

**Football Association of Ireland (FAI)**

**Referee Regulations**

**(Effective from February 1, 2011)**

Issued May 1, 2010

## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1 – Scope, Definitions and Interpretation

1. These Regulations are established in accordance with FAI Rules.
2. These Regulations may be amended by the FAI Board from time to time.
3. FAI Referee Regulations are binding on all Referees operating under the jurisdiction of the FAI.
4. These Regulations establish the organisational structure of Refereeing under the jurisdiction of the FAI and govern the following matters:
  - a) Terms of Reference for the FAI Referees Committee, the Regional and Elite Referees Committees and their sub-committees.
  - b) Referees Administration
  - c) Referee Education, Performance and Assessment
  - d) Referee Allocations
  - e) Disciplinary, Disputes and Complaints Procedures
  - f) Ethics and Codes of Practice.
5. Definitions not provided hereunder but contained in the FAI rules, regulations and codes, and the FIFA and UEFA Statutes are incorporated in these regulations where appropriate. In these regulations the following Definitions are also used:
  - a) ‘Referees’ is deemed to include all Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials under the jurisdiction of the FAI.
  - b) ‘Referee Specialist’ is deemed to include all persons directly involved in the administration of refereeing. A ‘Referee Specialist’ is deemed to be a person who has had a minimum of ten years active refereeing experience. A referee specialist operating at elite level shall have had at least five years refereeing experience at elite level and shall also have obtained additional training and/or experience relevant to the administration and/or development of refereeing.
  - c) ‘Referee Administrator’ is deemed to include all persons engaged or involved in the administration of Referees and the committees and bodies established under these regulations.
  - d) ‘Chief Referee Observer’ is deemed to mean the person overseeing the selection, education, operation and administration of ‘Referee Observers’

- e) 'Referee Observer' is deemed to mean all persons charged with mentoring, evaluating, grading, appointing and allocating referees.
  - f) 'Referee Instructors' is deemed to mean all persons charged with educating, training and testing referees.
  - g) 'Referee Liaison Officers' is deemed to mean all persons engaged in liaising with leagues on behalf of referees or with referees on behalf of leagues.
  - h) 'Referee Licence' is deemed to mean the diploma each referee must obtain in order to referee at a particular level, such licence to be renewed on a regular basis in accordance with the specific conditions of that licence.
  - i) 'Elite Referee' is deemed to mean a referee who is a member of the National League panel or FIFA panel.
6. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, words importing the masculine include the feminine and word importing persons shall include bodies.

## **II ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Article 2 – National Referees Committee**

1. The National Referees Committee (Referees' Committee) is established by the FAI Board as the principal body for the control and management of Referees and shall have authority over all matters pertaining to Referees, Referee Specialists, Referee Administrators and any person directly involved in refereeing matters save where specifically excluded or delegated to another body under these regulations.
2. The Referees Committee shall be composed of Referee Specialists. The Referees Committee shall be composed of 12 persons. Eleven shall be appointed by the FAI Board, one of whom shall be the nominee of the National League Executive Committee. At least one of the 11 appointments by the FAI Board shall be from each province (Leinster, Munster, Connacht and Ulster). The remaining member of the Referees Committee shall be nominated by the Irish Soccer Referees Society.

3. The Committee shall be formed for a period of two years commencing May 2010.
4. The Referees Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its own committee members at its opening meeting.
5. The Chairman shall then allocate the following positions and tasks to himself and the other members of the Referees Committee. Members may be given more than one task.
  - a. Elite Referees Committee Chairman.
  - b. Munster Regional Referees Committee Chairman.
  - c. Dublin Regional Referees Committee Chairman.
  - d. Rest of Leinster Regional Referees Committee Chairman.
  - e. Connacht/Ulster Regional Referees Committee Chairman.
  - f. Allocations.
  - g. Grading and Licensing
  - h. Observers.
  - i. Registration.
  - j. Regulations.
  - k. Recruitment & Retention.
  - l. UEFA Convention.
  - m. Welfare.
  - n. Women's Refereeing.
6. Each member of the Referees Committee assigned a task shall be available, as required, to give guidance and support to the Referees Department. Those allocated tasks are required to ensure that Referee Committee policies are being implemented and will receive a monthly update from the Referees Department
7. Tasks may be added or deleted as required by the Referees Committee.
8. The chair of the Referees Committee, the Regional Referee Committees and the Elite Referee Committee shall hold office for a period of two years.
9. The Referees Committee shall meet at least once every month and shall have a quorum of six. Meetings may be transacted by conference call or other medium of communication where all participants can communicate and hear the other.

- 10.. The Referees Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to refereeing as well as:
- a) oversee the implementation of the UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation
  - b) facilitate a process and then approve a strategy for refereeing at all levels of the game, in line with the overall strategy of the FAI
  - c) be responsible for the recruitment and retention of Referees
  - d) be responsible for enhancing and promoting the role of Referees
  - e) be responsible for the appointment, control, management and development of Referee Observers, Instructors and Liaison officers, the appointment of a Chief Referees Observer and the formulation of guidelines and directions for these roles
  - f) approve educational structures for Referees and refereeing specialists to guarantee a unified level of education by delivering a comprehensive training and development programme from grassroots to professional football, specifically in the areas of recruitment and retention of referees, referee observer system, talent and mentor programme and education of referees at grassroots and elite level
  - g) appoint, evaluate and grade Referees
  - h) be the final decision making body regarding education, fitness and training, performance and assessment, appointments and allocations and the general quality of and selection of referees
  - i) ensure that the selection, promotion and appointment of referees and referee specialists is conducted in a transparent, uniform, equitable and ethical manner that is amenable to quality assurance and audit
  - j) be the custodian and controller of all Referee Licenses' and shall be the final decision-making body regarding the suspension or removal of a licence save as otherwise provided for in these regulations
  - k) be responsible for proposing changes to these regulations or other matters pertaining to Referees to the FAI Board
  - l) report directly to the FAI Board on its activities
- 11 The Referees Committee may establish and carry out its functions through the following committees:
- a) Elite Referees committee
  - b) Regional Referees committees,
    - Munster Regional Referees Committee;
    - Dublin Regional Referees Committee;
    - Rest of Leinster Regional Referees Committee;
    - Connaught/Ulster Regional Referees Committee;

- c) or through any other committee, sub-committee or working group it deems necessary
- 12. The Referees Committee or committees under its jurisdiction shall be supported in its functions by the FAI Referees Department, refereeing specialists or such other persons deemed appropriate.
- 13. The Referees Committee shall refer all matters more appropriately under the remit of the FAI Disciplinary Bodies to those bodies in accordance with FAI Rules. Decisions of the FAI Disciplinary Bodies shall be binding on Referees and the Referees Committee. For the avoidance of any doubt matters pertaining to education, performance, assessments, allocations, remuneration, registrations, licences or other such matters not being related to a breach of FAI Rules are matters entirely within the control of the Referees Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 14. Matters concerning child protection shall be referred to the FAI Child Welfare Officer in the first instance for initial evaluation and consideration and, if necessary, possible referral.
- 15. If necessary, the Referees Committee shall seek guidance from the FAI Legal Advisor in relation to any query regarding its remit in specific cases.
- 16. The Referees Committee may review and amend any decision made by any committee it has established.
- 17. The Referees Committee shall make final and binding decisions in relation to any matter under its remit.

### **Article 3 - Regional Referees Committees**

- 1. The Regional Referees committees (Regional Committees) shall each be composed of five Referee Specialists nominated by the Referees Committee and one Referee Specialist nominated by the Irish Soccer Referees Society.
- 2. Each committee shall meet at least once every month and shall have a quorum of four. Meetings may be transacted by conference call or other medium of communication where all participants can communicate and hear the other. The Chairmen of each Regional Committee shall be appointed by the Referees Committee.

3. Each Regional Committee shall:
  - a) be responsible for implementation of Referee Committee strategy at regional level
  - b) be responsible for enhancing and promoting the role of Referees at regional level
  - c) be responsible for the control, management and development of Referee Observers, Instructors and Liaison officers at regional level
  - d) implement educational structures for Referees and Referee Observers at regional level as approved by the Referees Committee
  - e) appoint, evaluate and rank Referees and refereeing specialists at regional level as approved by the Referees Committee
  - f) endeavour to resolve all issues pertaining to education, training, assessment, appointment and allocation of referees at regional level prior to referring matters to the Referees Committee
  - g) have the power to order that a Referee not be allocated matches in cases where a Referee has not met the required standards
  - h) have the power to set up such working groups it deems necessary
  - i) shall report directly to the Referees Committee
  - j) shall provide the Referees Committee with a report of its activities on a monthly basis
  
4. Each Regional Committee may be supported in its functions by the FAI Referees Department, refereeing specialists or such other persons deemed appropriate
  
5. The Regional Committees may refer matters outside their terms of reference to the Referees Committee. Each committee shall refer all matters more appropriately under the remit of the FAI Disciplinary Bodies to those bodies in accordance with FAI Rules. For the avoidance of any doubt matters pertaining to regional issues regarding education, performance, assessments, allocations, remuneration, registrations, licences or other such matters not related to a breach of FAI Rules are matters entirely within the control of each Regional Committee with leave for a final review to the Referees Committee whose decision shall be final and binding. Matters concerning child protection shall be referred to the FAI Child Welfare Officer in the first instance for initial evaluation and consideration. If necessary the Regional Committees shall seek guidance from the Referees Committee or its Chairman in relation to any query regarding its remit in specific cases.
  
6. The Referees Committee may review and amend any decision made by any Regional or other committee it has established.
  
7. Decisions of a Regional Committee shall be reported immediately to the Referees Committee through the FAI Referees Department.

#### **Article 4 - Elite Referees Committee**

1. The Elite Referees committee (the Elite Committee) shall be composed of:
  - a) Three elite referee specialists nominated by the Referees Committee;
  - b) One elite referee specialist nominated by National League Executive Committee;
  - c) One elite referee specialist nominated by the National League Referees Panel;
  - d) The FAI Chief Referees Observer.
  - e) The FAI National Co-ordinator for Referee Education and Development
  
2. The Elite Committee shall meet at least once every month and shall have a quorum of four, one of whom must be the FAI National Co-ordinator for Referee Education and Development or their nominee from within the FAI staff. Meetings may be transacted by conference call or other medium of communication where all participants can communicate and hear the other. The Chairman of this Elite Committee shall be the nominee of the National League Executive Committee. Representatives nominated by the Referees Committee, the National League Executive Committee and the National League Referees Panel must be approved by the FAI Board.
  
3. The Elite Committee shall:
  - a) be responsible for implementation of Referees Committee strategy at elite level.
  - b) be responsible for enhancing and promoting the role of Referees at elite level
  - c) be responsible for the appointment, control, management and development of Referee Observers, Instructors and Liaison officers at Elite level.
  - d) implement educational structures for Referees and refereeing specialists as approved by the Referees Committee at elite level
  - e) appoint, evaluate and grade Referees and refereeing specialists at elite level as approved by the Referees Committee
  - f) have the power to order that a Referee not be allocated matches in cases where a Referee has not met the required standards
  - g) endeavour to resolve all issues pertaining to education, training performance, quality of and selection of referees at elite level prior to referring matters to the Referees Committee
  - h) identify and support promising international referees and oversee the progression of Referees to the FIFA Panel and their continued development at international level
  - i) be responsible for the promotion and ranking of referees at the Elite Level
  - j) be responsible for making proposals to the Referees Committee in respect of the FIFA International Panel
  - k) have the power to set up such working groups it deems necessary
  - l) shall report directly to the Referees Committee

- m) shall provide the Referees Committee with a report of its activities on a monthly basis
4. The Elite Committee may be supported in its functions by the FAI staff and refereeing specialists or such other persons deemed appropriate.
  5. The Elite Committee may refer matters outside its terms of reference to the Referees Committee. The Elite Committee shall refer all matters more appropriately under the remit of the FAI Disciplinary Bodies to those bodies in accordance with FAI Rules. For the avoidance of any doubt matters pertaining to education, performance, assessments, allocations, remuneration, registrations, licences or other such matters not related to a breach of FAI Rules are matters entirely within the control of the Elite Committee with leave for a final review to the Referees Committee whose decision shall be final and binding. Matters concerning child protection shall be referred to the FAI Child Welfare Officer in the first instance for initial evaluation and consideration. If necessary the Regional Committees shall seek guidance from the Referees Committee or its Chairman in relation to any query regarding its remit in specific cases.
  6. The Referees Committee may review and amend any decision made by the Elite Committee.
  7. Decisions of the Elite Committee shall be reported immediately to the Referees Committee.

### **III REFEREE ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Article 5 - Register of Referees**

1. The FAI Referees Department shall administer all matters relating to Referees and shall keep a Register of Referees, accurate and up-to-date. The Register shall contain the names and addresses of such Referees, their details including their education, training, and current level within the game or any other details necessary to keep the database up to date. Such data shall be held in accordance with Data Protection Legislation and the FAI Data Protection Policy.
2. The criteria for admission to the Register shall be decided by the Referees Committee.

3. Application for admission to the Register must be made on an official referee registration form and submitted with a fee as determined by the Referees Committee which sum shall be refunded if the registration is not accepted. The Referees Committee reserve the right to refuse, defer and otherwise deal with an application to be included in the Register. Each application entered in the Register will receive an official confirmation of registration with the Association.
4. From January 1, 2011, all referees officiating at matches involving players aged 18 years or under must hold a valid Garda Clearance Declaration. The Referees Committee may refuse admission to the Register for failure to comply with this requirement.
5. Registration as a Referee does not automatically authorise a Referee to officiate in matches. A Licence to officiate at a particular level must be held by the Referee. Referees not yet awarded or in possession of a Licence shall apply to the FAI for same.
6. The Referees Committee shall have the authority to remove a name from the Register of Referees.
7. Referees convicted of any criminal offence which is likely to negatively impact on their position as a Referee with the FAI may be removed from the Register of Referees
8. Referees must notify the FAI Referees Department of any change in contact details.
9. Referees removed from the Register shall be entitled to appeal this decision to the FAI Appeal Committee pursuant to FAI Rules.

#### **Article 6 - Licence to Officiate**

1. A Registered Referee must apply for a Licence to officiate on an annual basis. A Referee may officiate at or below the level specified. A Referees Observer may approve a temporary appointment to a higher grade in order to assess a referee's suitability for promotion or to deal with an emergency situation.
2. Referees shall be classified as follows:
 

Associate	A referee at this level should hold at least an Introductory Level 2 Licence which will enable him to referee at schoolboy or junior level. An Associate Referee may be a member of a club or a league committee.
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| Grade 4          | A referee at this level should hold at least an Introductory Level 1 Licence which will enable him to referee small sided games.  |
| Grade 3          | A referee at this level should hold at least an Introductory Level 2 Licence which will enable him to referee schoolboy, junior and intermediate games.                         |
| Grade 2          | A referee at this level should hold at least a Foundation Level Licence which will enable him to referee schoolboy, junior and intermediate games.                              |
| Grade 1          | A referee at this level should hold at least a Progression Level Licence which will enable him to referee schoolboy, junior and intermediate games.                             |
| Elite Assistant: | A referee at this level should hold at least a Senior Level Foundation 2 Licence which will enable him to act as an assistant referee at Elite Level.                           |
| Elite 3          | A referee at this level should hold at least a Senior Level Foundation 2 Licence which will enable him to act as a referee in the League of Ireland Underage or A Championship. |
| Elite 2          | A referee at this level should hold at least a Senior Referee Progression Level Licence which will enable him to act as a referee in the League of Ireland First Division.      |
| Elite 1          | A referee at this level should hold a National Referee Licence which will enable him to act as a referee in the League of Ireland Premier Division.                             |
3. The Referees Committee shall decide the appropriate level to which the licence shall issue based on the Referee's performance, education and annual assessments. The Referees Committee shall determine the standards required for a Referee to obtain, retain or improve his level of licence. The Referees Committee shall make their decision in consultation with their committees and the Chief Observer. Such decisions are final.
  4. The Referees Department shall forward a list of Licensed Referees to its committees and to the Chief Referees Observer on an annual basis.

5. Licences shall be subject to Referees meeting the minimum standards set down by the Referees Committee in areas such as education, performance and assessment. Referees who fail to meet or continue to meet these minimum requirements may have their licence removed or suspended or the level of the licence amended by the Referees Committee as they see fit.
6. Licences are held subject to compliance with FAI rules, these Regulations and any other Codes of Practice, Guidelines or Directives issued to Referees from time to time.

### **Article 7 – Appointment to League Panels**

1. Licensed Referees may be appointed to league panels on an annual basis by the appropriate Observer. These appointments shall be reported by the Observer to the relevant regional or elite committee meeting.
2. Appointment to a league panel one year does not automatically entitle a Referee to an appointment the following year.
3. Referees seeking a transfer from one league panel to another must apply in writing to their local regional committee enclosing a letter of release from the league they have been appointed to.
4. Referee Observers may recommend the transfer or removal of a Referee from a League Panel to a Regional or Elite Committee.
5. All issues relating to appointments to league panels or transfers shall be referred to the appropriate Regional or Elite committee for consideration with leave for a final review to the Referees Committee. The Referees Committee decision shall be final and binding and not subject to any further review or appeal.
6. Referees may be requested by the Referees Department to officiate outside their appointed league. All such requests shall take precedence.

### **Article 8 - Allocations**

1. Referees shall be allocated matches by the League/s they have been appointed to or by the Referees Department.

2. The allocation or non allocation to matches shall be at the discretion of the relevant League/s in consultation with Referee Observers. A Licence or league panel appointment grants no automatic right to be selected to officiate at any match. In making his decision or recommendation a Referees Observer may take into account assessments, match administration, ranking, education, fitness, availability, location, the type of match, or any other reason which may be relevant.
3. Referees unable to accept any allocation must notify, no later than 72 hours prior to the match, the relevant competition organiser of his inability to officiate. If within 72 hours of the match he is unable to officiate, he must immediately inform the competition organiser of the exceptional circumstances which have occurred. Any referee who fails to notify a competition organiser of his inability to officiate may face disciplinary action..
4. All issues relating to allocations shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration with leave for a final review to the Referees Committee. The Referees Committee decision shall be final and binding and not subject to any further review or appeal.
5. Each League shall ensure Referees are only allocated to matches covered by the Referees licence level except in circumstances covered under Article 6 Section 1 of these Regulations.

#### **Article 9 – Match Fees**

1. Match fees and expenses shall be agreed from time to time between representatives of Referees, as recognised by the FAI, and the FAI Domestic Committee and National League of Ireland Committee. Such fees shall be notified to the Referees Committee and approved by the FAI Board.
2. Referees shall not accept or claim payment in excess of that authorised for such games.
3. Referees claiming match fees or expenses shall ensure these are submitted on time in accordance with the relevant League instructions.
4. All issues relating to match fees or expenses shall be referred to the relevant regional committee or the Elite Committee as appropriate and if necessary to the Referees Committee for review.

**Article 10 - Match Administration**

1. Referees shall ensure that each team fills in the relevant sections of the match card prior to kick off.
2. Referees shall complete the match card, and any necessary report, and forward it by the stipulated deadline in accordance with the instructions given by the competition organiser.
3. Referees are responsible for ensuring match cards, where practical, are legible and that the details entered are accurate. Referees may be requested by the competition organisers to clarify any matter pertaining to his match card.
4. Referees entering match cards online must ensure all details are inputted accurately and forwarded to the competition organiser, by the stipulated deadline, together with any hard copy documentation that may be required.
5. Referees may be required to attend disciplinary hearings regarding their match card and/or report.
6. Referees failing to comply with the provision of this Article shall be reported to their regional or elite committee.

**IV REFEREE ASSESSMENT**

**Article 11- Referee Observers**

1. Referees shall be coached, graded, instructed and assessed by Referee Observers appointed annually by the Referees Committee.
2. Elite Referees shall be assessed at every elite level match officiated by them. All other Referees shall be assessed as required, or at the request of referee subject to the availability of the observer.
3. A Referee shall be entitled to adequate post match analytical feedback from the Referee Observer.
4. A Referee shall be entitled to receive a copy of their Referee Observer's report, which report shall be sent within five working days of the match assessed at regional and local level and within two working days at elite level matches. A copy of the report shall also be forwarded to the FAI Referee's Department.
5. The process or manner in which a Referee has been assessed may be reviewed by the Chief Referees Observer. This review shall not be subject to Appeal.

**Article 12- Marks**

1. A marking system shall be implemented by the Referees Committee for use at all levels.
2. The awarding of a mark rests solely with the Referee Observer who is assessing a Referee in a match.
3. Marks shall be used by the Referees Observer to make recommendations and decisions in relation to overall grading, licence level, training, education, match allocations or other related matters.

**Article 13 – Fitness**

1. Referees shall maintain a level of fitness consistent with the FAI Training Programme for the level of football they are licensed to officiate at.
2. Referees may be assessed by Referee Observers on their level of fitness in order to obtain or retain their licence.
3. Failure to achieve the necessary fitness required may result in non selection of a Referee for matches until a satisfactory improvement has been made. In such cases a Referee may be allowed to continue refereeing at a lower licence level. In some cases a Licence may be removed or suspended by the Referees Committee.
4. Referees shall be required if necessary to attend fitness training sessions organised by their regional or elite committee. Non- attendance, without an acceptable explanation, may result in the removal or suspension of their Licence or the non allocation of matches.
5. The Referees Committee shall determine the appropriate fitness test and level of fitness required to operate at each grade.

**Article 14 – Development**

1. Referees shall attend such workshops and seminars organised by their regional or elite committee. Non- attendance, without an acceptable explanation, may result in the removal or suspension of their Licence or the non allocation of matches.

## **V GENERAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **Article 15 - Code of Ethics**

1. Referees, Referee Specialists and Referee Administrators shall adhere to the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Referees as appended in the FAI Rule Book.

### **Article 16 - Conflict of Interest**

1. A Referee may not officiate at a match in a League or competition if he is a member of a club or associated with a club within that League or competition.
2. An Elite Referee, an Elite Assistant Referee or a Grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 Referee shall be ineligible to represent any body at a meeting of any Council, Referees Committees, or League, and shall also be ineligible to act as a member of any such Council, Referees Committee, or League, unless he is nominated by The Irish Soccer Referees Society as their representative on such committees.

### **Article 17 - Uniform**

1. All Referees must officiate in Official Dress as approved by F.I.F.A., U.E.F.A. and the F.A.I.

### **Article 18 - Rules and Regulations**

1. Referees shall abide by the Laws of the Game.
2. Referees shall be bound by FAI Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice.
3. Referees shall be conversant with the specific rules of any competition in which they are officiating.

## **VI DISCIPLINARY, DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES**

### **Article 19 – Complaints**

1. Complaints against Referees must be made in writing to the relevant regional or Elite Committee as appropriate. Complaints involving a breach of FAI Disciplinary Rules shall be a matter for referral to the FAI Disciplinary bodies.
2. The regional committee or Elite Committee may consider and take decisions on matters within their terms of reference. Matters outside their terms of reference must be referred to the Referees Committee for decision or referral to another appropriate body.
3. Decisions made by the Regional or Elite Referees Committee may be reviewed on request by the FAI Referees Committee
4. Complaints involving children shall be referred to the FAI Child Welfare Officer in the first instance. The FAI Child Welfare Officer shall have jurisdiction to handle the complaint in accordance with FAI Child Welfare Policy, to refer the complaint to the FAI Disciplinary Bodies if necessary or to refer the complaint back to any of the Referees Bodies if the matter is more appropriately heard under their remit. The FAI Child Welfare Officer has full authority to assess individual cases and determine the appropriate process for such complaints.

### **Article 20 - Disciplinary**

1. Referees shall be subject to disciplinary sanction in accordance with FAI Rules by the FAI Disciplinary Bodies for any breach of FAI Rules, codes, or regulations.
2. Matters pertaining to Education, Assessment, Allocations, Appointments or other matters under the jurisdiction of the Referee Committee are not subject to review by the FAI Disciplinary Bodies.
3. The Referees Committee shall have authority to liaise with the Disciplinary Control Unit of the FAI to determine whether a matter is of a disciplinary nature.

### **Article 21 - Disputes**

1. Any disputes or disagreements involving Referees not otherwise dealt with above must be made in writing to the relevant Regional committee or Elite Committee.
2. The Regional committee or Elite Committee shall attempt to resolve such disputes by facilitating a meeting between the relevant parties to the dispute with a view to resolving the problem within two weeks of written notification of the dispute. The FAI Referees Department shall be available to guide and assist in this process.

3. If the matter has not been resolved within 14 days of the initial meeting the dispute shall be referred to the Referees Committee for consideration. If the Referees Committee are unable to resolve the dispute within 14 days the Referees Committee may establish an independent Referee Commission.
4. The Referees Commission shall be made up of three members selected by the Referees Committee from a panel of ten persons, one of which will be nominated as Chairman. The panel shall be appointed by the Board of the FAI on an annual basis.
5. The Referees Commission shall:
  - a) Convene a hearing with all parties to consider the dispute.
  - b) Make such enquires or requests to all parties as it deems appropriate
  - c) Shall hear from such persons they deem appropriate
  - d) Shall make such recommendations or binding decisions to any party to the dispute.
  - e) Refer any disciplinary matters to the relevant FAI Disciplinary Bodies if necessary.
6. The Referees Commission decisions are final and binding. No appeal or alternate dispute resolution process shall be made available to any party following a Referee Commission hearing and decision.

#### **Article 22 – Final Provisions**

1. Any matter not provided for in these regulations shall be settled by the FAI Board.