



# SCOUTING REGULATIONS

## 1 - General

- (a) As per Part B Rule 39 of the Rules of the Association, the regulation of Scouts and players operating under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland in relation to scouting, trials and club visits shall be governed by these regulations.
- (b) This version of the FAI Scouting Regulations is effective from September 11, 2020.
- (b) In these regulations the following definitions shall apply:

**"Accredited Official"** shall mean a full-time official of the requesting club or their FAI registered scout."

**"Affiliated League"** shall mean the League to which the player is registered or the league which last held that registration.

**"Club"** shall mean the club for whom the player is registered with or the club who the player was last registered with.

**"Player"** shall mean a player over the age of 14 years that the requesting club is seeking permission to have on trial.

**"Requesting Club"** shall mean the club or college requesting permission for a Player to go on trial or to visit.

**"Scout"** shall mean any person engaged by any professional club or third level college to identify players with whom the club or college he represents may wish to enter into negotiations with a view to securing their registrations.

**"SFAI"** shall mean the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland.

**"The Association"** or **"the FAI"** shall mean the Football Association of Ireland.

**"WFC"** shall mean the FAI Women's Football Committee.

## **2 – Scouts**

- (a) All Scouts operating in the Republic of Ireland are required to be registered with the Football Association of Ireland.
- (b) Registration must be by means of the official registration form as issued by the Association.
- (c) The registration fee shall be set by the FAI Board of Management.
- (d) Each Registered Scout shall be issued with an identification card by the Association and listed on the FAI website.
- (e) Scouts shall at all times behave in a manner befitting a professional scout.
- (f) Scouts shall at all times operate within Football Association of Ireland Rules and Codes of Practice.
- (g) Scouts shall have knowledge of and operate within the FAI Code of Ethics & Best Practice.
- (h) Scouts shall be aware of and avoid all situations conducive to risk.
- (i) Scouts shall be aware of and work within defined protocols, procedures and rules at all times showing due respect to players, parents, clubs and leagues.
- (j) Scouts shall also carry official photo identification for the club he/she represents (as approved by the FAI) and produce it voluntarily or on request to parents, club officials or managers.
- (k) Scouts shall ensure that all contact with parents/guardians is carried out through the player's club secretary. On no account should contact be made directly to a young player. All contacts should be conducted through the player's Club Secretary and Parents/Guardians.
- (l) Scouts shall complete the Criminal Records Bureau (UK)/Garda Vetting Disclosure Form.
- (m) Any Scout or club representative who breaches this policy shall be reported to the FAI with copies to all relevant parties including SFAI or WFC, the Affiliated League and Club. All dealings with the club for whom the Scout represents will be suspended until an investigation is completed, the findings reported back to all concerned and any action required is taken.
- (n) Any complaint in relation to the behavior of a Scout shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the Football Association of Ireland.

## **3 – Trials & Visits**

- (a) Scouts shall only deal with the Club for which the player is registered or was last registered with.

- (b) Permission for all trials and visits is required from both the player's Club and Affiliated League and in the event that this procedure is not adhered to, permission shall not be granted.
- (c) All requests for a player to go on trial or visit must be made to the Club Secretary in writing by the Requesting Club using the official Request for Trial Form.
- (d) Requests for Players to attend coaching sessions by a club other than the one he is registered for is prohibited. This will not apply to Representative Squads.
- (e) The Request for Trial Form must be completed in full and signed by an accredited official of the Requesting Club, both in the first instance and in any subsequent requests for further trials or visits.
- (f) The Request for Trial Form should normally be received by the Club Secretary three (3) weeks prior to the start date of the proposed trial or visit to allow for required permissions to be sought.
- (g) The Requests for Trial Form must be forwarded by the Club Secretary of the Club for whom the player is registered to their Affiliated League. The Affiliated League shall have the power to grant or decline permission under these rules. The Affiliated League is required to forward copies of all relevant documents, including the Request for Trial Form, to the SFAI or WFC and/or the FAI.
- (h) Permission shall not be granted to any player who has not reached fourteen (14) years of age.
- (i) Dates for players going on trials and visits will normally be as follows: school holidays/mid-term breaks i.e. October, Christmas, Easter, July and the first two weeks in August. (Transition Year students will only be considered with the written permission of School Principal in cooperation with parents/guardians).
- (j) Training and playing for representative, development and international squads will take priority over trials and visits. Permission will not be granted when such conflict arises.
- (k) Where a proposed trial or visit interferes with a Player's education or club commitments, permission will not be granted.
- (l) The Requesting Club shall at all times, while the player is in its care, including travel periods to and from that Requesting Club, ensure that:
  - (i) the player has suitable travel arrangements
  - (ii) the player has suitable accommodation
  - (iii) the player is supervised by a responsible adult at all times
  - (iv) the player is not placed at risk
  - (v) the player is covered by a suitable insurance policy which includes Travel, Accident, Medical & Baggage cover.
- (m) The Requesting Club must name the accredited official responsible for the player's welfare and care, on the Request For Trial Form.