



2017 U12 Football League Rules



Pitch Size: Reduced Pitch = **Length** 90m (min) – 110m (max)

Width 50m (min) – 58m (max)

Number of Players:

Two Team Groups: Grúpa A, B & C

1. All games to be played to maximum of 22-a-side (11 v 11) and all members of the team panel are to participate in the game.
2. Games can be played at a minimum 18-a-side (9 v 9) in Grúpa A.
3. Teams with less than 18 players in Grúpa A will play the game at the numbers they have but will forfeit the game.
4. Grúpa B & C can be played at minimum 14-a-side (7 v 7).
5. Teams with less than 14 players in Grúpa B & C will play the game at the numbers they have but will forfeit the game.
6. Two referees will be appointed by Coiste na nÓg.
7. The combined score of both matches will determine the winner.
8. Teams **must** spread their players out evenly.
9. Teams must contact their opponent prior to day of match to state how many players they will have for game(s).
10. One coin toss shall be done. Teams shall lineout the same for both games.

One Team Groups:

1. All games to be played to **maximum of 13-a-side** and all members of the team panel are to participate in the game. Games can be played at a **minimum 7-a-side**.
2. Teams with less than 7 players will play the game at the numbers they have but will forfeit the game.
3. Teams must contact their opponent prior to day of match to state how many players they will have for game(s).

Rules

1. Games of **11-a-side** or more shall be **25 minutes** per half while games of **10-a-side** or less shall be **20 minutes** per half.
2. **SILENT SIDELINES** are enforced. Full details are at the end of this document.
3. If extra time is necessary, **5 minutes** per half will be played.
4. Smart Touch (Size 3) footballs **must** be used.
5. Small rectangle must be marked on Reduced Pitch.
6. Pitches must be flagged and marked appropriately.
7. Flags are needed at 13m, 20m, 45m, & halfway lines on Reduced pitch.
8. **Coiste na nÓg will appoint all referees.**

9. Clubs with more than 1 team shall forward a list of 22 players to Rúnai Coiste na nÓg an Mhí one week before the commencement of league. Players named on this list shall not be eligible to play with 2nd or subsequent teams. Failure to have list in on time will result in games being awarded to opposition.
10. Players shall not be permitted to play with 2 teams the same day.
11. **All members of the team panel are to participate in the game.**
Coiste na nÓg recommends that all players play at least half of each match.
All clubs should be encouraged to promote an equal playing time ethos where younger players are not playing above their grade unless absolutely necessary due to a lack of numbers within a catchment area.
12. **Substitutions shall be unlimited.** All substitutions must be made in a break of play.
All players are to be on the team list. This list must be presented to the referee in **Irish**, in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, and **in duplicate** before the commencement of the game(s).
13. **Each team shall introduce a minimum of four substitutes** at designated stages of the game, as follows:
 - On the referee's signal, two substitutes shall be introduced 15 minutes into the first half and 15 minutes into the second half.
 - These players shall remain on the field for the remainder of the game (except in the case of injury).
14. Where a club fails to observe the rules regarding the minimum number of substitutes to be made that club shall forfeit the match and may be disqualified from the competition.
15. Where both clubs in the same match fail to observe the rules regarding substitutes the match shall be deemed void and both clubs may be disqualified from the competitions.
16. There shall be no penalty kicks or square ball.
17. In all instances where the referee moves the ball forward, the ball shall be moved **30m not 13m.**
18. **All scores count as 1.** Every score (points and goals) is counted as a singular point.
19. The goalkeeper may advance 20m for a kick out.
20. The shoulder-to-shoulder charge is permitted.
21. The ball may be carried for a maximum four consecutive steps or held in the hand(s) for no longer, than the time needed to take four steps.
22. Free kicks may be taken from the ground or from the hand.
23. **The player who is fouled should take the free kick.**
24. When an opponent commits a technical foul i.e. fouls the ball, **the player nearest the ball should take the free kick.**
25. The player nearest to where the ball crosses the sideline, should take the sideline kick.

26. When a defender/Goalkeeper plays the ball over his/her end line, the other team are awarded a free kick from the centre of the field opposite to where the ball crossed the end line.
27. Opposing players must be at least 5m from the player taking a free kick, sideline kick, or kick out.
28. Free pucks cannot be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line.
29. **Mentor(s) must identify themselves to the referee.** Only Team Officials are allowed to enter the field of play to a maximum of **4**. Clubs must ensure that this is implemented. **No mentor is allowed to be on the pitch.** Only medical personnel can enter the pitch area when permitted by the referee. **SILENT SIDELINES are enforced.**
30. First named team in fixture has home venue and will pay the Referee expenses.
31. At Coiste na nÓg level, the referee must be paid as follows:
 - **€25 for a single match.**
 - **€30 if at least 2 neutral umpires are present.**
 - **If a referee completes another game in the same venue, they must be paid another €20.**
32. When games played at neutral venue, clubs must both pay half of referee expenses unless host club is taking money at gate.
33. If no neutral referee present, visiting team has choice of an **official** referee.
34. **If no official referee present, then game is not to be played under any circumstance.**
35. Check opponent's colours in case of clash, **home team must change**. If in a neutral venue, then **both teams change**.

N.B. **All scores count as 1.** Every score (points and goals) is counted as a singular point.

SILENT SIDELINES

All Coiste na nÓg games will have 'Silent Sidelines'. This means coaches and supporters must not talk to or shout at players, referees or other coaches during play. You may talk to players before, at halftime and after each game. Referees will be asked to terminate games if 'Silent Sidelines' are not adhered to. Persons that disregard this will be sanctioned by the Meath C.C.C.C.

- With 'Silent Sidelines' the coaches, parents and spectators are asked to keep talking to a bare minimum on the sidelines. One coach from each team will be given the task to instruct (not during the game), whilst everyone else watches on in **SILENCE**.
- Supporters are allowed to clap and to congratulate positive behaviour but the adults are restricted from coaching their players from the sideline. This allows the players to make decisions for themselves, without having adults shouting 5 or 6 different instructions at them.
- With the sidelines quiet, players have the chance to concentrate, make their own split-second decisions, and learn from them. Instead of being distracted by the stream of noise that usually exists, the players on the pitch get the opportunity to communicate with one another and make on field decisions. This also gives them time to think and focus on what they are about to do. The main points are as follows:

1. Absolutely **NO** shouting or directing from the sidelines.
2. Coaches are allowed to speak to players at halftime and when making substitutions **ONLY**.
3. Clapping & cheering allowed for scores and positive effort from both sides.
4. No directing or coaching advice from adults at any time.
5. No questioning of the official in charge of the game in any shape or form.
6. All patrons should be outside the pitch fencing at all times. Only the 4 designated persons (All managers, water carriers, medical) can be inside the pitch fencing. Everyone else must stand back, observe and enjoy the game in silence.

Aims of this Campaign

- To eradicate aggressive and abusive behaviour from coaches, players and spectators.
- To promote zero tolerance of defamatory comments or foul language, be it racial or discriminatory, towards referees, fellow players and other supporters.
- To promote an environment for sportsmanship and fair play in underage sport.
- To provide education to adults and young people on the importance of **RESPECT** and just letting the children play.
- To encourage safe participation for players and spectators.
- To encourage coaches to observe, take notes and coach only when absolutely required.
- To allow children's voices to be heard over adults' voices.
- To not get so emotionally involved with their child's sport.
- To allow children make mistakes without being ridiculed.
- To bring **FUN** back into the game.