



Lions A.F.C.

Team & Player Selection Policy

This document has been produced to clarify the policy of Lions A.F.C. in relation to the selection of teams to be entered into a FAI affiliated league (e.g. Kilkenny & District League) and the selection of players who will participate on each team.

1. General

- The club will endeavor to enter teams in a FAI affiliated league (e.g. Kilkenny & District League) for all male and females who are interested in playing football, where:
 - i. A sufficient number of committed players are available to sustain a team throughout the season.
 - ii. At least two persons over the age of eighteen are available to manage the team.
 - iii. Where the team caters for players under the age of eighteen, all persons involved with management, coaching or supervision of the team, must have received Garda vetting and have completed the necessary child safeguarding course(s).
 - iv. Sufficient playing and training facilities are available
 - v. Sufficient resources e.g. funding, equipment, are available

- At all times, the committee will have discretion as to which teams are entered in an FAI affiliated league. The club committee will also decide which unregistered teams or groups will be catered for (e.g. the Lions Academy).

- All underage players will play with the youngest team for which they are eligible unless otherwise pre-approved by the club committee.

- Underage players may play for a team that is a maximum of two years above the player's age group e.g. an under 16 player may play for the U-16, U-17 and U-18 team but may not play for the U-19 team.

- Where the committee believes that any part of this policy has not been implemented, the committee has the right to intervene and take the necessary decisions to implement the policy.

2. Unregistered Teams

- For the purposes of this policy, unregistered teams are defined as teams/groups of players which operate under the auspices of the club, but which are not registered with an FAI affiliated League. These teams/groups may be assembled for the purposes of training and/or playing practice matches. E.g. the Lions Academy.

- If the number of players who wish to train or play with an unregistered team/group, exceed the number of players that the club can cater for, the club committee will decide the basis for selection of players. Trials will not be used as a basis for player selection for unregistered teams.

3. Schoolboys/girls Non-Competitive Teams i.e. (up to and including u-11's)

- For the purpose of this policy, non-competitive teams are defined as teams which are registered in a FAI affiliated league and play non-competitive matches in that league, e.g. a trophy or other title is not awarded to the winning team. Under the current FAI Player Development Pathway, teams up to and including under-11's are regarded as non-competitive teams. However, ultimately the League in which the team participates determines the rules and format of the competitions.
- Where a sufficient number of players *are* available to form a team at a particular non-competitive age group, players from the age group one year below that team may not be included on the older team.
- Where a sufficient number of players *are not* available to form a team at a particular non-competitive age group, players from the age group one year below that team may also be included on the team. Where this situation occurs the older group players will receive preferential treatment, e.g. more playing time than younger players. The managers of older and younger teams will decide, by consultation, which players from the younger age group will supplement the older age team. Where the managers cannot agree, the club committee will decide.
- Where a sufficient number of players are available to form more than one team at a non-competitive age group, the players on each team will not be graded i.e. all teams will be of roughly equal ability. The team manager(s) will select the players to participate on each team in accordance with this policy.
- If the number of players who wish to play with a non-competitive team, exceed the number of players that the club can cater for, the club committee will decide the basis for selection of players. Trials will not be used as a basis for player selection for non-competitive teams.
- In some instances, the League may run some competitive matches for an age group which is normally non-competitive e.g. U-11's. In this case, the policies in this document which apply to competitive teams will apply to competitive matches. E.g. teams may be graded for the competitive matches. The team manager(s) will select the players to participate on each team.
- Where club teams participate in competitive *tournaments* e.g. run by individual clubs or organisations, the policies in this document which apply to competitive teams, will apply to competitive tournaments e.g. teams may be graded for competitive tournaments at the discretion of the team manager(s). Where players in that age group are not selected to play in a particular tournament(s), the team manager(s) will make every reasonable effort to provide these players with the opportunity to play in alternative tournaments during the same season. The team manager(s) will select the players to participate on each team and in each tournament. This rule does not apply to friendly matches arranged by the club/managers. In this instances, teams will not be graded i.e. all teams will be of roughly equal ability.
- Players will be entitled to playing time in accordance within the FAI Player Development Plan where players:
 - complied with the club's code of conduct for players
 - have paid their membership, match fees and training fees and
 - have attended at least 80% of matches and 80% of training sessions within the current season.

4. Schoolboys/girls Competitive Teams i.e. (from u-12's to u-16's inclusive)

- For the purpose of this policy, competitive teams are defined as teams which are registered in a SFAI/FAI affiliated league and play competitive matches in that league, e.g. a trophy or other title is awarded to the winning team. Under the current FAI Player Development Pathway, teams from under-12's and upwards are regarded as competitive teams. However, ultimately the League in which the team participates determines the rules and format of the competitions.
- The club aspires to provide an opportunity for each player to play at a level at which they can be competitive. The club believes that this policy benefits the player's enjoyment of the game and their development. Notwithstanding this goal, the division in which each team is placed is ultimately decided by the affiliated League in which the team participates. Also, as football is a team sport, it is not always possible to place a team in a division which is the most suitable division for all players on that team.
- Where a sufficient number of players *are not* available to form a team at a particular competitive age group, players from the age group one year below that team may also be included on the team. Where this situation occurs, all players will be treated as if they are the same age i.e. the older group players will not receive preferential treatment, such as a right to start before younger players, or have more playing time than younger players etc. The managers of older and younger teams will decide, by consultation, which players from the younger age group will supplement the older age team. Where the managers cannot agree, the club committee will decide.
- Where a sufficient number of players *are* available to form a team at a particular competitive age group, players from the age group one year below that team may also be included on the team, on the condition that those players play at their 'base' age group also. Where this situation occurs, all players will be treated as if they are the same age i.e. the older group players will not receive preferential treatment, such as a right to start before younger players, or have more playing time than younger players etc. The managers of older and younger teams will decide, by consultation, which players from the younger age group will supplement the older age team. Where the managers cannot agree, the club committee will decide.
- Where a sufficient number of players are available to form *more than one team* at a competitive age group, the teams may be graded. Teams of the same age group may be entered in different divisions. This may be the case where a team consists of players who are all of the same age group or where players are of different age groups. Where the latter situation occurs, all players will be treated as if they are the same age i.e. the older group players will not receive preferential treatment, such as a right to play on the team in the higher division, start before younger players or have more playing time than younger players etc. The team manager(s) will select the players to participate on each team, with the manager of the team in the higher division having preferential choice.
- If the number of players who wish to play with a competitive team, exceed the number of players that the club can cater for, the club committee will decide the basis for selection of players. Trials may be used as a basis for player selection for competitive teams, but only at the discretion of the club committee. Where trials are used, selection will be on the basis of the player's commitment, attitude and ability.
- If the number of players on a match day, exceeds the number of players, including substitutes, that can be played in any match, in accordance with FAI/SFAI regulations, the substitutes who are played will be rotated from match to match. This can be done by bringing all team players to every match or by only bringing the allowed number of players to each match, at the manager's discretion.

- Players will be entitled to playing time in accordance within the FAI Player Development Plan where they have:
 - complied with the club's code of conduct for players
 - paid their membership, match fees and training fees
 - attended at least 80% of matches and 80% of training sessions within the current season.

5. Adult Teams (i.e. from u-17's upwards)

- For the purpose of this policy, adult teams are defined as teams from u-17's upwards, which are registered in a FAI affiliated league and play competitive matches in that league, e.g. a trophy or other title is awarded to the winning team.
- The club aspires to provide an opportunity for each player to play at a level at which they can be competitive. The club believes that this policy benefits the player's enjoyment of the game and their development. Notwithstanding this goal, the division in which each team is placed is ultimately decided by the affiliated League in which the team participates. Also, as football is a team sport, it is not always possible to place a team in a division which is the most suitable division for all players on that team.
- Where a sufficient number of players are not available to form an adult team, players from the age group one or two years below that team may also be included on the team, subject to the agreement of these players and/or their parents/guardians where the player is under the age of eighteen. Where this situation occurs, all players will be treated as if they are the same age i.e. the older group players will not receive preferential treatment, such as a right to start before younger players, or have more playing time than younger players etc. The managers of older and younger teams will decide, by consultation, which players from the younger age group will supplement the older age team. Where the managers cannot agree, the club committee will decide.
- Where a sufficient number of players are available to form more than one adult team the teams may be graded. Teams of the same age group or no age group, may be entered in different divisions. This may be the case where a team consists of players who are all of the same age group or where players are of different age groups. Where the latter situation occurs, all players will be treated as if they are the same age i.e. the older group players will not receive preferential treatment, such as a right to play on the team in the higher division, start before younger players or have more playing time than younger players etc. The team manager(s) will select the players to participate on each team, with the manager of the team in the higher division having preferential choice. Furthermore, the manager of the team in the higher division has the right to call up a player playing in a lower division for any match, subject to competition rules. Where the player does not comply with this request, the club committee will consider the matter.
- If the number of players who wish to play with an adult team, exceed the number of players that the club can cater for, the team manager(s) will decide the basis for selection of players. Trials may be used as a basis for player selection for adult teams.
- Players will not be entitled to a minimum playing time in accordance with FAI guidelines.