



# **GAMESMASTER'S HANDBOOK AND SCHOOLS COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

Revised 2018

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## **1. Mission Statement.**

Leinster Schools, in common with all affiliated schools in Ireland, aim to promote the personal, social, physical, psychological, moral growth and development of their pupils by playing rugby. As educators we aspire to teach the game skills required, encourage and develop the technical excellence and tactical understanding of the game of rugby, which is enjoyable to play. We endeavour to instil our pupils the physical fitness, discipline, team spirit, co-operation, decision-making, leadership and character qualities, which are the heart of rugby football.

## **2. Governance.**

As prescribed in the Leinster Rugby Bye Laws 2015, the Schools Committee is a sub-committee of the Rugby Committee of Leinster Rugby.

The Schools Committee is elected annually at the AGM of the Schools Section – the section of the Branch representing Schools affiliated to Leinster Branch. Each affiliated school shall be represented by one person nominated by the duly authorised authority within each affiliated school. Subject to the approval of the Rugby Committee, the Schools Committee shall establish regulations for the administration, control and conduct of competitions for schools and generally to transact any business relating to schools rugby. The regulations shall also establish the number of members on the Schools Committee, which shall include a Chairperson and an Honorary Secretary.

The Schools Committee shall comprise the following:

Chairperson.

Honorary Secretary.

3 Representatives of Non League Section B Schools.

3 Representatives of Section 1A League Schools.

3 Representatives of Section 1B through to Development Schools.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Schools Section, which will include the Agenda, notice inviting motions for consideration at the AGM and a Nomination Form for Officers and Committee Members, shall be sent to all Affiliated Schools 14 days before the AGM. Any motions for consideration at the AGM and completed Nomination Forms for Officers and Committee Members must be received at the Branch Office at least 7 days before the AGM.

The Schools Committee may establish a Competitions Committee. It shall have the power to act on its own initiative for the proper administration of competitions, for compliance with regulations and to impose such sanctions as may be permitted by these regulations.

### **3. Schools Competitions and Season Structure.**

#### **Senior Cups**

1. Division 3A: Anne McInerney Senior Development Cup
2. Division 3A: Senior Development Shield
3. Division 2A: McMullen Cup
4. Division 2A: McMullan Shield
5. Division 1B: Vinnie Murray Cup
6. Division 1B: Vinnie Murray Plate
7. Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup
8. Senior Plate Fr. Hampson Cup
9. North Dublin Senior Cup
10. South Dublin Senior Cup

## **Senior Leagues**

11. Division 3A: Senior League
12. Division 2A: Senior League
13. Division 1B: Senior League
14. Division 1A: Senior League Fr. Grace Cup
15. Senior Seconds League: Premier Division
16. Senior Seconds League: Division One
17. Senior Thirds League: Forster Cup
18. Senior Fourths League East: Fr. Maher Cup
19. Senior Fourths League West
20. Transition Year Leagues

## **Junior Cups**

1. Division 3A: Pat Rossiter Junior Development Cup
2. Division 3A: Junior Development Shield
3. Division 2A: Duff Cup
4. Division 2A: Duff Shield
5. Division 1B: Fr. Godfrey Cup
6. Division 1B: Fr. Godfrey Plate
7. Leinster Schools Junior Challenge Cup
8. Junior Plate
9. North Dublin Junior Cup
10. South Dublin Junior Cup

## **Junior Leagues**

11. Division 3A: Junior League
12. Division 2A: Junior League
13. Division 1B: Junior League
14. Division 1A: Junior League
15. Junior Seconds League: Division One
16. Junior Seconds League: Division Two
17. Junior Thirds League

## School Season Structure

### Senior Competitions

#### Regional Cups

- North Dublin Senior Cup
- South Dublin Senior Cup

#### Division 3A

- 5 Groups: Metro, North Midlands, North East, Midlands, South East League Programme.
  - Top 2 in each group qualify to Anne McInerney Senior Development Cup.
  - Remaining Schools in each group progress to Senior Development Shield.
  - No teams progress to McMullan Cup.
- Schools invited to compete in Division 3A reviewed annually.

#### Division 2A

- 5 Groups: South East 1, South East 2, Metro, North Midlands, North East League Programme.
- All teams invited to enter McMullan Cup.
- Top 2 teams qualify for Vinnie Murray Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st and 2nd Rounds qualify for McMullan Shield.

#### Division 1B

- Schools drawn in Sections annually for League Programme.
- All teams invited to enter Vinnie Murray Cup.
- Top 2 teams qualify for Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st and 2nd Rounds qualify for Vinnie Murray Plate.

#### Division 1A

- Schools drawn in Sections annually for League Programme; Fr. Grace Cup.
- Top 8 teams qualify for Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup.
- Remaining schools enter the Vinnie Murray Cup.

- Teams knocked out in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Rounds qualify for Vinnie Murray Plate.

### **Non League Section B Schools**

- Full programme of traditional fixtures.
- Schools invited to enter the Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Rounds qualify for the Senior Plate Fr. Hampson Cup.

### **Other Senior Competitions**

- Schools are invited to enter the following competitions, subject to Section 12.
- Senior Seconds League – Premier Division.
- Senior Seconds League – Division 1.
- Senior Seconds League – Division 2.
- Senior Thirds League – Forster Cup.
- Senior Fourths League East – Fr. Maher Cup.
- Senior Fourths League West.

### **Junior Competitions**

#### **Regional Cups**

- North Dublin Junior Cup
- South Dublin Junior Cup

#### **Division 3A**

- 5 Groups: Metro, North Midlands, North East, Midlands, South East.
- League Programme.
- Top 2 in each group qualify to Pat Rossiter Junior Development Cup.
- Remaining Schools in each group progress to Junior Development Shield.
- No teams progress to Duff Cup.
- Schools invited to compete in Division 3A reviewed annually.

### **Division 2A**

- 5 Groups: South East 1, South East 2, Metro, North Midlands, North East.
- League Programme.
- All teams invited to enter Duff Cup.
- Top 2 teams qualify for Fr. Godfrey Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st and 2nd Rounds qualify for Duff Shield.

### **Division 1B**

- Schools drawn in Sections annually for League Programme.
- All teams invited to enter Fr. Godfrey Cup.
- Top 2 teams qualify for Leinster Schools Junior Challenge Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st and 2nd Rounds qualify for Fr. Godfrey Plate.

### **Division 1A**

- Schools drawn in Sections annually for League Programme.
- Top 8 teams qualify for Leinster Schools Junior Challenge Cup.
- Remaining schools enter the Fr. Godfrey Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st and 2nd Rounds qualify for Fr. Godfrey Plate.

### **Non League Section B Schools**

- Full programme of traditional fixtures.
- Schools invited to enter the Leinster Schools Junior Challenge Cup.
- Teams knocked out in 1st or 2nd Rounds qualify for the Junior Plate.

### **Other Junior Competitions.**

- Schools are invited to enter the following competitions, subject to Section 12.
- Junior Seconds League – Division 1.
- Junior Seconds League – Division 2.
- Junior Thirds League.



## 4. Definitions.

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

- 4.1 “SA” means the Schools Administrator.
- 4.2 The “Competition” means, as the context may require, the Schools Senior Cup or League, the Junior Cup or League and any other competition designated from time to time by the Schools Competition Committee and approved by the Rugby Standing Committee, to be a Schools Competition.
- 4.3 “The Branch” means the Leinster Branch of the I.R.F.U.
- 4.4 “The Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Leinster Branch I.R.F.U.
- 4.5 “The Rugby Committee” means Rugby Standing Committee of the Leinster Branch I.R.F.U.
- 4.6 “The Schools Competitions Committee” shall mean the Schools Sub Committee appointed by the Schools Committee with the approval of the Rugby Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch. The Committee shall have a minimum of six members which shall include the Schools Administrator and the Referees Administrator, and the quorum for a hearing shall have a minimum of three members. The relevant Committee shall mean the Schools Competitions Committee and the Relevant Secretary shall mean the Honorary Secretary of the Leinster Branch or the Honorary Secretary of the School’s Section as appropriate.
- 4.7 The Chairman of the Schools Competition shall be appointed by the Schools Committee.
- 4.8 Pupil means any person who is a bona fide schoolboy/girl, who is not over 19 years within the meaning of the regulations governing School’s Competitions. A Pupil is also one who: has been continually in full regular attendance during school hours (except in case of illness) from

1<sup>st</sup> October of the season; is on the Department of Education October Roll Lists and following the recognized Department of Education Syllabus; is entered for the relevant Department of Education examinations and is in full regular attendance until the end of the academic year.

- 4.9 Competitions shall be taken to mean all competitions under the control of the Schools Competition Committee with the approval of the Schools Committee and Rugby Committee.
- 4.10 “Played from the start” shall be taken to mean played in the match other than as a replacement/substitute.
- 4.11 “The Disciplinary Committee” shall mean the Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch to deal with matters of discipline.
- 4.12 “The Appeals Committee” shall mean the Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch to hear appeals.

## 5. General

- 5.1 Competitions shall be governed by the Schools Competitions Committee appointed by the Schools Committee and approved by the Rugby Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch.
- 5.2 All competitions shall be open to all Schools affiliated to the Branch, or to any School affiliated to any other Branch, provided such School first obtains the consent of the Executive Committee of the Leinster Branch and also of the School's parent Branch.
- 5.3 Schools desirous of competing shall give notice to the Schools Competitions Committee.
- 5.4 The Schools Competitions Committee has the power to sanction Schools that fail to comply with these regulations with a variety of penalties that include but are not limited to:
  - (1) Loss of match
  - (2) Points deduction
  - (3) Refixing of match
  - (4) Loss of home advantage
  - (5) Monetary fine up to and including €250 or if deemed appropriate a higher monetary amount.
  - (6) Loss of International Tickets
  - (7) A reduction in grant and/or sponsorship allocation
- 5.5 In the event of the Disciplinary Committee being required to deal with a breach under these regulations they shall be entitled to impose such further or other penalties as are merited having regard to the particular situation in question.
- 5.6 The Schools' Committee/Competitions Committee shall have power to determine the ground on which any match will be played.
- 5.7 The draw for the Cup Competitions shall be made by the Schools' Committee and submitted to the Rugby Committee for ratification. Each round of ties in the draw shall be completed before any match is

played in a subsequent round, unless the Executive Committee shall decide otherwise.

- 5.8 All matches in the Cup Competitions, including replays, shall be played on such dates as may be fixed by the Schools' Competition Committee, who shall have absolute power to fix, vary or postpone the dates for matches.
- 5.9 In the event of a draw in Cup Competitions, the Competition Committee will decide when the replay/s will take place, which must be no less than 48 hours from previous kick off time.
- 5.10 A school failing to play-off a tie or replay/s on the stipulated date may be adjudged to have forfeited the match.<sup>7</sup>
- 5.11 The date of any Official Fixture shall not be changed without the consent of the Schools Competitions Committee. Any School contravening this regulation may be dealt with as provided and set out elsewhere in the regulations.
- 5.12 Schools must cancel competitive matches from the bottom up e.g., if a School cannot field a team on a particular day, then the match to be cancelled (with the permission of the Schools Competitions 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 Schools Competitions Committee.
- 5.13 In cases where doubt arises regarding playing conditions for a league tie, the home school must nominate a suitable alternate pitch locally within 48 hours 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. Where a change of venue, date or time is necessary the onus is on the Home Team to inform the Referee and the other team and take responsibility for the appointment of an official referee for the re-fixture.
- 5.14 The referee is appointed by the match organiser. If no referee has been appointed the two teams may agree upon a referee. If they cannot

agree, the home team appoints a referee. If the referee is unable to complete the match, the referee's replacement is appointed according to the instructions of the match organiser. If the match organiser has given no instructions, the referee appoints the replacement. If the referee cannot do so, the home team appoints a replacement.

5.15 In all competitions supervised by the Schools Competitions Committee, matches shall be supervised pursuant to the rules and regulations set by the International Rugby Board, the IRFU and the Leinster Branch Regulations such as are presently in operation.

5.16 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.)

5.17 (a) Each member of the winning squad in each season shall be presented with a medal.

(b) Each member of the losing finalist squad shall also be presented with a medal.

(c) A pennant shall be presented to the winning School in each season.

5.18 All future schools competitions must be notified to the Competitions Committee for sanctioning as an official Leinster Branch Competition. All such competitions and schools entering these competitions will be bound by these regulations.

5.19 The Hon. Secretary of the Branch for the time being shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owner of the Cup, in trust for the Branch.

5.20 The Hon. Secretary of the Branch, or his/her representative, shall hand over the Trophy to the winners, on receipt of a signed document to the following effect:

“I,....., Headmaster of.....School and ....., the Hon. Secretary of Schools Committee, which school having been declared the winners of the Leinster Schools’ Competition .....for the season 20.....and the same being delivered by ....., the Hon. Secretary of the Leinster Branch, or his/her representative, do hereby, on behalf of the school, individually and jointly, engage to return same to the Hon. Secretary of the Leinster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union on or before 1st February 20....., in as good order and condition as we receive same.”

5.21 In the case of any inconsistencies between these Regulations and the Bye Laws of the Leinster Branch, the Bye Laws of the Branch shall prevail.

## 6. Eligibility of Schools.

- 6.1 All Schools must be affiliated to the Leinster Branch and have paid the relevant affiliation fee.
- 6.2 All Competitions are by invitation.
- 6.3 The Schools Competition Committee shall have the power to consider representations as to the eligibility or otherwise of Schools to take part in the various Competitions and to decide which competition(s) a School may enter.
- 6.4 Plate Competitions - Teams that participate in a Cup Competition which has a Plate Competition for beaten sides must play in the appropriate Plate competition, unless an application is made to the Schools Competition Committee for exemption which may or may not be granted. Players from lower teams that play in the Plate are not Cup-tied for further participation in lower Cups or Leagues (provided they are already eligible to play in lower Cup/s or Leagues).

## 7. Eligibility of Players.

- 7.1 In the event of a pupil being prevented by illness from giving full regular attendance during school hours, he/she shall not be disqualified if he/she can produce to the satisfaction of the Schools Committee and Schools Competition Committee a medical certificate covering his/her period, or periods of absence. In this Rule the words “full attendance” mean “full regular attendance at the school from which the pupil is entered”.
- 7.2 No pupil shall be permitted to play in any Competition unless they are registered and in regular attendance with a School and have been issued with an IRFU Player Registration Number.
- 7.3 A pupil shall not be allowed to play in a Competition for more than one School in any one season without the majority consent of the Schools Competitions Committee.
- 7.4 In the event of a School being defeated in a Cup match or winning any Cup Final the members of such School team who played in that match from the start shall be ineligible to play in any lower Cup or League Competition in that season. A pupil who comes on as a substitute for a defeated team in a cup match or on a winning team in a Cup Final may be eligible to play for a lower team provided the said pupil meets the criteria.
- 7.5 A School may apply to the Schools Committee to seek clearance for a player, who is otherwise ineligible to play, clearly detailing the circumstances surrounding that application. The application for an exemption shall be submitted on the Official Application for Exemption Pursuant to Regulation 7.5 Form. (Appendix A)
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 Where the consent of the Schools Competitions Committee is required to enable a player to play in a Competition, notice in writing applying for



such consent must be given to the SA setting out the fullest possible information regarding the player in question.

- 7.8 The Electronic Game Management System must be used by all schools for all competition matches. This must contain the full names and unique IRFU Player Registration 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 in the first instance ranging up to a maximum of €500 and further sanctions may be imposed by the Competitions Committee or may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. If the Schools Competition Committee is satisfied at its absolute discretion that a genuine administrative error has occurred an exemption to the payment of the fine may be applied. 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.
- 7.9 Any Pupil who participates in Adult Rugby – AIL League, Senior or Junior Club rugby, Under 20 Rugby Competitions, JP Flanagan Leagues, McCorry Cup, Purcell Cup or Harry Gale Cup, is not eligible to play in any Schools Competitions.

## 8. Senior Cups.

- 8.1 Titles
  - A. Division 3A: Anne McInerney Senior Development Cup
  - B. Division 2A: McMullen Cup
  - C. Division 1B: Vinnie Murray Cup
  - D. Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup
  - E. North Dublin Senior Cup
  - F. South Dublin Senior Cup
- 8.2 The Cup Competition may be divided into Sections. The semi-finalists or finalists may be drawn to compete in succeeding Sections. Schools are invited to enter a Section of their choice, subject to the approval of the Competitions Committee. The Competition Committee shall decide the number of Sections.
- 8.3 In line with IRFU policy, the Schools Senior Cup is an Under 19 (1st January) competition (Branches to decide in exceptional circumstances whether players repeating their Leaving Certificate in affiliated schools should be eligible). A pupil will be Under 19 years of age on the 1st of January during the season which he plays provided that he was a full-time pupil the previous year.
- 8.4 The duration of each match shall be seventy minutes. No extra time permitted.
- 8.5 Size 5 rugby balls are to be used in all competitions. For matches outside Donnybrook each school must supply the appropriate ball.
- 8.6 Without prejudice to Regulation 7.5, in order to be eligible to play for any school in the Leinster Schools Senior Challenge Cup a pupil must have been a full-time pupil (within the meaning of the word pupil as set out above) at that school for not less than 20 months prior to the commencement of the First Round of the Senior Challenge Cup.
  - (a) An exemption to this regulation may be sought for any pupil by completing the requisite application form (Appendix A) and returning it to the School's Committee for consideration before the

last working day in September in any given Year and a decision shall be made at the next Schools Committee meeting as to the exemption application. Applications received after the last working day in September will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. A right of appeal to the Appeals Committee exists from any decision of the Schools Committee (Appendix B).

- (b) Regulation 8.6 will hold for the Senior Challenge Cup will also cover any and all feeder competitions which lead to qualification for the First Round (last 16) of the Senior Challenge Cup.

## 9. Junior Cups.

- 9.1 Titles
  - A. Division 3A: Pat Rossiter Junior Development Cup
  - B. Division 2A: Duff Cup
  - C. Division 1B: Fr. Godfrey Cup
  - D. Leinster Schools Junior Challenge Cup
  - E. North Dublin Junior Cup
  - F. South Dublin Junior Cup
- 9.2 The Cup Competition may be divided into Sections. The semi-finalists or finalists may be drawn to compete in succeeding Sections. Schools are invited to enter a Section of their choice, subject to the approval of the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee shall decide the number of Sections.
- 9.3 In line with IRFU policy, the Schools Junior Cup is for pupils that are Under 16 years of age on 1st January during the season in which he plays provided that:
  - (a) He was a full-time pupil on the previous 1st January,
  - (b) He has not sat the Junior Certificate or part thereof,
  - (c) He has not yet completed 3 years of post-primary schooling.

Pupils who do not satisfy conditions (b) or (c) above must be under the age of 16 years on the 1st of July after the season in which he plays.
- 9.4 The duration of each match shall be sixty minutes. No extra time permitted.
- 9.5 Size 5 rugby balls to be used in all competitions. For matches outside Donnybrook each school must supply the appropriate ball.

## 10. Shield and Plate Competitions.

- 10.1 Titles
  - A. Division 3A: Senior Development Shield
  - B. Division 2A: McMullan Shield
  - C. Division 1B: Vinnie Murray Plate
  - D. Senior Plate Fr. Hampson Cup
  - E. Division 3A: Junior Development Shield
  - F. Division 2A: Duff Shield
  - G. Division 1B: Fr. Godfrey Plate
  - H. Junior Plate
- 10.2 Leinster Schools' Senior and Junior Cup Rules shall govern all Senior and Junior Shield and Plate Competitions.
- 10.3 Any team knocked out of the first and second rounds of the Pat Rossiter Junior and Anne McInerney Senior Development Cup shall be eligible to enter the Senior and Junior Section A Development Shields respectively.
- 10.4 Any team knocked out of the first and second rounds of the McMullan and Duff Cups are eligible to enter the McMullan Shield and Duff Shield respectively.
- 10.5 Any team knocked out of the first and second rounds (where a school has received a bye to the second round) of the Vinnie Murray Cup shall be automatically entered into the Vinnie Murray Plate.
- 10.6 Any team knocked out of the first round of the Senior Challenge Cup shall be automatically entered into the Fr. Hampson Cup.
- 10.7 Any team knocked out of the first and second rounds (where a school has received a bye to the second round) of the Fr. Godfrey Cup shall be automatically entered into the Fr. Godfrey Plate.
- 10.8 Any team knocked out of the first round of the Junior Challenge Cup shall be automatically entered into the Junior Plate.

10.9 The venues of for the Senior and Junior Development Shields shall be determined as follows:

- (i) These competitions are played on a home or away basis.
- (ii) The first named team will have a home fixture.
- (iii) If the home side wins a first-round match and is then drawn against a team who receives a bye then their next match will be away.
- (iv) If the away side wins a first-round match then they shall have the home advantage in the next round.
- (v) If a match is drawn the replay will take place with the teams swapping home advantage.
- (vi) In the case of a walkover the first named team will have home advantage.

10.10 The venues for the Fr. Hampson Cup, Vinnie Murray Plate, McMullen Shield, Junior Plate, Fr. Godfrey Plate, and Duff Shield are determined as follows:

- (a) Matches will be played on the grounds of the school's first drawn. The Home school will be responsible for all arrangements including the appointment of an official branch referee.
- (b) A team winning a match at Home in one round will play its next match Away unless:
  - (i) Its opponents, being drawn on the bottom of the draw, have also won their previous match at Home, or
  - (ii) The match is a second-round match and its opponents have drawn a bye to the bottom position in the draw.
- (c) A team winning an Away match 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.

- (d) In the case of a walkover being given the match shall be deemed to have been played in the original venue.
- (e) If a match is drawn the replay will take place with the teams swapping home advantage.
- (f) 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.

10.11 The finals shall be held in a neutral venue.

## **11. Schools Leagues.**

### 11.1 Titles

- A. Leinster Schools' Senior League 1A and 1B - Fr. Grace Cup.
- B. Leinster Schools' Senior Second's League Premier, Division 1 and 2.
- C. Leinster Schools' Senior Third's League Forster Cup.
- D. Leinster Schools' Senior Fourth's League East- Fr. Maher Cup and West.
- E. Leinster Schools' Division 2A Senior League.
- F. Leinster Schools' Junior League 1A and 1B.
- G. Leinster Schools' Junior Second's League Division 1 and 2.
- H. Leinster Schools' Junior Third's League.
- I. Leinster Schools' Division 2A Junior League.

11.2 Entry to the Leagues is open to all schools affiliated to the Leinster Branch. All schools must enter from the highest grade down. No school may skip a grade. The Competitions Committee may decide a team should play in a League/League Division above or below that originally entered. The Competitions Committee may recommend that certain schools shall not participate. When schools are entered in the various leagues they are obliged to complete all fixtures in the competition in order to ensure the competition's integrity.

- 11.3 In line with IRFU policy, the Leagues A, B, C, D, & E are an Under 19 (1st January) competition (Branches to decide in exceptional circumstances whether players repeating their Leaving Certificate should be eligible). A pupil will be Under 19 years of age on the 1st of January during the season which he plays provided that the was a full-time pupil the previous year.
- 11.4 Any Pupil who participates in Adult Rugby – AIL League, Senior or Junior Club rugby, Under 20 Rugby competitions, JP Flanagan Leagues, McCorry Cup, Purcell Cup or Harry Gale Cup, is not eligible to play in any Schools Competitions.
- 11.5 In line with IRFU policy, the Junior Leagues F, G, H, & I are for pupils that are Under 16 years of age on 1st January during the season in which he plays provided that:
- (a) He was a full-time pupil on the previous 1st January,
  - (b) He has not sat the Junior Certificate or part thereof,
  - (c) He has not yet completed 3 years of post-primary schooling.
- Pupils who do not satisfy conditions (b) or (c) above must be under the age of 16 years on the 1st July after the season in which he plays.
- 11.6 If a school has more than one team in the League a pupil may not play for more than one team.
- 11.7 A pupil who comes on as a replacement in a Schools' Senior Cup or Senior Leagues match is eligible to play in the grade below.
- 11.8 A pupil who comes on as a replacement in a School's Junior Cup or Junior Leagues match is eligible to play in the grade below.
- 11.9 Any pupil who is selected and plays on a Senior Cup XV or Senior Leagues match shall be ineligible to play in the next grade below until his team shall have played another match and in which he did not play other than by replacement.
- 11.10 Any pupil who is selected and plays on a Junior Cup XV or Junior Leagues match shall be ineligible to play in the next grade below until his team shall have played another match and in which he did not play other than by replacement.



- 11.11 Playing in the Vinnie Murray Plate, the Fr. Hampson Cup, the Fr. Godfrey Plate, and the Junior Plate does not in itself render a player ineligible for the Leagues.
- 11.12 Replacements will not be permitted between two or more teams from the same school in the same League but are permissible from different Leagues at lower level.
- 11.13 If a pupil has been selected for a match when the opposition concedes a walkover, the team receiving the walkover is deemed to have played a match.
- 11.14 In Leagues A and F official referees will be appointed by the Leinster Branch. In the event of a postponement, the home team must inform the appointed referee.
- 11.15 In Leagues B, C, D, E, G, H & I every effort must be made by the home team to provide an Official Leinster Branch Referee for each fixture. If an Official Leinster Branch Referee is not available a competent referee should be appointed, and the visiting team should be consulted in good time regarding the appointee.
- 11.16 The Competitions Committee may suspend teams causing undue delay from the Leagues. In this event all previous matches played are void.
- 11.17 The duration of each match in all Senior Leagues shall be seventy minutes. No extra time permitted.
- 11.18 The duration of each match in all Junior Leagues shall be sixty minutes. No extra time permitted.
- 11.19 Should the differential exceed 50 points within the duration of the match the points will be awarded to the team in the lead and the game will cease. Maximum points will be awarded to the team with points differential of 50.
- 11.20 For Leagues A and F, (Senior and Junior Leagues) the following scoring system applies:
- (i) There will be four points for a win and two for a draw.
  - (ii) Teams who score four tries or more in a match will be awarded a bonus point.

- (iii) Teams who lose by seven points or fewer will be awarded a bonus point.<sup>16</sup>

11.21 In the event of a tie between two teams in a Section, the final position will be decided by:

- (i) The result of the original match

If the result of the original match was a draw the final position will be decided by:

- (ii) Team with the most wins.
- (iii) Points difference in all matches.
- (iv) Points scored in all matches.
- (v) The least number of points conceded in all matches.

11.22 In the event of a tie between three teams in a section, the final position will be decided by:

- (i) Most Wins
- (ii) Head to head
- (iii) Points difference in all matches.
- (iv) Points scored in all matches.
- (v) The least number of points conceded in all matches.

11.23 In the event of a tie between two or more teams in a Section where matches are played on a home and away basis and both matches are played the final position will be decided by:

- (i) Most Wins
- (ii) Head to head
- (iii) Points difference
- (iv) Points scored
- (v) The least number of points conceded in all matches.

11.24 In the event of any tie if one or more of the tied teams receives one or more walkovers the result/s obtained by the other tied team/s from matches played against the team/s who awarded the walkover/s are deemed to be void.

11.25 The Junior Cup Team from the previous season must not be entered into Senior Leagues and C and D.

11.26 Any pupil in a Section B school who played Senior Cup XV, Senior Seconds XV in the previous season is ineligible to play in the Senior Fourths Leagues.

11.27 No Senior Cup Team may enter the Senior Fourth's League.

11.28 No Junior Cup Team may enter the Junior Third's League.

## **12. Under 16's / Transition Year Leagues.**

In addition to the normal school rules the following apply.

12.1 A player is deemed eligible for the competition if:

(i) He is under seventeen on the 1st of January.

And

(ii) He is in Transition Year or in 3rd year and is too old for the Junior Cup competitions.

And

(iii) He has never started for the senior panel. If he is selected while the competition is running he becomes ineligible for the remainder the competition.

12.2 The League may be divided into divisions.

(i) There shall be two points for a win, one point for a draw, and zero points for a loss.

(ii) The league games should be played on a home/away basis as stated on the draw.

(iii) All finals will be played at a neutral venue.

(iv) As the nature of Transition Year is different in each school, it is up to the schools concerned to arrange dates and times to play their fixtures.

(v) All league fixtures shall be completed by the end of November.

(vi) All finals shall be completed in early December.

(vii) All results shall be forwarded to the league coordinator.

## 13. Protests, Objections and Appeals.

- 13.1 All schools and players competing in Competitions shall be deemed to have accepted and be bound by these regulations.
- 13.2 In case of conflict between these regulations and any other Competition Rules or Regulations, the bye-laws of the I.R.F.U. Leinster Branch shall prevail.
- 13.3 Subject to the overriding authority of the Branch and the other provisions of these regulations: the Schools Committee shall have responsibility for the operation and control of their respective competitions by all Schools, Players and Persons involved with these regulations and other relevant competition regulations.
- 13.4 The Schools 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.
- 13.5 The Schools 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 Schools Competition 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 School or any person arising from negligence or failure to ensure compliance with these regulations.
- 13.6 The Schools Administrator may at his/her sole discretion:
- (i) Make decisions himself/herself or
  - (ii) Ask the Schools Competition Committee (of which he/she is a member) to make the decision or

(iii) Ask the Schools Competitions Committee to make the decision.

Any such decision shall be called “the first decision”.

- 13.7 Where the Schools Committee or the Schools Competitions Committee is asked to make the decision, such committee shall hold a full hearing.
- 13.8 The first decision shall be communicated to such School, Player or Person as may be directly affected, as soon as reasonably possible.
- 13.9 Any objection 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.
- 13.10 All objections or appeals must be signed by the Rugby Games Master or Acting Rugby Games Master in the school. Any Objection shall contain the following: -
- (i) The date of the relevant event or decision,
  - (ii) Specific details of the objection, particularly in relation to objections to players, their names and playing positions,
- Appeals to the Appeals Committee of the Leinster Branch shall be made on the standard Appeal Form and be accompanied by a €500.00 deposit.
- (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 and 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 School it shall only be done with the prior written consent of the player and adult in some cases.

(e) All appeals, from the decision of any Sub-Committee to the Appeals Committee, must be lodged using the standard appeal form, within either:

- (i) 7 working days of the Appellant being notified of the decision; or,
- (ii) at least 48 hours prior to any fixture or event upon which the original decision may impact.

Whichever date arises first in time.

13.11 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.

13.12 No objection or appeal shall be accepted from any person who is not a member of a School affiliated to the Branch and any such objection or appeal must be made by the Games Master of such School on behalf of such person.

13.13 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 or was a member of staff in a School involved in the objection or appeal.

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

13.15 Where a decision is made pursuant to these regulations by a competent person or Committee which affects the league or cup position of any School, it shall not be permissible for any School 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.

13.16 Where the first decision is made by the Administrator or the Schools Competitions Committee, any appeal of such decision shall be heard by the Appeals Committee.

- 13.17 The Branch shall arrange for the hearing of any objection with all convenient speed at such time and place as it may determine, provided that any 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.
- 13.18 The Hearing Committee shall permit any 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.
- 13.19 No 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 School, Player or Person directly affected by the objection.
- 13.20 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.
- 13.21 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.
- 13.22 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 School is suspended or expelled, an appeal shall lie to the Misconduct Appeals Committee of the IRFU.
- 13.23 Where the Schools Administrator or any Schools Competition Committee member request a 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.

13.24 In all Schools Competitions where there is a breach or non-observance of any regulation, law, code of conduct, misconduct, disciplinary matter, failure to fulfil a fixture, non-compliance with any regulation or bye-law of the Branch or noncompliance 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 Schools Competitions Committee shall be entitled in its unfettered discretion to impose all or any of the following sanctions or penalties on the offending School, Player or Person:

- (i) The imposition of a fine.
- (ii) The forfeiture of or the granting of the points for the match.
- (iii) Suspension or expulsion of the Team, School or the Player from a Competition for such period as is thought fit.
- (iv) Require the match to be replayed at such time and at such venue as is thought fit.
- (v) Loss of as many league points as may be determined.

Any other sanctions shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee who may impose.

- (a) Such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate.
- (b) Reduction in International Ticket allocation.
- (c) Monetary Fine
- (d) A reduction in grant and/or sponsorship allocation

13.25 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.

13.26 Where under these regulations any time is allowed or prescribed, the Administrator, the relevant Committee, the Schools Competitions 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.

- 13.27 The Schools Competitions Committee shall be entitled to make decisions on matters not provided for in these regulations. 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.
- 13.28 The Leinster Branch Disciplinary Regulations shall apply in relation to the hearing of Appeals.
- 13.29 The Leinster Branch shall be entitled to make decisions on all matters not provided for in these regulations.

## **14. Unforeseen Circumstances.**

- 14.1 The Branch, School's Committee or Schools' Competitions Committee shall be entitled to make decisions on all matters not provided for in these regulations.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 Where under these regulations any time is allowed or prescribed, the Administrator, the relevant Committee, the Schools Competitions 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.

## 15. Code of Conduct for Supporters.

- (a) All cheerleaders shall be responsible to one person of authority who will ensure proper behaviour and eliminate freelance supporters.
- (b) Schools should endeavour to control recent past pupils in school colours.
- (c) There shall be no provocative singing or gestures towards the opposing team, supporters, or cheerleaders.
- (d) There shall be silence from all supporters during all placekicking.
- (e) There shall be no unnecessary or noisy instruments other than megaphones.
- (f) Throwing of missiles of any type is strictly prohibited.
- (g) When supporters have taken their place in the stand they must remain there for the entire game.
- (h) Under no circumstances should supporters attempt to enter the area occupied by the opposition supporters.
- (i) All supporters shall remain outside the railings throughout the entire match.
- (j) Supporters should not be in or near the dressing rooms or club facilities.
- (k) Supporters who damage property e.g., advertising hoarding, seats etc. Schools shall be held financially responsible for any such damage.
- (l) Supporters should return home immediately after the match without confronting the opposition supporters and without inconvenience to the public.
- (m) No persons, other than the team and officials may enter the railed playing area before or after the game.

## 16. Code of Conduct – Abuse of Match Officials

This document has been produced by the Leinster Branch of the IRFU in response to serious concern expressed by the ARLB (Association of Referees Leinster Branch) across Leinster about the growing incidence of Abuse of Match Officials. It describes the part to be played by schools in helping to deal with the problem.

Schools are responsible for the behaviour of their 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
- intimidatory 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, touch judges or other Match Officials or spectators (20.1.11)’

Failure to comply can result in the player (if during the match) or the schools (if 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. All the above sanctions have been handed out to different players and schools in the recent past.

All players, coaches, and regular supporters of schools should be made aware of the provisions of this Code and might need to be reminded that abusive behaviour is also harmful to the reputation of the school.

Schools are expected to adhere to the Code. In so doing, schools will commit themselves to take all reasonable steps to ensure that Match Officials are protected from Abuse.

The following guidance is provided to enable schools to publicise the Code:

- This notice should be displayed on school premises and should appear in match programmes.
- All spectators should be prevented from being in close proximity to touchlines by means of permanent or temporary barriers, wherever possible.
- Replacements, coaches, medics and water carriers must comply with game regulations as to the areas they are restricted to during the match, namely either marked technical areas or those areas designated by Match Officials as being technical areas.

## 17. International Tickets.

International ticket allocation for home internationals played at Lansdowne Road will be governed by the following criteria.

- (a) All schools shall be affiliated to the Leinster Branch I.R.F.U. and have paid their affiliation fee in full each season.
- (b) All affiliated schools shall have all their players registered. Each school will ensure that registration will be updated annually.
- (c) The number of teams entered and playing in official Branch competitions shall be used in the mechanism for determining ticket allocation of each ticket type.
- (d) All calculations will be based on the previous season's numbers of teams entered and fulfilling all fixtures in the relevant competition.
- (e) If a school continuously fails to fulfil its League or Cup fixtures, their allocation will be redistributed among the other schools.
- (f) Consideration may be given to schools with a Junior school who play rugby.

## 18. Representative Rugby.

IRFU Inter-provincial regulations:

### U18 Schools:

1. Players must be from a school affiliated to the IRFU.
2. All players must have an IRFU Registration number.
3. Only players eligible (World Rugby qualified) and available for the National U18 Teams are allowed to play in the Schools Inter-provincial competitions.
4. Players announced in their provincial squad in (May 2018) and participate in the summer programme are eligible to only play representative rugby in this pathway unless redirected by the IRFU High Performance Department and Age Grade Committee.
5. Confirmation of squads, up to 35 players, will take place at a meeting with the IRFU High Performance Department, Branch Academy Managers, Talent Development Officers and Domestic Rugby Managers prior to the end of May 2018.
6. A player participating in the player development pathway of a province and moved to another province due to educational commitments and have not been selected by the province where he is attending school can make a presentation, through the academy of his home province, to play for his home province. This agreement must be reached between the two provinces involved at a meeting before the end of May 2018.

### **Under 19:**

1. Only players eligible and available for the Irish U20 Development Squad (U19 – World Rugby Qualification to apply) are allowed to play in the U19 Inter-provincial competitions.
2. All players must be registered with an IRFU Registration number as a school or a club player.
3. Players announced in their provincial squad in (May 2018) and participate in the summer programme are eligible to only play representative rugby in this pathway unless redirected by the IRFU High Performance Department and Age Grade Committee.
4. Confirmation of squads of up to 35 players will take place at a meeting with the IRFU, Branch Academy Managers, Talent Development Officers and Domestic Rugby Managers prior to the end of May 2018.
5. Final agreement on elite potential and transfers between provinces to be confirmed between provinces prior to the end of May 2018.

## **19. Notes on Cup Donors.**

- Anne McInerney Cup.
- Duff Cup.
- Fr. Godfrey Cup.
- Fr. Grace Cup.
- Fr. Hampson Cup.
- Fr. Maher Cup.
- Forster Cup.
- McMullan Cup.
- Vinnie Murray Cup.

APPENDIX A

**Application for Exemption pursuant to Regulation 7.5**

School	
Pupil	
Previous School & dates attended	
Previous Rugby Experience:(include any Representative Honours)	

Date upon which the pupil first attended current school as a full-time pupil as defined within the Gamemaster's Handbook:	
---	--

Please give a detailed submission as to the circumstances why this pupil should be granted an exemption (*use a second page if necessary*):



Please list all supporting documentation including mandatory letters as required in checklist: *(Note that in the event of an Appeal the Appeals Committee shall **not** consider documents / evidence that are not put before the Schools Committee in the first instance)*

No.	Document description	Date
1.	Letter of Consent from Pupils previous school / club signed by Principal / Deputy Principal (Mandatory)	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

(Continue List on additional page if necessary)

Is the Pupil receiving any financial assistance from the school and or associated bodies and or any person connected to the school in the form of cash payment, financial allowance, fee discount or any other type of benefit to aid or encourage his or her enrolment at the school?

*(Tick as appropriate)*

Yes		NO	
-----	--	----	--

If yes Please give details:

We the undersigned hereby declare that the above confirmation and documentation is to the best of our knowledge factually correct and represents the situation accurately and truthfully.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Schools Gamemaster / Principal Pupil / Parent / Guardian  
 On behalf of school

Date:

Date:

**APPENDIX B**

**Leinster Rugby Appeal Form**

Appellant Club [and Player]:	
Respondent Committee:	

Date of Decision being Appealed:	Relevant time allowed to lodge Appeal:
----------------------------------	--

Summary of Original Decision and Regulation under which it is made: (attach original decision where possible)
Reason(s) for Appeal:

Please list all documents that will be relied upon by Appellant at the Appeal Hearing:
--

Please list all witnesses and Club Representatives who will attend the Appeal  
Hearing:

€500 deposit enclosed:      Yes                      No

\*The Appeal will not be considered properly lodged until the €500 deposit is received by the Leinster Branch and the deposit may be forfeited if unsuccessful and found to be frivolous.

Signed:

.....

.....

Honorary Club Secretary/Gamesmaster      Player/Coach/Club President/Principal

## APPENDIX C

Following discussions at the Leinster School's Committee AGM in 2018 and 2019 and a number of School's Committee meetings in 2018/19 the following rules governing possible clashes of School jerseys in League and Cup competitions were drawn up.

### App. C. 1: League competitions

Where a clash of jerseys occurs in a League fixture (as decided at AGM) the home team will retain its jersey and the away team will make arrangements to avoid a clash.

### App. C. 2: Cup fixtures

Where a clash of jerseys occurs in a Cup fixture the team drawn first will be deemed to be at home and as a result retain its home jersey. The team drawn second will therefore have to make arrangements to avoid a clash. Should these two teams be drawn again in a later year, the team that retained would then have to change to avoid a clash and the team that changed would retain their jersey. This would continue to rotate each subsequent year these schools are drawn together.

However, should the clash be brought about by the team being draw first having a special Cup jersey that is different to their standard school jersey, as stated in the Leinster Handbook, then they will have to change back to their traditional jersey.