

MAYO ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CUMANN SRAITH PHEILE MUIGHEO

RULE 1: MAYO LEAGUE

The Mayo League shall be known as the Mayo Association Football League Limited – Cumann Sraith Pheile Muigheo Teo – hereafter known as M.A.F.L. and the League Management Committee as L.M.C. and shall be affiliated to the F.A.I. and Connaught Football Association and shall be subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the offices of the League shall be Milebush Park, Castlebar.

RULE 2: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the League shall be to co-operate with the F.A.I /C.F.A. in their efforts to promote, foster, and develop the game of Association Football in the Mayo area and to take such steps as deemed necessary or advisable for preventing any infringements of the rules of the game or other improper methods of practices in the game and for protecting it from abuse and to do all such things as are incidental or inductive to the attainment of these objectives.

RULE 3: MEMBERSHIP

The League shall be open to all bone/fide Junior Clubs in the area who wish to affiliate to the League in accordance with the rules and are not in breach of the rules of this or any other League and have fulfilled all obligations to those Leagues. For the purpose of this League, a Junior Club shall be one other than those competing in the Football League of Ireland (any section) or Divisional Senior Leagues such as Leinster, Munster, Connaught, Ulster or Leagues of a similar or higher status.

RULE 4: PLAYERS

A Junior player, for Mayo League purposes, is one who is competing with a Junior Club as defined in Rule 3 with the following exceptions:-

- (a) A player who has ever received senior international honours (amateur honours excluded).
- (b) A player who has played in the F.A.I. Senior Cup, Divisional Associations Senior Cups, or F.A.I. Intermediate Cup during the current calendar year.
- (c) A Player who has played more than five games in the Football League of Ireland competitions or in Leagues of similar status in other Associations, including A championship unless he has been reinstated for his Club by his League, or by this Association (see rule 4 (e))
- (d) A Player who during the current calendar year played five matches or more in the Leinster Senior League Division 1, or the Munster Senior League Division 1 or the Connaught Senior League Division 1 and 2 , or the Ulster Senior League Division 1 or a League of similar or higher status.
- (e) Any player who is 5 years out of Football League of Ireland or Leagues of similar status, may be reinstated to Junior status. Players requiring re-instatement should apply to the

F.A.I. Junior Council on or before 30th September. Such players will continue to be Junior players unless they return to Senior status.

- (f) Junior teams taking part in senior competitions i.e. Connacht Senior Cup and/or F.A.I. Senior Cup in the current season will not lose their Junior status.
- (g) Any player who is competing with a Club which maintains both a Junior team and Senior team and wishes to play for both teams may do so provided he is properly registered with the M.A.F.L. and the Connaught Senior League, League of Ireland subject to the provisions of sub rules 4 (b) and 4 (d).
- (h) A player who has not attained his 16th birthday

RULE 5 : RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY

The L.M.C. reserve the right to refuse admission to the League to any club, team, player or official.

RULE 6: FORMAT

The formation and points system of the league and cup competitions shall be decided by the LMC each season

RULE 7: ELIGIBILITY

Membership of the League is open to all Junior Clubs in the area provided they comply with the basic requirements necessary and agree to be bound by the rules of this League. Such Clubs must complete a Mayo League Club application form on or before the January 1st each year and they must satisfy the L.M.C. as to their suitability.

Each applicant must provide or have the use of their own ground, public ground or an alternative ground providing that any such ground being nominated by the applicants shall in no way hinder or infringe on the rights of use of any existing affiliated Club at the time of application or at any future date. The L.M.C. may require proof of claims made by applicants particularly in relation to grounds. All proposed grounds must be passed as suitable by the Mayo League.

RULE 8: SUBJECTION TO RULES

Upon acceptance by the League, all clubs, officers, representatives, players and members shall be bound to abide by the rules of the M.A.F.L. and by all decisions of the L.M.C. and sub-committees.

RULE 9: NEW APPLICATIONS

All new Club applicants must satisfy the L.M.C. that the acceptance of a Club would in no way infringe or encroach on any existing Clubs' players. Existing Clubs have the right to object to the formation of any Club in their area which might seriously affect that Clubs activities. In such

cases the L.M.C. on receipt of a formal written substantiated objection shall investigate and adjudicate on games.

RULE 10: APPLICATIONS

Application for membership shall be made in writing on the official Club Registration Form to be received not later than the 1st January each year.

This application must state clearly:

(a) The name of the Club.

(b) The full Christian name, surnames and addresses of the following officers and officials: Club Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and P.R.O. Also a list of the names and addresses of the elected Club Committee.

(c) The situation of the Club ground and the owner of the ground which must note whether it is private, public or otherwise. Each Club must cover their ground by Public Liability Insurance as the M.A.F.L. deems necessary. (See Rule 58).

(d) Club colours both home and away (Minimum two sets of jerseys required).

(e) Telephone numbers and email addresses for all officers. This must be provided otherwise Club application shall be refused.

(f) The officers in (b) must sign the Club Membership and League Entry Form.

(g) Club Bank Account (s).

RULE 11: POWERS OF THE L.M.C.

The L.M.C. shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the rules of the League and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the League and its competitions, including any not provided for in its rules.

The committee shall have the power to deal as they think fit with any Club, team, official, member or player of any Club in the League or any supporters guilty of misconduct or in breach of the rules.

The committee shall have the power to suspend, fine, expel or discipline offending Clubs, teams or persons.

All decisions of the L.M.C. shall be final and binding unless they are rescinded by a special motion moved under standing orders (rule10) or appealed to the C.F.A./F.A.I.

Each member of the L.M.C. shall be entitled to attend all L.M.C. meetings and have one vote thereat., but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matter directly appertaining to himself,

his Club or team or anyone to which he has an allegiance or strong association with.

This principle shall apply to the procedures of all sub-committees. The League Chairman must ensure that such people directly or indirectly involved take no part in the deliberations or votes on such matters and that they have absented themselves from the meeting until an agreement is reached.

The L.M.C. shall have the power to deal with as they see fit any Club, team or person who brings the game into disrepute including letters to the press on internal matters or for failing to comply with or obey any order or decision made by the L.M.C.

The L.M.C. shall have the power to investigate charges against League officials and to remove from office any person whose conduct in the management of the League affairs has been objectionable

The L.M.C. shall have the power to co-opt a person to the League Management Committee should any vacancy occur during the season.

Where it has come to the notice of a member of the L.M.C. of an incident that warrants disciplinary action, that member shall have the power to report the facts to the L.M.C. The Chairman may call an emergency meeting if he deems the issue to be of a serious and urgent nature.

The L.M.C. shall have the power to order games to be played on a neutral ground or an opponents ground as they see fit.

RULE 12: CONTROL OF THE LEAGUE

The control of the League shall be vested in the L.M.C. which shall be elected at the League Annual General meeting each year. The committee shall comprise of a maximum of thirteen members, one of whom shall be a representative of the Youths & Schoolboys League, which shall include the following: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, League Registrar, Fixture Secretary, P.R.O. and others.

The elected committee shall, at its first meeting after the A.G.M.. elect from within its ranks, a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Treasurer, Registrar, Fixture Secretary, F.A.I. Junior Council Delegate, C.F.A. Delegates and Disciplinary Secretary. Any person nominated for the position of Chairman or Treasurer must have served a mandatory term of at least two years on the L.M.C. All elections shall be contested and shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. The voting shall be by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested. For the election of the Chairman, the existing Chairman must vacate the chair to the Vice-Chairman for the election and shall have on this occasion only one vote. In the event of a tie, the outgoing Chairman shall be deemed elected. Where a tie occurs on all other matters the elected Chairman shall exercise a casting vote as well as his original deliberate vote.

The L.M.C. must elect a Disciplinary Committee and this should include the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Registrar of the League plus the elected Disciplinary Secretary. Vacancies on this committee may be filled from within the L.M.C. if the elected people are unavailable.

The L.M.C. shall have the power to elect a team manager /official each season. The L.M.C. may at its discretion vest the selection of a particular team to the Team Manager or a sub-committee.

RULE 13: MEETINGS

The L.M.C. shall hold committee meetings at least once per month or as requested by the Secretary. The Secretary shall keep an accurate minute book and record of the business and attendance at all meetings. All business conducted shall be considered private, confidential and privilege and shall not be communicated or leaked to outsiders by any deed or action of any of the members of the L.M.C. who, in doing so, would render themselves liable for expulsion or disciplinary action.

At League meetings the L.M.C. shall transact all ongoing business. L.M.C. members who miss any two meetings in a row or who generally have a poor attendance record without reasonable prior explanation may be suspended or expelled from the committee.

All decisions of the L.M.C. must have a majority vote of those present and voting.

The L.M.C. shall arrange to hold Club Delegate Meetings where necessary during the season, to which each Club must send two delegates who shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Club as defined in rule .

The L.M.C. shall attend all such delegate meetings and have an equal vote. Decisions made at delegate meetings, special meetings or extraordinary meetings must receive a majority of those present and voting.

No proxy voting is allowed at any meeting of the League.

Any Club failing to attend the A.G.M., Club Delegates (Chairman\Secretary) meetings or special meetings without a satisfactory explanation shall be severely dealt with by the L.M.C. or Disciplinary Committee.

RULE 14: LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

The Executive Committee of the League shall consist of the League Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar, any three of which shall have the power to deal with matters that need urgent attention between meetings. Should any of the above mentioned be unavailable, another member of the L.M.C. may be co-opted temporarily. The League trustees shall be the Chairman Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar who shall for the time being be for all intents and purposes the guardians of all cups, trophies and property of the League.

RULE 15: CLUB COLOURS

Every Club must register its colours with the League who shall decide as to their suitability. Goalkeepers must wear distinctive colours which will distinguish them from other players and the referee. No players shall be allowed to wear black or very dark jerseys. Any team changing its name or colours must have this ratified by the L.M.C. and notify their opponents of same. In the event of two teams having the same colours, the home team must change. Where there is a colour clash in a final, the L.M.C. shall decide. **All jerseys must be numbered 1 to 16 distinctively marked on the back.** Each team must have a set of matching shorts and socks in all competitive game

RULE 16: FIXTURES

The fixtures list will be drawn up and supplied to each club prior to the commencement of each season. **Official fixture notification shall be on the Mayo website.** Where possible, fixtures will be supplied to all local media for publication. However the League shall not be held responsible for errors, omissions or misprints in such publications. The onus is on each Club Secretary to ensure that he/she checks out his /her Clubs commitments in advance to avoid confusion.

All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game. Clubs must take all necessary precautions to keep their grounds in a proper playable condition. All matches shall be played on grounds deemed suitable by the L.M.C.

In extreme circumstances only the L.M.C., League Secretary or Fixtures Secretary may rearrange the fixture list to facilitate other cup competitions or for any other reasonable reason.

The League Secretary or Fixtures Secretary can, at their discretion, order teams to play on Sunday mornings or evenings, midweek and bank holidays. All clubs are entitled to receive 3 day notice of Sunday or Bank Holiday games.

All matches shall be arranged by the League or Fixtures Secretary by whom the time of kick-off is fixed and no Club shall have the power to postpone or break a fixture or change a venue or time of kick-off without the League's permission and agreement of opponents and referee.

Home Clubs shall be responsible for the following:

- 1) Ensuring that the playing field is marked up to the required standards and in accordance with the laws of the game. Goalposts nets and corner flags must be of the approved standard.
- 2) Providing three playing footballs in accordance with laws of the game.
- 3) First Aid Kit and Stretcher.
- 4) Payment of Referees and expenses.
- 5) Spectator control.
- 6) Arranging Referees transport where available.

Clubs must fill in the Referees card prior to the commencement of the game and must print in block letters the Player's Christian and Surnames on the card and an official of the Club must sign the card. No additions or alterations may be made to the card after the commencement of the game.

All games must be started at the appointed time but no protest will be upheld for late starting unless the L.M.C. are satisfied that it affected the result of the match.

Any Club refusing to play the Club against which it has been drawn on the date and time fixed shall be adjudged to have lost the match and otherwise dealt with by the disciplinary committee. Any Club late for kick-off may be subject to disciplinary measures.

RULE 17 :GROUNDS

Before the commencement of each season, the MAFL shall review the ground which each member or applicant Club proposes to use as its home venue and will decide on its suitability or otherwise. Inspections will also be carried out during the season. The MAFL shall have the power to deem any ground unsuitable.

This rule will not infringe on a match referee's right to deem any ground unplayable on match day.

All Clubs must have dugouts with technical areas marked out. The only persons permitted inside the pitch enclosure and dugouts on match days shall be the players, five named substitutes and three team officials from each team plus the match officials, Only one official can be standing in the technical area. Clubs must provide changing facilities for both teams and the match officials with hot and cold running water in all three. Pitches must be enclosed on all four sides to the satisfaction of the MAFL and have a minimum of three metre clearance between touchline and enclosure.

In all Mayo League competitions, the home team shall have home advantage or the right to obtain an alternative ground within a 15 mile radius on the day. In all Mayo competitions, the home team must take all reasonable steps to ensure that their ground is playable. The home team must have their ground (or alternative ground) inspected well in advance of kick-off to ensure that in the event of the ground being unplayable, their opponents would be notified in adequate time to prevent them travelling. The League Fixtures Secretary and appointed referee must also be notified. **The ground inspection must be conducted by the appointed match official.** If the appointed official is some distance from the ground then another official may be used by **prior agreement with the Fixtures Secretary.**

In certain areas where no official referee is resident, a member of the L.M.C. may inspect a ground and deem it playable or otherwise, provided the LMC member in question, is not a member of, and has no connection with, either or the clubs involved in the match in question. Where an LMC member has deemed a ground playable, the match referee upon his/her arrival shall have the final say as to whether or not the game can proceed.

Should any Club or team travel to an unfit ground where the above precautions have not been taken, the offending Club shall be liable for travelling expenses of the opponents as outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines and subject to disciplinary action.

In all Mayo League and cup competitions, where a ground has been declared unplayable by the Referee, or unfit to play upon, for any reason, the competing team shall notify the Fixture Secretary who will then refix the match. Where a ground has been declared unplayable for any reason but that the opposing team has travelled, the L.M.C. at its discretion can order that the fixture be played on the teams ground that travelled providing the L.M.C. can satisfy itself beyond all reasonable doubt that the home team did not take all reasonable steps to ensure that the fixture would take place. For any refixture, the home ground must be inspected on the day prior to the game as well as the morning of the game. In all cases in this rule where a Referee travels to an unfit ground he is entitled to a ½ match fee plus expenses. In domestic cup competitions where the home ground is not playable on the day every effort must be made to get an alternative ground or switch to the opponents ground. If the

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away teams ground is not playable the game will be refixed by the fixture secretary at the away teams ground.

Clubs are reminded that the F.A.I. and C.F.A. cup competitions may have their own rules as regards the condition in paragraph 4.

RULE 18: UNAUTHORISED FIXTURES

No Club or Player shall be entitled to play any match without getting the M.A.F.L.'s consent in writing. Notice of any such request must be given to the M.A.F.L. in writing. Challenge games against Mayo League Clubs are not exempted from this rule.

RULE 19: POSTPONEMENTS/CANCELLATIONS

Postponements or cancellations will not be granted for injuries or illness to players.

Regarding bereavements, postponements may be granted for the death of husband/wife/mother/father/brother/sister/son/daughter of a Registered Club Officer or Player at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary. Postponements will not be granted on day after the burial service has taken place, one minute silence may be observed as a mark of respect.

In the event of a major tragedy or similar occurrence in any particular area, the Fixtures Secretary may exercise his discretion to cancel a fixture if the said occurrence affected a Club in that area.

Where postponements have been granted by the Fixtures Secretary for bereavements, the Club that requested the postponement must supply in writing to the Fixtures Secretary within fourteen days, full details of how the bereavement affected his team on the day

RULE 20: FAILURE TO FULFIL A FIXTURE

Clubs failing to fulfill fixtures will be dealt with severely by the League Management Committee. In the case of home Clubs, they may forfeit the game or be ordered to concede home advantage and play the game away. They shall also be responsible for the travelling expenses of their opponents.

Away Clubs may forfeit the game or be ordered to travel again for a refix of the match.

Any Club failing to fulfill a fixture a second time will be automatically suspended until the Club's officers meet the L.M.C. The Club's future participation in the League will depend upon a satisfactory explanation being given to the League and assurances about future behavior.

RULE 21: ABANDONED GAMES

In the case of an abandoned tie or a tie where the game has not actually finished, after examining the referees report, the L.M.C. shall decide on the matter. Witnesses may be brought forward to give evidence if required. If a match is abandoned due to bad light or that extra time is not played on account of this or on account of weather conditions during the game, the match shall be refixed at the same venue again.

The L.M.C. shall review all abandoned ties individually and in cases where it is to the advantage of the

competition and does no injustice to any of the Clubs, the L.M.C. shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the final result.

In all cases, where the L.M.C. are satisfied that a game has been abandoned owing to the conduct of any team, club members or supporters, they shall be empowered to award the points for the game to the opposing team and take whatever disciplinary action the L.M.C. deem necessary, including the removal of the offending team from the competition.

In cases where a game is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams, the L.M.C. shall take such action as they deem necessary.

RULE 22: WITHDRAWALS

Any Club or team that withdraws totally from the League shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and bringing the game into dispute. Such Clubs or teams shall stand suspended for the duration of the season. Officers, officials or players of the Club or teams involved may be suspended from football for a period of up to two years. Where withdrawal of a Club is caused by circumstances beyond the physical control of those involved, the L.M.C. may deal sympathetically with it.

Where any withdrawal or full suspension of a Club in the League occurs, the remaining teams in that division will be awarded the points for both games except where any of the remaining teams has already failed to fulfill a fixture against the withdrawn or suspended team. In such cases, the points of the unfulfilled games will be cancelled out and lost completely and cannot be restored.

RULE 23: SPORTSMANSHIP

Each Club must field its strongest available team in all competitions and by doing so, strive to win all games in the spirit of the game and in accordance with the rules of the game. Failure to comply with this shall lead to an investigation by the L.M.C. which may result in severe disciplinary action

RULE 24: PROTESTS

All protests must be received by the League Secretary per registered post bearing a postmark within 3 days (Sunday and Bank Holidays excluded) after the cause of protest and must be accompanied by a deposit fee (cheque) of €50.00 (or as determined by the L.M.C. from season to season) which shall be refunded in the event of the protest being upheld, but which shall be forfeited in all cases where protest is withdrawn or rejected. An exact copy of such a protest must be sent simultaneously by registered post to the Club, League or Association protested against within the same period.

A period of three days after receipt of protest shall be afforded to the body protested against to lodge a counter protest in accordance with the same regulations as apply to the protest. All protest, counter/protest appeal fees must be forwarded by postal order, money order or cheque to cover the amount. These orders or cheques must be fully crossed and payable to the Mayo Association Football League, otherwise protests may not be entertained.

Personal hearings may be requested and granted provided that all expense involved are paid for by the Club concerned. All such Clubs must attend if required at a time and place set out by the L.M.C.

Any Club proved on protest to have ineligible players in a game shall be adjudged to have lost the match and otherwise dealt with as the L.M.C. shall determine.

RULE 25: RIGHT OF APPEAL

All such appeals must be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association concerned per registered post bearing a postmark within 3 working days after the date of notification was received and must be accompanied by a fee (cheque) of €400 (subject to change each season).

An exact copy of such an appeal must be forwarded simultaneously by registered post within the same period of time (Sundays and Bank Holiday excluded) to the body against to whom the appeal has been lodged. The letter of appeal must state clearly the ground on which the appeal is based. If the appeal is successful or upheld, the fee shall be returned to the appealing club/body . If the appeal is unsuccessful the fee shall be forfeited. If any protest or appeal is, in the opinion of the L.M.C., lodged for devious or frivolous reasons, or any ulterior motives (such as enabling a Club or team avail of a suspended player) or to gain unfair time advantage where a Club's resources are limited for a particular date, the L.M.C. or Executive Committee may dismiss the said protest or appeal and impose appropriate disciplinary measures as they deem fit.

Appeals and protests from Clubs which do not conform to the rules shall be considered read but out of order and the fee forfeited.

The Mayo League will allow an In House Appeals Procedure as per Appendix 1.

The Secretary, on receipt of an appeal deemed to be out of order, shall, following consultation with the Disciplinary Committee, immediately inform the Club concerned by phone, and players or individuals shall remain suspended.

RULE 26; PROTESTS, APPEALS, INVESTIGATIONS PROTOCOL

During the hearing of protests, appeals or investigations of any kind, members of the L.M.C. who have associations with the Clubs concerned, shall not have the privilege of voting or taking part in any discussion thereof (see also standing order no. 8).

During the hearing of protests, appeals or investigations of any kind members who have already adjudicated or been directly concerned or associated with the protest appeals or investigation shall not have the privilege of being present or voting there on. Such persons may be called to give evidence as required. In like manner, members of the L.M.C. who have previously adjudicated shall not be entitled to be present when appeals are under investigation.

All members of the L.M.C. shall deal with protests, appeals and investigations with integrity and honour.

RULE 27: COMPLAINTS AND OBJECTIONS

No objections relating to the dimensions of the ground, goalpost, nets, footballs, etc., shall be entertained by the L.M.C. unless a protest is lodged in writing with the match referee before the commencement of the game. Where possible the referee should try to have objections put right before the commencement of the game. If not, an official protest must be made if the protesting Club wish to proceed further.

RULE 28: SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

If after three day protest period has elapsed positive evidence becomes available that illegal or irregular players were used by any Club or Team in Mayo Competitions, their opponents may request an investigation into the game. The L.M.C. however cannot deprive a team of points or trophies won unless they have established definite proof of illegalities.

Requests for special investigations should be received by the League Secretary by registered post within five days of occurrence and before another round of the same competition is played. All evidence of claims for investigation must be enclosed at the time of application. An exact copy of request and claim made must be sent simultaneously to the opponents involved.

Such requests for investigations must be accompanied by a fee of €200 (subject to yearly review and must enclose all relevant proof claimed. Failure to prove claims on investigation to the L.M.C. may render the applicants liable for whatever costs are involved and if such application is deemed frivolous the Club concerned shall be subject to severe disciplinary action and will forfeit the fee.

Clubs or teams against whom the complaint is made, have 3 days to reply by registered post from the time they receive notification of the complaint lodged against them (Sundays and Bank Holiday excluded).

RULE 29: PHOTOGRAPHS OF OPPONENTS

In all Mayo competitions, the competing Clubs have the right to obtain a team photograph of their opponents including substitutes before commencement of match or at half-time. Only those entered on match card may stand for this photograph. No Club may refuse opponents a photograph.

Should a Club refuse to allow a team photograph to be taken, or prevent or obstruct the taking of such a photograph, the game shall proceed as normal but the matter shall be investigated by the L.M.C. at the request of the Club wishing to take the photograph. Such request will be made as per rule 25 and the L.M.C. shall be empowered to discipline the offending officer, player or supporters as deemed appropriate.

RULE 30: DECISIONS OF L.M.C., EXECUTIVE OR DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

All decisions of the aforesaid bodies are final and binding unless they are appealed to the C.F.A./F.A.I. or unless a motion to rescind any particular decision is received under standing orders rule 9 within ten days of receipt of notification.

Any motion to rescind a decision must be sponsored and signed by at least two elected members of the L.M.C. who have examined the reasons for same and are satisfied that to do so would be in the best interests of the game and of justice.

Any motion to rescind a decision must be submitted in writing and delivered by hand or by registered post but before another round of the same competition has been played. This notice must include all relevant reasons why the original decisions should be altered. At L.M.C. level a simple majority vote will suffice to decide the issue.

For the moving of such a motion the full L.M.C. shall be entitled to both attend and vote as the

original decision shall be set aside until the motion to rescind is heard. Only one such motion may be moved on any item and no subsequent motion shall be entertained. Any notice to rescind will not be entertained if the original decision resulted in a subsequent occurrence thereafter. The League Chairman reserves the right to refuse the admission of any application..

RULE 31: EXPENSES TO L.M.C.

Members of the League committee, sub-committees and commissions of enquiry or investigation of any sort shall be allowed such expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as the League Committee or Executive Committee may approve.

RULE 32: LEGAL ACTION

No affiliated Club or its members in the MAFL may take legal action against the League or associated bodies on any issue relating to the application of these rules. Each Club hereby indemnifies the M.A.F.L. in respect of all or any action or proposed action or otherwise instituted or to be instituted in respect of any occurrence in relation to the running of the activities of the Club, however caused.

RULE 33: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) All players of member clubs must be properly registered to play in competitive match/matches under the jurisdiction of the MAFL
- (b) All players shall be registered using the official registration process. Players details are to be registered in the Competition Management System (CMS) to which access is provided by the MAFL. The club must also provide the hard copies (with signatures) of the Registration Verification Form and the Team Sheet Registration Form to complete registration
- (c) The Registration Verification Form as provided by the League must be signed by the Club Secretary/Acting Secretary or other Authorised Officer indicating agreement to the rules
- (d) By signing the Team Sheet Registration Form, the player, parents/guardians and officials agree to Abide by the rules of the League, Provincial and FAI
- (e) Registration Verification and Team Sheet Registration Form(s) with all the required signatures must be sent by post or handed to the MAFL Registrar or Acting Registrar accompanied by the appropriate fee (Cheque or Bank Draft only) at least 48 hours before kick off
- (f) The player is only deemed registered when the League Registrar or Acting Registrar approves the registration request. Confirmation of the completion will be available on the Clubs own Registration List section of the club Competition Management System. The players name must have the word 'Live' beside it to indicate the League has accepted his registration. While the players registration status is showing "Not Registered" or "Pending" on the Clubs Registration List section of the Club Competition Management System he is not eligible to compete.
- (g) All member clubs are responsible for ensuring that Their players are properly registered in accordance with Rule 33.
- (h) The MAFL shall keep a full and up to date record of all players registered.
- (i) The Club Secretary or Duly Authorized Officer can access the current list of players and their registration status at any stage in the Club Competition Management System. Where a player status in the Registration List is "Live" then the player is registered to compete (i.e. eligible to compete

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subject to any disciplinary sanctions which may apply).

- (j) The MAFL Registrar shall issue a receipt of all registrations to all affiliated clubs at a convenient time
- (k) The registration period shall be 1st December to 30th September inclusive
- (l) Where a club has more than one team all registrations must clearly state which team the player is being registered for, ie A, B or C with the following conditions
 - (1) They must sign a minimum of 16 BONA FIDA players (recognised A team players)
 - (2) A maximum of 3 B team players only can play with the A team at any one time. The same applies to B and C players.
 - (3) No player signed A can play with the B team unless he transfers on the official transfer form. The same applies with B to C.
 - (4) They must undertake to fulfill all their Mayo League games regardless of their other sides commitments in MAFL competitions.
 - (5) For CFA/FAI competitions the club may play A, B or C players without restriction.
- (m) All players so registered cannot sign a second form for another club either in the MAFL or any League under the jurisdiction of the CFA/FAI without an official transfer
- (n) Secretaries of the member Clubs or their representatives shall have access to the registration at all reasonable times providing they nominate in advance the name/names of the forms they wish to examine. A search fee of €20 shall apply to each registration form.
- (o) In the event that a club registers more than one player with the same name, the club must make a distinction between the players on the registration form and also use the same distinction on the match card
- (p) At the start of the season each club shall name 16 players (and maintain 16 players for the duration of the season) for the A team with the remainder eligible to play with either the A or B sides with no restriction on the number of matches. In the case of clubs with C teams 16 players must be named on the B team. No A team player is eligible to play for the B or C team without a transfer
- (q) Youth players over 16 who are registered with the Mayo Schoolboys and Youths Association Football League can play for his clubs junior side providing he is currently registered with the Schoolboys and Youth League and appropriate fee paid. He must also sign the Junior registration form indicating which team he is playing for, ie A,B or C.. Such youth players can only play youth and junior with the same club. Youth players changing clubs must transfer officially .Should a youth player be registered with a junior club that has no youth team he cannot sign or play football with any other club. All players complying with the aforementioned shall be deemed registered for the purpose of CFA and FAI competitions for their entire duration of their participation in such competitions and shall be deemed to have complied in full with CFA junior cup and FAI junior cup rules. Club registering youth players must send a copy of the registration to the MAFL Registrar.

RULE 34; TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- (a) All transfer applications shall be made in writing by the secretary of the club seeking the transfer using the official FAI transfer form. This form will be signed by the secretaries of both clubs and the player seeking the transfer
- (b) Any player from leagues outside the jurisdiction of the MAFL must provide a copy of his official

transfer/release from his last club. The player must also provide a letter of clearance from his previous league to show that the player has no disciplinary or monetary commitment to his former club or association. The onus of responsibility rests with each club/player to ensure that each transfer is in order

- (c) Transfer requests will only be dealt with at LMC meetings, Executive or Disciplinary meetings
- (d) The player cannot play for his new club until notice has been received in writing from the secretary of the MAFL. The appropriate fee must accompany the transfer form. Clubs are reminded that they must not hold up transfers for frivolous reasons.
- (e) Players wishing to transfer from A to B or C must do so on the official transfer form. A player is allowed one transfer per season. A team players who transfer to B or C cannot play for the A team again that season. The above also applies to B and C.
- (f) Any team playing an unregistered player shall have the match points deducted or removed from the competition and shall be fined or otherwise at the discretion of the MAFL
- (g) In the case where the MAFL deduct points or remove a team from a competition their opponents shall _____ be notified in writing and given three days to protest if the points are not awarded to them or if they are not reinstated to the relevant competition
- (h) Any player or club owing monies or under disciplinary notice or suspension of any kind will not receive transfers or clearances to participate in any other league or association until they satisfy all obligations to the MAFL or affiliated bodies.
- (i) The transfer periods shall be 1st June to 30TH September inclusive and 1st December to 31st January inclusive.

RULE 35: REGRADING OF PLAYERS

Players wishing to register in the MAFL from an Eircom League Club or League of a similar status must adhere to the following.

- (a) The player must be re-instated from professional to amateur status by the FAI.
- (b) The player must provide a letter of clearance from his last club and the Eircom League
- (c) He must be regarded to junior status by the MAFL.
- (d) A regarded player who wishes to play in the FAI Junior Cup or Oscar Traynor competition must notify the secretary of the FAI Junior Council by registered post that he has been regarded by the MAFL.

RULE 36: LEAGUE TEAMS

Each Club shall be required to place its players and grounds at the disposal of the M.A.F.L. if required.

Any player selected to play in a match arranged by the L.M.C., C.F.A. or F.A.I. who without sufficient

cause refuses or fails to play shall be deemed guilty of misconduct. Players who do not wish to participate in such games must notify their Club Secretary at the start of each season, who in turn shall notify the League Secretary.

A Club which has a player or players selected for a match arranged by the L.M.C., C.F.A. or F.A.I. will be granted a free day on the particular day that the match is fixed for the team for which he normally plays.

RULE 37: INDUCEMENT

Any Club /Team deemed guilty of inducing or attempting to induce players from another Club or Clubs shall be liable to removal from the League.

RULE 38: CUP-TIED PLAYERS

No player who has played for his Club in a Divisional League Cup competition can play for his Club's other team(s) in any other Divisional League Cup competition during the current season. (*This rule does not apply to the F.A.I. Junior Cup or Connaught Junior Cup*)

RULE 39: SUSPENDED CLUBS, PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

All suspension of Clubs, teams, players, officers, members or supporters shall disqualify all condemned from any involvement with Clubs under the jurisdiction of the M.A.F.L.

All Clubs shall be notified by post of notice of any suspension affecting any of the above.

Suspension of a Junior Club may however be a separate issue from the same Club's Youth Committee provided the suspended personnel take no part in the Youth Teams Committee or activities: this may be enforced at the discretion of the L.M.C.

No Club may take part in any game against suspended Clubs. Clubs or players playing with or against suspended Clubs shall be dealt with by the L.M.C. who shall suspend or otherwise deal with the offenders.

Any officer, committee members or players suspended by the League and wishing to sign or join another Club must apply to the League for reinstatement before being admitted to any other Club in the League

RULE 40: EXEMPTED PLAYERS

Any player who ever played senior football in any League or Association or in Leagues or Associations of a similar status will not be permitted to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the M.A.F.L. until and unless he receives special permission from the L.M.C. in accordance with the requirements, guidelines and rules.

RULE 41: SPECIAL PERMISSION

Special permission to play in Mayo competitions may be obtained by any player who is no longer participating in Senior football or in Leagues of similar status or higher status providing he satisfies the L.M.C.'s requirements which generally are as follows.

(A) The player in question must give a written signed undertaking to remain Junior for the current season.

(B) He must be properly registered with an affiliated Junior Club to the M.A.F.L. and be subject to any decisions or rulings of that body.

(C) For the purpose of this rule, a senior player is one who ever played senior football or in Leagues of similar status.

If the player subsequently reverts to Senior football that season he will not be permitted to play in any Mayo competitions or apply for special permission again until three years have elapsed

Any infringement of the above rules will render Clubs liable for expulsion if they are deemed to have misled the L.M.C. Severe disciplinary measures may also be applied.

RULE 42: CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The following shall be observed by Clubs.

(A) Each Club must hold an A.G.M. on or before 31st January each year.

(B) Notice of the date time and venue of the A.G. M. together with the agenda for the A.G.M. shall be issued in writing to each member of the Club and to the Secretary of the League at least 10 days before the A.G.M. takes place.

(C) Any member of the M.A.F.L.'s L.M.C. will be entitled to attend the A.G.M. of any Club, but will not be entitled to vote at the meeting unless he/she is a member of the Club concerned. The L.M.C. shall endeavor to ensure that a L.M.C. member shall be present at each Club A.G.M..

(D) Each Club will at its A.G.M. elect the following officers who will constitute the Executive Committee of the Club.

- (1) Chairman
- (2) Vice chairperson
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Treasurer
- (5) **P.R.O.**

(The L.M.C.'s powers regarding acceptance in accordance with rule 5 should be noted)

(E) The Club may elect additional officers, such as President, Vice President, Assistant Secretary Team Manager, Youth Officer etc. as it wishes and that these officers may be members of the Executive Committee unless they hold a position mentioned in (D) above.

(F) The Executive Committee as defined in (D) above will be charged with the responsibility of managing the affairs of the Club and will be responsible for the everyday running of the Club.

(G) The Club may elect sub-committees for any reason deemed necessary and this sub-committee will report directly to the Executive Committee.

(H) Not more than one member of the Executive Committee of any Club shall be member of the M.A.F.L.'s L.M.C.

(I) A member of the Executive Committee of a Club shall not be a member of any other Club affiliated to the M.A.F.L.

(J) The Executive Committee shall meet whenever necessary but not less than four times between A.G.M. and shall keep members of the Club informed on decisions made etc

(K) The term of office of the Executive Committee shall commence immediately following the A.G.M. of selection and shall continue until the end of the following A.G.M.

(L) Vacancies on the Executive Committee of any Club shall be filled at a full meeting of the Club where ten days written notice has been issued to all members of the Club notifying that the vacancy is to be filled at the following meeting

(M) The Club Secretary shall inform the League Secretary of the composition of the Executive Committee elected at an A.G.M. or of any changes in the make-up of that Executive Committee using the appropriate form within 3 days of such election taking place. The League Secretary will acknowledge receipt of such advice.

RULE 43: LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notification of the date of the A.G.M. should be sent to all affiliated Clubs 30 days in advance of the A.G.M. which will be subject to the Articles of Association of the Company

Nominations for elections to the L.M.C. should be submitted in writing to the League Secretary 21 days before the date of the A.G.M., and signed by the officers of the nominating Club.

Resolutions or proposed additions or alterations to rules must be sent in writing to the League Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the A.G.M.

Each affiliated Club shall be entitled to representation at the League's A.G.M. by 3 delegates who shall be members or the Clubs Executive Committee in accordance with rule 44 (D) but the Club will only cast one vote at each ballot at the A.G.M.

The League Secretary shall issue a list of all outgoing and retiring officers or committee members 7 days in advance of the A.G.M. Outgoing personnel need not be nominated by Clubs.

Any Club failing to be represented at the A.G.M. shall be subjected to disciplinary action. Any Club having monetary or disciplinary arrears prior to 31st January in the year the A.G.M. is held must have all such arrears paid for the commencement of the A.G.M., failing which that Club will not have a vote at that A.G.M.

RULE 44: FINANCE

The finance of the League shall be controlled and administered by the League Treasurer and Secretary. The League Treasurer shall prepare a financial report for all L.M.C. meetings, delegate meetings and submit a balance sheet to the league A.G.M.

The financial year of the company will be ended on the 31st December each year

The annual affiliation fees shall be decided at the A.G.M.

All financial commitments to the League shall be paid within date of notification. Any Clubs in default after that time will have their fines doubled.

Fines/Financial Obligations to the League can only be paid by Cheque containing two signatories.

Failure to pay fines or financial obligations shall render those in default liable for suspension or removal from the League.

Where it is evident that the financial circumstances of the League warrant it, the L.M.C. may impose such levies as they require necessary to fund and operate the League or its associated project.

All monies must be lodged in an approved bank to the account of the M.A.F.L. so that no cash remains on hand except between banking hours. The account shall be operated by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and all drawings must be made by cheque except authorised petty cash expenditure for postage etc.

To operate the account two signatures of the three officers above mentioned is required. All payments shall be approved by the L.M.C.

The Treasurer shall keep such books as required by the L.M.C. He shall enter in a proper analysis cash book, the date and receipt of such monies as may be handed to him together with a note and details of cheques drawn.

The League Secretary shall be allowed such sums as may be considered necessary to meet his expenses during the season. He shall keep a proper record of such expenses with the dates on which the expenditure was incurred. He must submit his accounts to the Hon. Treasurer when required.

Other officers or representatives may receive expenses as decided from time to time by the L.M.C. Receipts for such expenses must be produced and approved at L.M.C. meetings.

RULE 45: PLAYING SEASON

The MAFL playing season shall be from 1st March to 30th November in each calendar year

RULE 46: MATCH CARDS

Each player's full Christian name and surname must be **PRINTED IN BLOCK LETTERS** clearly on the card e.g. Thomas Smith not T. Smith. Any team found guilty of impersonation in any match shall be deemed guilty of a very serious breach of discipline and shall be dealt with accordingly.

A total of 5 substitutes may be listed on the match card but only 3 may be used.

In the event of a team fielding less than 11 players at the start of any game no addition can be made unless the names have been entered on the match card and handed to the Referee prior the commencement of the game. All match cards must be signed by an official of the Club.

A team must on request produce a list (numbered) to facilitate giving reports to the press.

RULE 47: GATE RECEIPTS

The League shall be entitled to the gate receipts of all finals, play offs and test games. However if one of the finalists have home advantage and the gate receipts do not cover expenses, the home Club shall be liable.

Members of the L.M.C. shall be entitled to free admission to all matches under the jurisdiction of the M.A.F.L..

RULE 48: RECEIPTS FOR TROPHIES AND CUPS

The L.M.C. may present Cups, Shields or Trophies to the winning Clubs who shall be responsible for their safe return to the League on or before the 1st August in the ensuing year. Winning Clubs shall sign a form of receipt of the Cup or Trophy indicating their intentions to safeguard such cups or trophies and be responsible in every way for same and liable for any expenses incurred by the L.M.C. in the repair or replacement of the Trophy or Cup.

RULE 49: REFEREES

Referees shall be appointed by the Fixtures Secretary, League Secretary or as the L.M.C. may decide. In the absence of appointed Referees the Clubs concerned may agree to the appointment of an official for the game. Such an official will act as a Referee and will be obliged to return the match card and his report to the League Secretary within 48 hours together with a note of agreement signed by both Clubs.

In the appointment of Referees, members of the Mayo Branch of the I.S.R.S. shall be appointed. Where all official referees are used up, temporary officials may be appointed.

Any complaints against a Referee must be lodged in writing with the Referees Inspector and the Secretary of the local Referees Society not later than three days from the date of the match with the cause of such complaint.

Referees fees shall be those that are agreed with the F.A.I. and the Irish Soccer Referees Society. Clubs are reminded that there are different fees and expenses for national competitions. Clubs are reminded to ensure that Referees are paid before they leave the ground. Where a Club conceded home advantage, they are still liable to pay the Referees expenses

RULE 50: RULE BOOKS

Each Club must have at least one copy of the M.A.F.L., C.F.A. and F.A.I. rule book in their possession and shall be bound thereby. Each Club shall also have at least one current copy of the referees chart and shall be bound thereby.

RULE 51: PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Each Club applying or accepted for membership of the MAFL undertakes to indemnify the LMC from any liability for accidents or otherwise on their ground or facilities. Each Club or team must have their ground and facilities covered by public liability insurance to comply with this.

This indemnity hereby undertaken on the part of each Club is not negative in any manner by the failure or omission of any Club to obtain or renew such insurance and the holding of such insurance is not a condition of the indemnity.

RULE 52 : BORROWING

The Mayo Association Football League, through the Executive Committee, may borrow such monies as it

considers appropriate for the benefit of the League provided that:

(A) Any such purchase is approved by a special delegates meeting of the Clubs affiliated to the League called for that purpose.

(B) Any such purchase and borrowing are in accordance with the company Articles and Memorandum of Association.

APPENDIX 1

- * Where the Disciplinary Committee has adjudicated upon a disciplinary matter all clubs have the opportunity to appeal that decision to the full Management Committee or the Executive Committee with a minimum quorum of three. Members of the Disciplinary Committee will only give evidence and will not have a vote or be party to the hearing.
- * The appeal fee will be €100 per **individual** case. This fee will only be refunded in the event of the appeal being 100% successful. The LMC will decide what amount if any be refunded. All clubs are entitled to an oral hearing
- * The appeal must be sent by registered post to the League Secretary, bearing a postmark within five days of receipt of the disciplinary notification or of the occurrence which is appropriate. An exact copy of the appeal must be sent to any other party or club involved by registered post within the same timeframe. (Sat, Sun, Bank Holidays excluded)
- * The appeal must clearly state the grounds on which the appeal is based. These grounds should be precise and concise. Number the grounds 1, 2, 3, etc. All evidence and information should be presented in the written statement. No written statements from witnesses will be accepted, witnesses must appear in person. Clubs must be prepared to attend these hearings at two days notice where matters need to be adjudicated on urgently. The normal hearing will take place within ten days of receipt of appeal
- * **Clubs wishing to avail of this “in house appeal hearing” will waive all rights to appeal to the CFA , FAI or take a legal route. All clubs that take this route must fully accept that the decision of the Appeal Board is final and binding. Two officers of the club must sign a written commitment and declaration before the appeal is deemed in order.**
- *If a club decides to take this route of seeking “an in house appeal” they should fully understand that the normal rules relating to appeals or investigations do not apply
- *Clubs making frivolous appeals will be dealt with harshly
- *Cases of unclear or inaccurate reporting by referees which can be proven by independent third parties or a retraction by the referee himself may form part of the overall hearing and may be taken into consideration.
- *An “in house appeal hearing” will not be granted where a decision has been made by the full LMC or Executive Committee.
- *There will be no appeals in relation to matters involving the fixtures programme or where a referee has been assaulted. Clubs should also note that matters relating to protests still remain as rule book
- *Clubs not willing to avail of this means of appeal shall be fully entitled to appeal to the CFA or FAI as per the rules of the MAFL.

CLUB DELEGATE MEETINGS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING STANDING ORDERS

1. Meetings shall be held at least once a month by arrangement or as requested by the League Secretary. All meetings shall start at 8.00pm and conclude not later than 10.30 p.m. Any extension on this time should be no more than 15 minutes and must be passed by a majority vote of those present. Three members of the L.M.C. to form a quorum at meetings of the L.M.C. A record shall be kept by the Hon. Secretary of the attendance of the members at each meeting
2. The Secretary shall give notice to each L.M.C member of any special meeting together with the agenda of business.
3. At all meetings of the L.M.C. the Secretary shall read the minutes of the last meeting, he shall read such letters as may be necessary or that any member of the committee desires to have read. A member of the L.M.C. should propose the adopting of the minutes and a second member should second the proposal. Any objection or amendments to minutes should be made right away and agreed before the Chairman signs the minutes.
4. Each member on speaking shall address the Chairman and not any member of the committee. During the time any member is speaking, all the other members shall remain seated unless a member rises to a point of order. The Chairman must endeavor to keep discussions strictly to the business on hand.
5. All questions shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by any member of the L.M.C.
6. The business under notice on the agenda shall not be proceeded with in the absence of the member of the L.M.C. in whose name it stands unless he has given written authority for it to be taken up by any other member.
7. If the Chairman at any Committee meeting shall be of the opinion that any motion proposed to be made thereat is of an objectionable character, it shall be competent for him either before or after the same is brought forward to put it to the vote (on which no discussion shall be allowed) whether the same be entertained or not, and if two thirds of the members present vote against, then the motion shall be considered as disposed of for that date.
Any L.M.C. member or Club delegate who resides in a town or area of a Club which has submitted an appeal, protest, complaint or objection shall leave the meeting once the appeal etc. has been read and take no part in the discussion or vote in the interest of seeing that justice is seen to be done until the matter is decided upon. The member (s) concerned may give evidence if so called upon if, it is felt, that the evidence is relevant to the matter being decided upon. →

Standing Orders continued. . .

8. Matters which are not on the agenda paper shall not be considered by the Committee unless, without discussion, a majority of two-thirds of the members present by vote consent. Matters moved by members of council regarding their individual Clubs shall not be entertained.

9. A decision shall not be rescinded unless the motion to rescind is carried by a majority of those present and moving. Notice of motion to rescind a decision must be in accordance with Rule 31.

10. Standing orders shall not be suspended unless the motion to suspend obtains a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting. Some standing orders are contained in the foregoing rules of the M.A.F.L.

Revised February 2007
Revised February 2008
Revised February 2009
Revised March 2010

