

# Cork LGFA Championship Rules for 2023 Season

## FIXTURES

1. All fixture dates are posted on the County Board prior to the commencement of each competition. First team named has home advantage unless otherwise stated. The dates posted mean that the fixture shall be played on or before that date. These dates are the **Default Dates**.
2. There will be NO extensions granted for any fixtures outside of the Default Dates and the Cut-off Dates for that league, unless otherwise agreed by the Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary.
3. There shall be no verbal communication to any member of the Board in relation to fixtures. All communication shall be emailed to the Fixtures Secretary from the official Club Secretary email.
4. Fixtures shall be played in the order drawn unless otherwise agreed by the Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary.
5. Games shall be played on or before the default dates. Exceptions only in the event of both teams agreeing an alternative date (acceptable to the Board), providing this date does not interfere with another fixture. The Fixture Secretary shall be informed at least 2 days in advance, by email, by both clubs, of the new date and if accepted by the Fixtures Committee both clubs will be informed by email.
6. In the event of two teams being unable to agree a date for their fixture the Default Date will be imposed unless the Board appoints an alternative date.

7. In the event an agreement cannot be agreed for a fixture, the Board may give 5 days' notice of a new fixture. Clubs shall abide by the new fixture date. Rule 302
8. In the event of both teams being unable to agree a throw in time, the Board will impose a default time of 3pm for weekend fixtures and 7.30pm for midweek fixtures. Where light or referee availability may become an issue this time may be adjusted by the Board. The Board/Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary can set default times for each fixture and can change default times as is deemed necessary.
9. All games shall be played on or before the default date. Holidays, injuries, sickness, involvement in other sports, etc. are not reasons for a game not to be played on time. Only exception is if a game has been fixed by both teams and for some unforeseen circumstance has to be cancelled last minute (e.g. due to a bereavement of an immediate family member of a player, coach or club executive member or due to weather conditions or pitch closure). If this happens the Board/ Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary shall be informed immediately. Within 3 days of the original fixture both clubs shall email the Board/ Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary with details of the agreed date and time for the rescheduled game, ensuring that the agreed date falls within the cut-off date for fixtures and has no impact on the other teams in the group getting their games played on time. If agreed by the Board this date then becomes the **New Default Date** and cannot be changed, unless due to further unforeseen circumstances and again only by approval of the Board.
10. If home side cannot provide a pitch in good time, they shall concede home advantage. Contact shall be made with the Fixture Secretary if there is a change of Venue.

## RESULTS

11. Results of games shall be sent by text by the trainers of **both** teams to the Fixture Secretary following each game. This is in addition to the automated texts. Results shall be sent on the day of the fixture. The text shall include the age group of the game and the score for both teams. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine sanction being imposed, per game, at the end of each league.

## WALKOVERS

12. Walkovers can only be awarded by the Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary. Failure to play the fixture may result in a walkover not being awarded to either team and the fixture declared void.

13. Where a team cannot field on the given fixture date and time and where the opposition are unable or unwilling to facilitate a change, the Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary shall have the power to deem the result a walkover.

14. Any team failing to fulfil more than one fixture (including semi-finals) will be expelled from the competition. A team awarded a walkover will be deemed to have fulfilled that fixture.

15. Walkovers may not be considered for regrading purposes.

16. Clubs giving walkovers will be levied a fine of €25 for each walkover.

17. Teams who enter a competition and fail to fulfil their fixtures or withdraw from the competition after the fixtures have been drawn will be subject to a fine of €50.

## FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

18. In the Adult Club Championship, excluding U21, the teams placed first and second in the final championship standings shall contest the final where semi-finals are not required. Where semi-finals are to take place, Winner of Group 1 will play the runners up in Group 2 and the Winner of Group 2 will play the runners up in Group 1. Home advantage will be given to the winners of each group. Extra time must be played in all knock out championship games except for finals. If deemed necessary, the Fixtures Committee shall have the power to implement a result on the day. Result on Day will apply to U21 Championship quarter finals, semi-finals & finals.
19. In the event of 2 teams finishing level on points, their head-to-head record will be considered. The winner of the head-to-head will be ranked higher. In the event of the head-to-head match being a draw, the team with the highest score difference throughout the group games will be ranked higher. Score Difference, i.e., the score remaining when all the scores for the team throughout the group games are added together (points will have a value of 1 while a goal will be valued at 3) and all scores conceded are subtracted from that number. Games against any team that gave a walkover during the group stages are disregarded in the score difference for every game they have played. Should the head-to-head match between the two teams concerned have finished in a draw, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team that registered the highest number of points, i.e. scores converted over the bar in that head to head match.
20. In the event of 3 teams finishing level on points and there is no clear head-to-head winner, the team with the highest score difference throughout the group games will be ranked higher. Score difference, i.e. Score remaining when all scores for the team throughout the group games are added together (points will have a value of 1 while goals will have a value of 3) and all scores conceded are subtracted from that number. Games against any team that gave a walkover during the group stages are disregarded in score difference for game they played. Should the head-to-head match between the two teams concerned have finished in a draw, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team that registered the highest number of points, i.e. scores converted over the bar in that head to head match.
21. U21 County Championship competition will be straight knockout format.
22. All Cork LGFA Championship games at all levels and stages will be Result on the Day.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS 2A, 2B & 2C

23. There will be 2 groups in each division contesting round robin games to determine semi-finalists in groups 2A and 2B and 2C, numbers dependent. Championship Semi Finals (top 2 teams from each group). In the event of teams tied on points, the usual head-to-head results and score difference rules will count. 1<sup>st</sup> Place grp 1 v 2<sup>nd</sup> Place grp 2 **semi-final 1**, 1<sup>st</sup> Place grp 2 v 2<sup>nd</sup> Place grp 1 **semi-final 2**. Home advantage will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> placed group team.
24. For Round Robin games, home teams organise refs. The County Board will appoint refs for Semi Finals and Finals.
25. Championship Final will be held at a Neutral Venue.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

26. In all Cork LGFA Adult League and County Championship group games, there will be unlimited substitutions allowed, apart from Adult County Semi Finals and Finals. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed for league semi-finals and finals. Only 5 substitutes will be allowed for semi-finals and finals in the Adult County Championship. There will be unlimited substitutions allowed for the entire underage League and Championship, including U21.

## BEST ACTIVE 15 PLAYERS LIST

27. A Best 15 shall be submitted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> teams League and also for the 2<sup>nd</sup> teams Championship. Clubs with second teams in the League must nominate their best 15 players who will only be permitted to play with their 'A' team. The best 15 must contain one recognised goalkeeper. Players not named on the 'Best 15 Player' list and who play with the 'A' team can play with the 'B' team as per Rule 123. 'Best 15's' are reliant on honesty and fairness and shall be subject to scrutiny and shall be deemed acceptable by the Board/ Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary. Any breach of rule shall be subject to CODA procedures.

## REFEREES

28. The Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary will appoint the referee for Semi Finals/FINALS only.

29. It is the responsibility of the home side to organise a neutral referee and advise name of referee to their opponents at minimum of 2 days in advance of the fixture.
30. Clubs may only use the same neutral referee twice in any league unless pre-approved by the Board/ Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary. All clubs who organise a referee shall send a reminder text to the referee 24 hours in advance of the game to confirm the fixture. (This shall eliminate any no shows from referees). All Coaches/Trainers shall adapt this procedure. If a referee cancels at the last minute, he shall be asked to put it on the referee WhatsApp group and organise a replacement referee. In the unlikely event of a no show from the referee the club will retain home advantage for the re- fixture.
31. In the event of the fixture being cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances it is the responsibility of the Coaches/Trainers to ensure that the referee is notified of the cancellation. If the referee is not advised of the cancellation, it is the responsibility of the home club to pay the referee.
32. All referees for U12 to Adult games inclusive shall be drawn from the Approved LGFA Published Referee List.
33. Your appointed referee shall return a completed match report to the County Secretary within 28 hours of the match. Referees who consistently fail to return completed reports will be restricted from refereeing in County Board organised games. In the case of any serious incidents the match report shall be submitted by email within 24hrs to both the County Secretary and the Fixtures Committee or Fixtures Secretary. In this circumstance the match report shall be emailed in advance of posting. No match reports will be accepted by text.
34. It is each club's responsibility to ensure that the referee is paid at each match. Both teams pay 50% of the Referee Fee.

35. Both clubs shall provide an umpire for league games and semi-finals and two umpires for finals.

## RELEGATION

36. The teams finishing in last place of a group in each Championship Division shall contest a relegation final with the runners up to be relegated the following season. In the event of tie for last place the head-to-head record of the teams will be considered. For Divisions with only 1 group, the last team will be relegated.

## COUNTY QUALIFICATION

37. There are no County Qualifications for club second (B) teams at underage level.
38. In the event of a team being disqualified from their Division for any reason or withdrawing from County a bye shall be entered in their place for County Qualification. The current (2023) County Qualifications are as follows:

### Divisional League Division 1

Top 2 teams go to A County Championship – League Division Finalists  
Second 2 teams go to B County Championship – Losing semi-finalists  
Last 2 teams go to A2 County Championship – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> placement in league

### Divisional League Division 2

Top 2 teams go to C County Championship – League Division Finalists  
Second 2 teams go to D County Championship – Losing semi-finalists  
Last 2 teams go to B2 County Championship – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> placement in league

### Divisional League Division 3

Top 2 teams go to C2 County Championship – League Division Finalists  
Second 2 teams go to D2 County Championship – Losing semi-finalists  
Last 2 teams go to D3 County Championship – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> placement in league  
There are no County Championship placings for any further teams within this League Division.

## Silent Side line

39. For U12 matches and downwards silent side lines will be enforced by the referee or by Cork County Board executive member in attendance, any reported breach of this rule will be subject to a €50 fine per incident. (see details below)

### **SILENT SIDELINE RULES**

Applies to all age games at Under 12 and younger games under the auspices of the Cork County.

The aim is to improve the fun and learning experience for all of the players.

No coaching from **anyone** on the sidelines or anywhere in the environs of where the game is being played – this includes all team mentors, parents and supporters. It extends to every decision to be made by any player on the field, such as whether to run back or forward, whether to kick or handpass, long or short etc.

**One designated** coach may give individual instructions **when play is stopped**.

No encroachment onto the field of play by anyone other than players and referee (except in the case of an injury to a player)

Parents/Supporters may applaud positive play, congratulate girls on their performance/skills and encourage them

- Absolutely NO shouting or directing at the players or officials from the sidelines;
- Coaches to speak to players at halftime and when making changes ONLY;
- Clapping & cheering allowed for scores and effort from both sides;
- No directing or coaching advice from adults at anytime;
- No questioning of the official in charge of game

## General Rule

295. Games in Under 11 and younger shall be organised on the Go Games Model. Go Games are modified where results are not formally recorded, and where all participants get to play during the course of the game. Teams at Under 6 and 7 shall be a maximum of 7-A-Side. Teams at Under 8 and 9 shall be a maximum of 9-A-Side. Teams of Under 10 and 11 shall be a maximum of 11-A-Side. At Under 12 level, competitions may be organised on a league



format, with no championships, on the basis that participating teams should be a maximum of 13-A-Side. Games should be organised over four quarters, and provision shall be made for all members of the team panel to participate in a minimum of one quarter. A breach will be referred to CODA for sanction.