



# Football Association of Ireland Inclusive Supporters Club (FAIISC)

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## *Inception*

The Football Association of Ireland, through their Football For All programme has established a new inclusive supporters club in partnership with all disability governing bodies throughout the country.

The FAI is keen to ensure the Irish football experience at the Aviva stadium is available to all. The stadium takes centre stage among Europe's stadia in regards to access ensuring all supporters can receive the same great experience at any event they attend. Having the ability to offer such an experience to all Republic of Ireland supporters, FAIISC has been established. This affiliate of the 'Boys in Green' aims to represent Irish supporters with disability views, issues and concerns within the Aviva stadium and the FAI.

Any revenues from the inclusive supporters club will go towards the funding of the club and our extensive football for all programmes working with 12 disability groups and enable thousands of people with disabilities every year to participate in our sport.

## *The Committee*

A general consultation between the disability organisations was held in abbotstown with the aim to establish an interim committee to drive the initiative. The Committee was elected on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and the members of FAIISC are:

- Chairperson – David Glynn (Irish Blind Sports)
- Secretary – Pauline O Shaughnessy (FAI, Dept of Justice)
- Treasurer – Darren Connolly (Irish Blind Sports)
- Assistant Chair – Daragh Carroll (Wheelchair User Fan)
- Member – Fiona Murray (Special Olympics Ireland)
- Member – Mark Barry (Irish Wheelchair Association)
- Member – Oisin Jordan (FAI)
- Member – Sean Herlihy (Irish Deaf Sports Association)

This Supporters club has the full backing of all 5 disability sports governing bodies and UEFA's Central Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) CEO Joyce Cooke and her Development officer for Ireland Keith Ferguson.

## **Committee Members:**

David Glynn (IBS) – Chairman; Pauline O Shaughnessy – Secretary; Darren Connolly (IBS) – Treasurer; Daragh Carroll (AIPF) – Vice Chairman; Fiona Murray (SOI); Mark Barry (IWA); Sean Herlihy (IDSA); Warren McDonald (IBS); Oisin Jordan (FAI)



### *The Aim*

The aim of FAISC is to bring the Irish Football Experience to ALL fans in a world class fully accessible stadium representing its members' views, issues and concerns of Irish fans with disabilities.

### *The Objectives*

- To enrich the experience of Irish fans with a disability at the AVIVA stadium
- To raise disability awareness within the Irish football community
- To be a voice for Irish fans with a disability
- To be a source of information on access to AVIVA stadium for ALL

### *Membership*

Application forms for membership will be available on the FAI website home page or by post when fans contact a stated number. The application form will collect information on the individual and their disability (optional) to allow the committee allocate suitable seat within the allocation. There will be two options of membership:

- Full Member – Fan with a disability
- Associate member – able bodied Fan who must join with a full member. (This could be a relation, friend, carer)

There will be no membership fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and this will be revised each year. Members will be asked on the form if they want to avail of the opportunity to purchase a season ticket. If this box is ticked they will then be contact by the Ticket Office staff to arrange payment. Fans with and without disabilities will all be welcome to join the supporters club as a non ticket member too.

### *Tickets*

The very generous allocation of 330 general admission category B seats by the FAI has been received with much appreciation and committee members would like to thank John for his gesture on top of the wheelchair accessible tickets.

The price to be put on the wheelchair accessible tickets was a topic of much discussion over a number of meetings of the committee. However it was very clear that the members wanted to see equity among its members and as they would all have the same excellent experience on match day whether they were in wheelchair accessible seats or in general admission. There was a unanimous decision by the committee members to charge full price for the wheelchair accessible tickets.

Ticket prices for general admission and wheelchair access will be:

- Friendly matches - €40
- Competitive matches - €50

### *Payment Options*

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In discussions between the FAI and the FAISC committee members around ticket payment methods 3 options were decided upon. Knowing that season tickets will be the only form of payment in two years time the FAI agreed to FAISC having the option to become block bookers for the first year and this would alleviate the financial pressure each month and would also give the member the option to sell on a particular match ticket. It was understood that as a block booker the member would be solely responsible to pay the invoice from the ticket office for each match.

Ticket options will begin with the home match against Andorra on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2010

Option 1:

- Season Ticket €310 – This price is available to members willing to pay up front for ticket

Option 2:

- Season Ticket €350 – This price is available to members paying through direct debit for ticket

Option 3:

- Block Booking €50/€40 per match – This option will commit the member to their seat for the full season and will be invoiced by ticket office per match. It will be their responsibility to ensure the payment of the invoice in full and on time.

### *Launch*

The Committee have agreed to launch the new supporters club on the morning of the first competitive international match in the AVIVA against Andorra. Details of this great event will be distributed in the coming weeks.

### *How to Join*

If you are interested in becoming a member of the new inclusive supporters club please go to [www.fai.ie](http://www.fai.ie) or call the FAI reception on 01 8999500 and request an application form to be posted out to you. Details of all ticket prices will also be available online and will be posted with the application form.

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