILURE TO FIELD FRONT ROWS**

A. If a team is unable, to field a front row from the start, then the fixture shall go ahead with uncontested scrums and the following shall be the consequence:

1. If the team who are unable to field a front row win they are entitled to a maximum of two points.
2. If the team who are unable to field a front row lose but are within 7 points of the opposing team they are entitled to one point.
3. If the team who are unable to field a front row lose but score four tries they are entitled to one point.
4. If the team who are unable to field a front row lose but score four tries and are within 7 points they are entitled to two points.
5. The opposing team are entitled to a **MIMIMUM** of two points even if they lose without four scoring four tries or being within 7 points.
6. If the opposing team lose and score four tries they are entitled to three points.
7. If the opposing team lose and are within 7 points they are entitled to three points.
8. If the opposing team lose, score four tries and are within 7 points they are entitled to four points.
9. If there is a draw the team unable to field a front row shall be entitled to one point and the opposing team shall be entitled to three points.

B. If a Club fails to nominate the required number of players capable of playing in front row positions so that after injuries to the front row, the captain of that team declares that he has no front row replacements, the match will continue with non-contested scrums, and sanctions and/or penalties as provided and set out elsewhere in the regulations may be applied by the relevant Committee.

### **1.11 SCHOOLBOYS**

Schoolboys in Section B and non-exempt Section A schools shall be eligible to play youths rugby with the exception of those boys who are included in the Junior Cup and Senior Cup panels in the said schools. The panels for the Junior Cup and Senior Cup to be 35 players for the Junior Panel and 50 players for the Senior Panel. Panels to be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the Leinster Branch by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September each year. If a school do not lodge a panel by the said date then all schoolboys in the school will be eligible to play youths rugby.

If a school wishes to add a player to the panel during the year they can do so provided the panel does not exceed 35 for Junior Panel and 50 for the Senior and the Honorary Secretary of the Branch to be notified. A player can also be removed from the panel at any time.

Any club who play a schoolboy who is on a school junior cup or senior cup panel as referred to above **shall** be sanctioned in accordance with these regulations.

Schoolboys in Section B and non-exempt Section A schools who play in Clubs shall be ineligible to play in the Under 19 Leinster League, the Under 17 Leinster League, The Under 15 League, The Culleton Cup, The McAuley Cup and the McGowan Cup without the consent of the Youth's Committee.

All other schoolboys in any school shall be eligible to play youths rugby at all levels.

The School's Agreements of 1984 and 1991 to be deleted.

### **1.12 YOUTHS**

Youths who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday are ineligible to participate in any matches not under the control of the Youths Committee. In Under 21's Competitions youths are eligible to play subject to the player being capable of playing in the position for which he is selected. In adult competitions youths under the age of 18 shall apply in writing to the Competitions Committee for permission to play enclosing parental/guardians consent.

### **1.13 OVERSEAS/FOREIGN PLAYERS**

**(1) (a) All individuals from countries other than Ireland must, prior to playing at any level in this country attend with their passports at the Leinster Branch Offices.**

(b) Written confirmation of the individual's registration must be obtained from the I.R.F.U. and a copy of the confirmation shall be forwarded to the Branch. This also applies to players returning to Ireland having played abroad.

**(2) All individuals other than those who fall into one or more of the following categories are regarded as Overseas Players and are subject to the restrictions applicable to the various Leinster Branch Competitions as set out at (3) below:**

(a) Those who qualify to play for Ireland under IRB Regulations;

(b) Those who hold a passport issued by a country which is a member of the E.U.;

(c) Those who have lived permanently in Ireland for a period of three years immediately preceding the time of playing subject to proof of residency being produced.

(d) Those who are qualified under International Agreements (e.g. Cotonou) agreed with the IRFU must produce their work permits in the Leinster Branch offices.

### **(3) Overseas Players – Restrictions in respect of Leinster Branch Competitions**

(a) **Number permitted** – See chart

(b) **Residency** – All players must be resident in this country at least one week prior to the commencement of the Competition. Evidence of residence may be requested by the Leinster Branch.

Any overseas player or Irish qualified player that has been playing abroad and who arrives after the qualifying dates above cannot play without the consent of the relevant committee

### **1.14 TRANSFERS BETWEEN CLUBS**

Transfers to or from AIL Clubs to take place on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June with or without the consent of the transferor. Transfers from and between Junior Clubs to take place on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September with or without the consent of the transferor. Transfers where both Clubs consent to take place on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Any transfers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October must be due to exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the Sub-Committee.

### **1.15 INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN REGULATIONS AND BYE-LAWS**

In case of any inconsistency between these Regulations and the Bye-Laws of the Branch, the Bye-Laws of the Branch shall prevail.

## **REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC LEAGUES**

### **2.1 TEAMS TIED ON EQUAL POINTS IN ALL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

In the event of two or more teams in a Division / Section finishing level on league points, the winner of such shall be decided by the following criteria:

- (i) The team with the most wins in the league;
- (ii) The result of the game(s) between the teams;

In the event of the teams playing each other more than once in the League the result will be decided as follows:

- (a) the team with the greater number of league points in the games against each other;
- (b) the team with better point's difference in the games against each other;
- (c) the team that scored most tries in the games against each other;
- (iii) The actual point's difference scored for and against all teams in the League;
- (iv) The team that has scored most tries in the League;
- (v) A play off at a neutral venue

### **2.2 LEINSTER SENIOR LEAGUE CUP**

1. Playing in the Cup will **NOT** affect eligibility for other Leinster Branch Competitions, it will not be taken into consideration for regulation 1.4 (5) (The 6 match rule).

2. Substitution: 5 (see chart)

3. Overseas Players: Only one overseas player allowed PER MATCH.

4. Dual Status: One player per match (from a Junior club not playing in competition)

5. There will be five sections comprising four teams in each section. The five sections will be based on AIB League finishing positions the previous season with the top 12 teams playing in Sections A, B and C and the remaining eight teams playing in Sections D and E.

The top two teams in Sections A, B and C will qualify for the quarter finals along with the winners of Sections D and E.

If two teams are equal on league points in the same Section, then the following criteria apply:

- (i) The team with the highest number of wins
- (ii) The result between the two teams
- (iii) The team with the highest point's difference
- (iv) The team who scored the most tries;
- (v) If still equal a toss of a coin will determine the team to go forward.

6. AIL points apply.

7. At Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final stage if the teams are tied,

- (i) Extra time of 10 mins each half will be played;

- (ii) The team with the greatest number of tries including extra time,
- (iii) The team that incurs the least number of red cards,
- (iv) The team that incurs the least number of yellow cards,
- (v) The away team goes through with the exception of the final when a penalty kick shall take place.

### **2.3 THE LEINSTER LEAGUE DIVISIONS 1A, 1B, 2 AND 3**

(1) The Competition shall be open annually to every Club not participating in the All Ireland League...

(2) Substitution: 5 (see chart)

(3) Overseas Players: Only one overseas player allowed PER SEASON per club.

(4) Cotonou Agreement: Each Club is allowed play only **one** holder of a Cotonou Work Permit (which said work permit shall permit the **playing** of rugby professionally).

#### **(5) Composition of League**

(a) The League for **2009-2010** will be as follows:

(i) **Div 1A – 8 teams** playing each other home and away;

(ii) **Div 1B – 8 teams** playing each other home and away;

(iii) **Div 2 – 10 teams** playing each other home and away;

(iv) **Div 3 – 12 teams** playing each other home and away in 2 sections.

(b) **Promotion and relegation** between the divisions will be as follows and will be subject to the changes to the League in 2010-11 outlined in **2.3(d)**:

**Div 1A and Div 1B** – bottom team relegated from Div 1A to Div 1B and winner of Div 1B promoted to Div 1A; playoff between the second last team in Div 1A and runner up in Div 1B with the winner playing in Div 1A and loser in Div 1B in 2010-11 (playoff will be at neutral venue)

**Div 1B and Div 2** – bottom team relegated from Div 1B to Div 2 and winner of Div 2 promoted to Div 1B; playoff between the second last team in Div 1B and runner up in Div 2 with the winner playing in Div 1B and loser in Div 2 in 2010-11 (playoff will be at neutral venue)

**Div 2 and Div 3** – the bottom two teams in Div 2 will be relegated into Div 3 and the top two teams in Div 3 will be promoted into Div 2

(c) At the end of each season the following arrangements will apply:

(i) The winning Club in the Premier Division (Div 1 in 2008-2009) shall be the Leinster candidate for promotion into Division 3 of the All Ireland League.

(ii) The Top 4 teams in the Premier Division (Div 1 in 2008-2009) shall qualify for the All Ireland Junior Cup for the following season (if the winner of the Leinster League is promoted to Division 3 of the All Ireland League the team that finishes 5<sup>th</sup> will qualify for the All Ireland Junior Cup)

(iii) In the event of a Leinster team being relegated from or promoted to the A.I.L. or in the event of an additional team or teams joining the League, the League shall be reviewed by the Sub-Committee.

(d) The League for **2010-2011** will be structured as follows:

The Competitions Committee will draw up a seeding structure based on results in 2009-10. Teams will then be allocated to Divisions according to their seeding.

The winners of Div 1B, 2 and 3 will be automatically promoted. The result of a playoff will entitle the winners and losers to positions on the seeding structure, not to promotion or relegation by right.

In 2010-11 Division 1A will remain at 8 teams.

If there are one or two extra teams as a result of teams getting relegated from the AIB League then the adjustment in numbers will be made in Div 1B.

If any teams join Div 3 the Super Six will be discontinued and the teams will be divided into two divisions i.e. Div 3A and 3B.

Div 3A will then consist of the bottom two teams relegated from Div 2 in 2009-10, the teams that finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 3 Super Six Section A in 2009-10, the winner of Div 3 Super Six Section B in 2009-10 and the winner of a play off between the 6<sup>th</sup> placed team in Div 3 Super Six Section A in 2009-10 and the runner up in Div 3 Super Six Section B in 200-10

There are four possible permutations with regard to promotion and relegation to and from the AIB League; the number of teams in each Division as a consequence is listed below. The numbers in Div 3 will depend on whether or not new team(s) joins the League

1. No Change (including no team promoted and no team relegated or one team promoted and one team relegated)
  - Div **1A** – **8** teams
  - Div **1B** – **8** teams
  - Div **2** – **10** teams
  - Div **3** – number of teams will be dependent on additional teams
2. 1 team promoted to AIB League
  - Div **1A** – **8** teams
  - Div **1B** – **8** teams
  - Div **2** – **9** teams
  - Div **3** – number of teams will be dependent on additional teams
3. 1 team relegated from AIB League (including two teams relegated and one team promoted)
  - Div **1A** – **8** teams
  - Div **1B** – **9** teams
  - Div **2** – **10** teams
  - Div **3** – number of teams will be dependent on additional teams
4. 2 teams relegated from AIB League
  - Div **1A** – **8** teams
  - Div **1B** – **10** teams
  - Div **2** – **10** teams
  - Div **3** – number of teams will be dependent on additional teams

## **2.4 UNDER 21 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

1. Clubs eligible to compete. (See also General Regulations for all Competitions in Section 1.3.). The Leagues shall be open for competition annually to all Clubs affiliated to the Leinster Branch I.R.F.U.

2. Eligibility of players to take part in the Competitions. (See also General Regulations Section 1.4.)

- a) Any player who is under the age of 21 years on 1st January during the season in which the Competitions are played shall be eligible to play in the Competition.
  - b) The selection of a player or players in any other Representative match, League or Cup Competition on the same weekend as a match in this Competition shall not be grounds for postponement of either match.
3. The Premier League shall consist of 12 teams divided into 2 sections based on the “Super Six System”. The bottom team in the Premier League shall play the top team in the Pennant League at the commencement of each season to determine the 12<sup>th</sup> team in the Premier League. Clubs shall only have one team in the Premier League. The top team in Section B of the Premier League shall play the 4<sup>th</sup> placed team in the Section A League to determine who shall qualify for the All-Ireland League together with the top three teams in Section A.
4. Rolling Substitutions ELV shall apply in the Pennant and Gale Cup allowing up to 12 substitutions to be made from the match panel.

## **2.5 J1 LEAGUE**

The league will be divided into sections A and B played on a home & away basis. The winner of Section A shall win the league. The winner of Section B shall be awarded a pennant and automatic promotion to Section A. The bottom place team in Section A shall be relegated to Section B. A play off (at a neutral venue) will take place between the second last team in Section A and the runner up in Section B, the winner playing in Section A the following season.

## **2.6 J2 & J3 LEAGUES**

1. The leagues will be divided into sections A and B played on a home & away basis. The winners of Section A shall win the league. The winners of Section B shall be awarded a pennant and automatic promotion to Section A. The bottom place team in Section A shall be relegated to Section B. A play off (at a neutral venue) will take place between the second last team in Section A and the runner up in Section B, the winner playing in Section A the following season.
2. Scrummaging Regulations shall be as per the IRB U19 Variations
3. Rolling Substitutions ELV shall apply allowing up to 12 substitutions to be made from the match panel.

## **2.7 J4 LEAGUE**

The league will be divided into sections and played on a home & away basis. The winners of Section A shall win the league. The winners of Section B shall be awarded a pennant and automatic promotion to Section A. The bottom place team in Section A shall be relegated to Section B. A play off (at a neutral venue) will take place between the second last team in Section A and the runner up in Section B, the winner playing in Section A the following season. If there are more than two sections relegation and promotion will follow as above.

- (i) 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and one point for losing by 7 points or less.

- (ii) Six substitutes nominated and can play. Rolling Substitutions ELV shall apply allowing up to 12 substitutions to be made from the match panel.
- (iii) Minimum number on a team is 12, maximum number 15 on the pitch.
- (iv) No requirement for front row players,
- (v) If one team has more players than the other, in order to balance the sides - the team with the greater number of players may allow players to play on the opposing team. The team with the lesser number of players cannot compel the team with the greater number of players to give them players, but the game shall start with an equal number of players on both teams. (i.e. the lower number of players). The team with the greater number of players may use up to and including 21 players in total.

## **2.8 J5 LEAGUE**

The league will be played on a home & away basis.

- (i) 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and one point for losing by 7 points or less.
- (ii) Six substitutes nominated and can play. Rolling Substitutions ELV shall apply allowing up to 12 substitutions to be made from the match panel.
- (iii) Minimum number on a team is 12, maximum number 15 on the pitch.
- (iv) No requirement for front row players,
- (v) If one team has more players than the other, in order to balance the sides - the team with the greater number of players may allow players to play on the opposing team. The team with the lesser number of players cannot compel the team with the greater number of players to give them players, but the game shall start with an equal number of players on both teams. (i.e. the lower number of players). The team with the greater number of players may use up to and including 21 players in total.

## **REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL CUP COMPETITIONS**

**(See also Regulations governing all Competitions in Section 1)**

### **3.1 DURATION OF MATCHES AND PROVISION FOR EXTRA TIME IN CUPS OR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS**

- (1) The duration of each match in the Competition shall be eighty minutes.
- (2) If any Cup or League play-off match is drawn at the expiration of eighty minutes, an extra twenty minutes shall be played, unless, in either case, the referee decides that conditions as to state of ground, light or otherwise are unfit for further play.
- (3) In the event of a draw after extra time the following shall apply:
  - A. J1/2 – replay
  - B. J3/4/5/6 – tie-break will operate as follows up to and including semi-finals (replay in the final):
    - a) team that scores most tries including extra time,
    - b) team that incurs the least number of red cards,
    - c) team that incurs the least number of yellow cards,
    - d) away team goes through to next round.

### **3.2 ELEGIBILITY OF CLUBS TO ENTER CUP COMPETITIONS**

(1) If there is a League Competition at the competitive level, a Club proposing to enter a Cup Competition must have competed in this League during the season.

(2) If there is no League competition at the same competitive level, a Club proposing to enter a Cup Competition must have entered the league competition available at the next most adjacent level (upwards) and each player selected for the Cup Competition, with the exception of Under 21's players who can play at any level, must have played at least five League matches at this level to be eligible for the relevant Cup Competition at the lower grade.

### **3.5 DRAWS/VENUES FOR PROVINCIAL TOWNS CUP COMPETITIONS**

(1) The draw for each round, up to the semi-finals, of the Provincial Towns Cup shall be by open draw. The first team drawn in Rounds One, Two and Three shall have home advantage, except in the case of a Second or Third Round tie where the first team drawn has won its previous tie at home and the second team drawn has won its previous tie away from home. In this case, the second team drawn shall have home advantage.

(2) For other Provincial Towns Cup Competitions, the venues for the Second and subsequent Rounds (up to the semi-finals) will be determined in the following manner:

- a. A team winning a match at home in one round will play its next match away unless its opponents, being drawn on the bottom of the draw, have also won their previous match at home, or a match is a Second Round match and its opponents have drawn a bye to the bottom position in the draw.
- b. A team winning a match away in one round will play its next round match at home unless: (i) its opponents, being drawn on the top of the draw, have also won their previous match away, or (ii) the match is a Second Round match and its opponents have drawn a bye to the top position in the draw.

(3) Semi-finals and Finals shall be played at neutral venues.

**NOTE** In the case of a team winning a tie following a replay or replays, the venue for that tie shall be deemed to have been the first venue.

Also, a walkover will be considered the equivalent of a bye when determining home and away venues.

### **Special Competition for Youths including Schools Section B Approved Players as approved by the Executive Committee April 2005.**

1. This Competition is confined to Clubs who wish to select players from:
  - Non – rugby playing Schools
  - Section A Schools
  - Section B Schools
  - Boys not attending School
2. Section B Schools players will be eligible if released by their School, approved by the Schools Committee and accepted by the Youths Committee.

3. Competitions will be organised at U15, U17 and U19 levels.
4. Fixtures will be set by the Youth Committee.
5. Clubs from all Areas of Leinster will be eligible to participate.
6. Teams in this Section (i.e. Combined Teams) will be ineligible for other Youth Competitions unless this Pilot Competition is deemed satisfactory by the Youth Committee and a change of criteria agreed by the Youth AGM.
7. Section B Schoolboys approved to play in this Competition will be required to register with the Youth Registrar. In this regard a new Registration Form will be provided. Registration Cards will be inspected in the normal way. Spot Checks will be carried out.
8. It is recognised that any School with a fulltime Fixture List and taking part in the appropriate Schools Competition may opt not to release any players.
9. The Youths / Schools Committee will put in place a procedure to facilitate individual transfers during the season.
10. Any Clubs playing unreleased School players may be sanctioned by loss of points, suspension from the Competition, a fine or the loss of international tickets.
11. While the Schools Committee have proposed that Schools would provide the Youths Committee with a list of those players not released the Youths Committee has requested provision of a list of released players. This detail and other minor technical details will be worked out by the Committee.

## **LEINSTER BRANCH REGULATIONS GOVERNING PROTESTS, OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS**

1. These regulations made by the Executive Committee shall apply to all matches held under the auspices of the Leinster Branch, including Senior Matches, Junior Matches, Schools Matches, Area Matches and Youth Matches. Where indicated, these regulations also apply to non-competitive matches and cases of misconduct on or off the field of play. In addition to these regulations, the International Rugby Football Board Laws of the Game and Regulations and the Laws and Regulations of the Irish Rugby Football Union shall apply.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

In these regulations, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

**The Branch** shall mean the Leinster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union which shall, where the context so admits or requires, include the Executive Committee of the Branch or any person nominated or authorised by the Branch or the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Branch for the purpose of these regulations.

**The Administrator** shall in the case of:

- (1) Leinster Branch Senior Competitions mean the Honorary Secretary of the Branch;
- (2) Junior Competitions mean the Secretary of the Sub-Committee;
- (3) Schools' Competitions mean the Honorary Secretary of the Schools' Section of the Branch;
- (4) Youth Competitions mean the Honorary Secretary of the Youth Section of the Branch.

**The Competitions Committee** shall in the case of:

- (1) Senior and Junior Competitions mean the Sub-Committee of the Domestic Game Standing Committee as appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch.
- (2) Schools' Competitions mean a Committee appointed by the Schools' Committee of the Branch.
- (3) Youth Competitions mean a Committee appointed by the Youths Committee of the Branch.

**The Appeals Committee** shall in all cases mean a Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch to hear appeals.

### **3. GENERAL**

**3.1** All Clubs, Schools and Players competing in Competitions shall be deemed to have accepted and be bound by these regulations.

**3.2** In case of conflict between these regulations and any other Competition Rules or Regulations or the bye-laws of the Branch, these regulations shall prevail.

#### **4. AUTHORITY OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES**

Subject to the overriding authority of the Branch and the other provisions of these regulations:

**4.1.1** The Competitions Sub-Committee (the Sub-Committee) in the case of Senior, Under 20's and Junior Competitions the Schools' Committee in the case of Schools' Competitions and the Youth Committee in the case of Youth Competitions (which Committees are respectively hereinafter referred to as the relevant Committee) shall have responsibility for the operation and control of their respective competitions by all Clubs, Schools, Players and Persons involved with these regulations and other relevant competition regulations.

**4.1.2** The relevant Committee shall have power to act on its own initiative and to make decisions for the proper administration of competitions under its jurisdiction and compliance with regulations and to impose such sanctions as may be permitted by these regulations.

**4.1.3** The relevant Committee shall be entitled to delegate to the Administrator (or in his/her absence such other person as may be nominated by the Branch) or such one or more members of the relevant Committee as it may determine such of its functions as it may reasonably decide confirm or ratify and any decision of such person or persons shall be as valid and effective as if made by the full relevant Committee and for the purposes of these regulations shall be regarded as a decision of the relevant Committee. The Branch shall have no liability to any Club or any person arising from negligence or failure to ensure compliance with these regulations.

**4.1.4** The Administrator may at his/her sole discretion:

- (i) Make decisions himself/herself or
- (ii) Ask the relevant Committee (of which he/she is a member) to make the decision or
- (iii) Ask the Competitions Committee to make the decision.

Any such decision shall be called "the first decision".

**4.1.5** Where the relevant Committee or the Competitions Committee is asked to make the decision, such committee shall hold a full hearing.

**4.1.6** The first decision shall be communicated to such Club, School, Player or Person as may be directly affected, as soon as reasonably possible.

## **5. OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS**

**5.1** Any objection or appeal from any decision made pursuant to these regulations or the operation of these regulations or in relation to a breach of these regulations or in relation to a match or the result of a match shall be in writing and shall be received by the Branch not later than three working days from midnight on the date of the event giving rise to the objection or appeal.

**5.2** All objections or appeals must be signed by the Honorary Secretary or Acting Honorary Secretary of the Club or if by a school, by the Rugby Gamesmaster or Acting Rugby Gamesmaster in the school.

Any Objection shall contain the following:-

- (a) The date of the relevant event or decision;
- (b) Specific details of the objection, particularly in relation to objections to players their names and playing positions,

In relation to appeals:-

- (a) The date of the decision appealed against;
- (b) The specific aspect(s) and parts of the decision being challenged, and
- (c) The specific grounds of challenge. No further grounds of challenge may be advanced without the express prior consent of the Committee of Appeal.
- (d) When an appeal is made on behalf of a player by a club it shall only be done with the prior written consent of the player.

**5.3** All objections must be accompanied by a deposit of **€250**. All appeals must be accompanied by a deposit of **€500**. Such payments will be refunded if the objection or appeal is not deemed to be frivolous.

**5.4** No objection or appeal shall be accepted from any person who is not a member of a Club affiliated to the Branch and any such objection or appeal must be made by the Honorary Secretary or Acting Honorary Secretary of such Club on behalf of such person.

**5.5** No person shall be entitled to be a member of any committee hearing an objection or an appeal that has made, or acted on any committee who has made, the decision which is the subject of the objection or appeal, or who is a member of a Club involved in the objection or appeal.

**5.6** The Branch shall cause a copy of an objection or an appeal to be sent to any Club, School, Player or Person directly affected with all reasonable speed.

**5.7 Where** a decision is made pursuant to these regulations by a competent person or Committee which affects the league or cup position of any Club, it shall not be permissible for any Club which was not involved in or did not participate in the match in respect of which the objection or appeal arose, to lodge an objection or appeal against any such decision.

## **6. HEARINGS OF OBJECTIONS OR APPEALS**

**6.1 Where** the first decision is made by the Administrator or the Competitions Committee or the Sub-Committee appointed by the Management Committee, any appeal of such decision shall be heard by the Appeals Committee.

**6.2 The** Branch shall arrange for the hearing of any objection or appeal with all convenient speed at such time and place as it may determine, provided that any Club, School, Player or Person directly affected shall be given not less than 48 hours notice either in writing, email or orally confirmed in writing, of the time and place of such hearing, unless the parties agree to shorter notice.

**6.2.1 The** Hearing Committee shall permit any Club, School, Player or Person directly affected by such objection, including a representative of the relevant Committee, to submit evidence, call witnesses and make representations at the hearing.

**6.2.2** No Club, School, Player or Person appearing at a hearing before the Hearing Committee shall be entitled to be represented by more than two persons (in addition to a legal representative) attending the hearing and legal representation at the hearing shall not be permitted unless reasonable notice of this, prior to the hearing shall be given to the Hearing Committee and any Club, School, Player or Person directly affected by the objection.

**6.2.3** Subject to the requirements of Natural Justice, the procedures to be adopted at the hearing shall be entirely at the discretion of the Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee shall be entitled to call such witnesses and seek such advice as it may require.

**6.2.4** The decision of the Hearing Committee shall be notified after the hearing and where appropriate in writing, to all parties directly affected as soon as possible or orally immediately after the hearing.

**6.2.5** The Appeals Committee hearing the appeal shall be final and binding on all parties. No appeal to the Executive Committee or to the Irish Rugby Football Union shall be permitted provided however that where a Club is suspended or expelled, an appeal shall lie to the Misconduct Appeals Committee of the IRFU.

## **7. ENFORCEMENT POWERS**

**7.1** Where the Administrator or any Committee request a Club, School, Player or Person to provide information in relation to any matter, a reasonable time limit may be imposed and

notified for the provision of such information and in the event that such time limit is not complied with, a decision may be made in the absence of such information.

**7.2** In all Competitions where there is a breach or non-observance of any regulation, law, code of conduct, misconduct, disciplinary matter, failure to fulfill a fixture, non-compliance with any regulation or bye-law of the Branch or non-compliance with a regulation, requirement or decision (of any committee) – or in any case considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the Game – the relevant Committee, the Competitions Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee shall be entitled in its unfettered discretion to impose all or any of the following sanctions or penalties on the offending Club, School, Player or Person:

1. The imposition of a fine.
2. The forfeiture of or the granting of the points for the match.
3. Suspension or expulsion of the Club, Team, School or the Player from a Competition for such period as is thought fit.
4. Require the match to be replayed at such time and at such venue as is thought fit.
5. Loss of as many league points as may be determined.
6. Such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate.
7. Reduction in International Ticket allocation.

**7.3** Where there has been misconduct or conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Game, these enforcement powers or sanctions shall also apply to non-competitive matches.

## **8. CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**8.1** Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, coaches and supporters

**8.2** Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, coaches and supporters towards Match Officials, and are expected to take steps to protect Officials from any form of Abuse. Abuse of Match Officials is defined as:

‘Individual perception of personal degradation be it mental or physical, before, during and after the game including (but not limited to)

- verbal or physical assault
- intimidator conduct
- racial or sexual harassment’

The IRB Code of Conduct Regulation states that a person

‘- shall not abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge, or other Match Official, whether on or off the field of play (20.1.10) and

- shall not use crude or abusive language or gesture towards referees, assistant referees or other Match Officials or spectators (20.1.11)’

Failure to comply can result in the player (if during the match) or the Club (if members, coaches, players off the field or supporters) being brought before the Branch Disciplinary Committee. Sanctions include suspensions, loss of league points, fines or loss of International Tickets.

**8.3** Clubs, players, officials and members must ensure that:

**8.3.1** Matches are played in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour.

**8.3.2** Club players, officials and members do not engage in an act or acts of misconduct. For the purposes of competitions, misconduct shall mean conduct, behaviour or practices on or off the playing enclosure which may bring the Game of Rugby, Clubs or the Branch into disrepute or may be detrimental to the best interests of the Branch or of the Game.

**8.4** For the avoidance of doubt, a Club, player or official may be sanctioned for misconduct even if a referee has already penalised one or more of its players for his or their conduct during a match. A Club shall be sanctioned for the conduct of their members or officials and may be sanctioned for the conduct of their players both on and off the pitch. A player may be sanctioned for his conduct off the pitch.

**8.5** Each participating Club will be represented by bona fide members of the Club who are eligible, pursuant to these regulations. No player may participate in a competition while serving a disciplinary suspension imposed by the I.R.F.U., by the Branch or by his Club or pursuant to any relevant regulations.

**8.6** Clubs or players who are alleged to engage in Acts of Misconduct, incidents off the field of play, incidents involving abuse of referees not dealt with during the match or any incidents involving Club members shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee of the Branch.

## **9. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

The Branch shall be entitled to make decisions on all matters not provided for in these regulations.

**9.1** No proceedings or decisions made pursuant to these regulations shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

**9.2** Where under these regulations any time is allowed or prescribed, the Administrator, the relevant Committee, the Competitions Committee or the Appeals Committee as appropriate, shall have full discretionary powers on good cause shown to extend or abridge the time prescribed or to postpone a prescribed date or time.

**9.3** In the event of conflict between these regulations and the IRFU Regulations, the IRFU regulations shall prevail.

## **REGULATIONS FOR DEALING WITH PLAYERS SENT OFF THE FIELD, RECEIVING THREE YELLOW CARDS (FOR FOUL PLAY) OR CITED IN DOMESTIC RUGBY**

1. The Branch Disciplinary Committee which shall have power to act in the name of the Branch in dealing with disciplinary cases, sendings off, citings, misconduct or conduct detrimental to the best interest of the Union or the Game, whether on or off the playing enclosure, arising from matches under the auspices of or approved by the Branch.

2. In these Regulations the expression, the Hearing Committee, shall include the Disciplinary Committee set up by the Branch and, where appropriate, the Disciplinary Sub Committee or Misconduct Appeals Committee set up by the Union or Union Appeals Sub Committee set up by the Union to hear appeals. At all Hearing Committees, three members shall constitute a quorum.

3. The referee, unless exceptional circumstances make it impossible, shall, within twenty-four hours of termination of the match in which he sent the player off the field of play, send to the Hon. Secretary of the Branch and the Secretary of the Branch Association/Society of Referees or in the case of All Ireland League matches, the Disciplinary Officer of the Union, a written report incorporating:

- (a) The name of the player and his club;
- (b) The circumstances in which the player was sent from the field of play;
- (c) The reason or reasons for the sending off and
- (d) Any other circumstances he considers material.

4. The referee shall be invited and is expected to attend the meeting of the Hearing Committee at which the charge against the player will be dealt with for the purpose of assisting the Hearing Committee in reaching its decision, it being clearly understood that the referee is not on trial. The absence of the referee shall not invalidate any decision of the Hearing Committee.

5. The player sent off, cited or who has received three yellow cards for foul play shall be informed by the Branch or the Union as appropriate through his club, either orally or by letter as soon as possible:

- (a) of the reason for his sending off or if the player is cited, he shall be sent a copy of the citation or in the case of three yellow cards the dates of the offences,
- (b) Of the date, place and time of the meeting, and where practical, composition of the Hearing Committee which shall deal with his case;
- (c) The date and place of the alleged incident(s), the names of the teams involved and
- (d) That he is required to appear in person and is entitled to be represented either legally or otherwise and, if unable to do so at the appointed place and time, should contact the Chairman of the Hearing Committee immediately.

6. Only in exceptional circumstances should the matter be dealt with in the absence of the player and, when necessary, the Hearing Committee should accommodate the player by postponing the meeting. The player shall be entitled to be accompanied by up to two members of his Club and a legal representative who may be invited to speak on his behalf.

7. Subject to the requirements of Natural Justice, the procedures to be adopted at the hearing shall be entirely at the discretion of the Hearing Committee.

The procedure may include the undernoted elements which normally shall be dealt with in the following sequence:

- (a) Whilst waiting to be called before the Hearing Committee, the player shall be given a copy of the referee's report and/or citation as appropriate.
- (b) At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman shall explain the procedures to be followed and introduce each member of the Hearing Committee to the player and his representatives.
- (c) The committee shall scrutinise the reports.
- (d) Discussion with the referee and touch judge if present.
- (e) Confirming with the player his name and identification and that he was the player sent off or cited.
- (f) The reading of the relevant sections of the referee's report or citation to the player by the Chairman.
- (g) At all meetings of the Hearing Committee, the Hearing Committee, the Referee, the Touch Judges if appropriate and the Player, shall be entitled to call such witnesses and put forward such evidence including video evidence as may be relevant. Video evidence should preferably have been made in a professional manner.
- (h) Video evidence should preferably have been made in a professional manner. The Hearing Committee shall have complete discretion as to whether or not to receive Video evidence and in deciding whether any evidence put forward is relevant.
- (i) Receiving the comments of the player and his representatives (if any).
- (j) In the event of the evidence given by the player disputing or conflicting with the report of the referee, the player or his representatives shall be given the opportunity to question the referee, the questions being put through the Chairman.
- (k) Consideration of the evidence by the committee after the other parties have left the meeting.
- (l) Making and promulgation of the Committee's decision.

8. Any Club, Player or other person affected by a decision of the Hearing Committee may appeal within fourteen days of receipt of the decision of the Hearing Committee to the Disciplinary Committee of the I.R.F.U. in relation to Disciplinary or Citing matters arising **on** the field of play or to the Branch Appeals Committee in relation to all other matters, against all or part of the decision of the Hearing Committee. Any such appeal must be accompanied by a sum of €350 which may be refunded after the conclusion of the hearing of the appeal. Decisions of the Branch Appeals Committee shall be final and shall not be appealed to the Misconduct Appeals Committee of the IRFU, save where a Club has been suspended or expelled from the Branch.

9. The Chairman of the Hearing Committee will hand to the player as soon as practicable a notice, in writing, informing him of the decision reached, which notice should, where such hearing is the first hearing, include an advice to the player of his right to appeal within fourteen days to the Appeals Committee or Disciplinary Committee of the IRFU as appropriate. The Chairman should also verbally advise the player of that right. The Hon. Secretary of the Branch or the Disciplinary Officer of the Union as appropriate shall notify the player's Club in writing of the decision and of the right to appeal.

10. In the event of the matter having been heard in the absence of the player, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch or Rugby Administrator of the Union as appropriate shall notify the player of the decision of the Hearing Committee immediately thereafter by sending the notice of the decision

to him and by covering letter, where such hearing is the first hearing, draw his attention to the right of appeal. The Hon. Secretary of the player's Club shall also be notified.

11. A player who has been sent off is debarred from playing the game until his case has been finally decided and the Hearing Committee should meet as soon as possible and preferably within six days of the player's dismissal taking place. A player cited or receiving three yellow cards for foul play may continue playing the game, unless suspended by the Hearing Committee. The lodging of an appeal against a decision of the Hearing Committee shall not have the effect of deferring any suspension imposed.

12. The Disciplinary Officer of the Union shall be notified in writing immediately after a decision by the Hearing Committee has been made and the notification shall be accompanied by a short statement of the facts of the case. The decision of the Hearing Committee shall be noted at the meeting of the Branch next following the meeting of the Hearing Committee.

13. A member of the Hearing Committee who is a member of either of the Clubs involved in the match in which the player was sent off or cited shall take no part in the consideration of the player's case and shall not attend the meeting at which the adjudication takes place.

14. Save in the case of All Ireland League matches, in the event of the player being from a visiting Club affiliated to another Branch of the I.R.F.U., the referee's report or citation shall be sent by the Hon. Secretary of the Branch in whose territory the game was played to the Hon. Secretary of that other Branch which shall arrange for the case to be dealt with.

15. In the event of the player being from a visiting Club affiliated to another Union, the referee's report shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary of the Branch in whose territory the game was played to the Chief Executive of the I.R.F.U. who shall forward it to that other Union to deal with the case.

## **INTERPROVINCIAL MATCHES**

16. A player sent off the field of play in a senior Interprovincial match shall be dealt with by the I.R.F.U. Disciplinary Subcommittee.

17. In all other Interprovincial matches the referee's report shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Branch to which the player's Club is affiliated. Such Branch shall arrange for the case to be dealt with in accordance with these regulations.

18. The decision of the Committee of the I.R.F.U. shall be final in all matters relating to the implementation of this code of procedure and as to any suspensions or sanctions imposed.

## **REGULATIONS DEALING WITH CITING OF PLAYERS IN NON INTERNATIONAL MATCHES**

19. Where a player commits an act of foul play which has not been detected by match officials, either of the Unions or affiliated organisations participating in the match have the discretion to cite that player in writing to the Union or Disciplinary Body having jurisdiction over the match.

20. Please note the following points of procedure:

1. Citing can be done by either of the participating organisations (i.e. Union, Branch, Club, Referees Association) through its Hon. Secretary.

2. Citing must be made in writing within 48 hours of the alleged incident to the Hon. Secretary of the player's Branch or the Chief Executive of the Union, giving the following information:

- a. Date and place of alleged incident;
- b. Name, Club and team of alleged offender;
- c. Name of opposing team;
- d. Full details of alleged incident.

3. The player, his club, the referee and where applicable the touch judges should be sent copies of the citing complaint and advised in writing of the date, time and place of the meeting of the appropriate Hearing Committee.

4. The citing Club or Rugby Body is also advised of the date, time and place of the meeting and is required to send a representative to the meeting. Failure to do so will result in the citing complaint being dismissed.

5. Committee that deals with citing:

- a) For incidents in Club matches, the matter shall be dealt with by the Branch Disciplinary Committee except that in All Ireland League matches it shall be dealt with by the Union's Disciplinary Committee.
- b) For incidents in Interprovincial matches, the matter shall be dealt with by the Union's Disciplinary Committee.

21. All communications regarding any player sent off or cited in Interprovincial matches, All Ireland League Matches or in relation to Appeals to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the Union shall be with the Rugby Administrator I.R.F.U. at 62 Lansdowne Road.

## **The Burden of Proof**

1. In any case where a Hearing Committee is required to consider an incident of foul play or alleged foul play, it may decide to impose a penalty or take no further action.
2. In any case where a Hearing Committee is required to consider a sending off, the Hearing Committee may review the referee's reason for the sending off decision and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case, the Hearing Committee shall not make a finding contrary to the referee's decision unless it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that on the evidence adduced by or on behalf of the player, the referee's reasons for his decision are wrong.
3. In any case where a Hearing Committee is required to consider an incident of foul play or alleged foul play which has not been the subject of a determination on the field of play by a referee, it shall not impose any penalty unless it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the allegation is proved.

## **22. Miscarriage of Justice**

No proceedings or decisions made pursuant to these regulations shall be held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

## **23. Extension of Time**

Where under these regulations any time is allowed or prescribed, the Hearing Committee shall have full discretionary power, on good cause shown, to extend, abridge or vary the prescribed time.

## **NOTES FOR GUIDANCE**

1. Each case must be treated on its merits and any sanction imposed must be seen to be fair and equitable and in accordance with the circumstances of the individual case.
2. In the event of a player appearing for a second or subsequent ordering off within five years, his previous record should be reflected in the severity of the suspension.
3. The player may not play the game anywhere during the period of a suspension.
4. Any suspension must be imposed until a stated date which should be fixed after taking into consideration all playing consequences of such suspension.
5. If a player's suspension has not terminated by the end of the playing season, he will be required to complete the suspension at the beginning of the next playing season, unless he has been selected for a close season tour or he intends to play during the close season in another Union. In these cases, the period of the tour or the playing season in the visited Union must be included in determining when his suspension ends.
6. The following sanctions are recommended by the I.R.B. for offences within the playing enclosure:

## IRB RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

### IRB Recommended Sanctions For Offences Within The Playing Enclosure (Regulation 17)

<u>Law No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Entry Point Based on Scale of Seriousness of the Players Conduct which Constitutes the Offending Lower End (LE), Mid Range (MR), Top End (TE)</u>	<u>Maximum Sanction</u>
<u>6.A.5</u> <u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Verbal abuse of Match Officials</u>	<u>LE – 6 weeks</u> <u>MR – 12 weeks</u> <u>TE – 18+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>6.A.5</u> <u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Physical abuse of Match Officials</u>	<u>LE – 24 weeks</u> <u>MR – 48 weeks</u> <u>TE – 96+ weeks</u>	<u>Life</u>
<u>6.A.5</u> <u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Threatening actions or words at Match Officials</u>	<u>LE – 12 weeks</u> <u>MR – 24 weeks</u> <u>TE – 48+ weeks</u>	<u>260 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (a)</u>	<u>Striking another player with hand, arm or fist</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 8+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (a)</u>	<u>Striking another player with the elbow</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 9+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (a)</u>	<u>Striking with knee</u>	<u>LE – 3 weeks</u> <u>MR – 8 weeks</u> <u>TE – 12+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (a)</u>	<u>Striking with head</u>	<u>LE – 4 weeks</u> <u>MR – 8 weeks</u> <u>TE – 12+ weeks</u>	<u>104 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (b)</u>	<u>Stamping on an Opponent</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 9+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (b)</u>	<u>Trampling an Opponent</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 9+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (c)</u>	<u>Kicking an Opponent</u>	<u>LE – 4 weeks</u> <u>MR – 8 weeks</u> <u>TE – 12+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (d)</u>	<u>Tripping an Opponent with the foot/leg</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 4 weeks</u> <u>TE – 7+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (e)</u>	<u>Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including early or late and including the action known as the 'stiff arm tackle'</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 6 weeks</u> <u>TE – 10+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (f)</u>	<u>Holding, pushing or obstructing an Opponent not holding the ball except in a scrum, ruck or maul</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 4 weeks</u> <u>TE – 6+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>

<u>10.4 (f)</u>	<u>Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent without the ball, including shouldering</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 9+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (g)</u>	<u>Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent with the ball, including shouldering</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 5 weeks</u> <u>TE – 9+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (i)</u>	<u>Causing a scrum, ruck or maul to collapse</u>	<u>LE – 2 weeks</u> <u>MR – 4 weeks</u> <u>TE – 8+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Testicle grabbing or twisting or squeezing</u>	<u>LE – 12 weeks</u> <u>MR – 18 weeks</u> <u>TE – 24+ weeks</u>	<u>208 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Biting</u>	<u>LE – 12 weeks</u> <u>MR – 18 weeks</u> <u>TE – 24+ weeks</u>	<u>208 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Contact with Eyes or the Eye area</u>	<u>LE – 12 weeks</u> <u>MR – 18 weeks</u> <u>TE – 24+ weeks</u>	<u>156 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Spitting at Players</u>	<u>LE – 4 weeks</u> <u>MR – 7 weeks</u> <u>TE – 11+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>
<u>10.4 (k)</u>	<u>Verbal abuse of Players based on religion, Race, Colour or National or Ethnic Origin or otherwise</u>	<u>LE – 4 weeks</u> <u>MR – 8 weeks</u> <u>TE – 13+ weeks</u>	<u>52 Weeks</u>

In respect of offences not referred to above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant hearing committee.

Notwithstanding the above, in cases where the player's actions constitute serious Illegal and/or Foul Play for any type of offence which has the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the hearing committee may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.