



## 2025 Lidl National League Regulations

### Regulations for Round Games

1. Three points for a win and one point for a draw (Rule 291).
2. Rule 319 applies in relation to substitutions
  - a. Unlimited substitutions for all round games.
  - b. For Finals and Play offs there will be a maximum of 5 substitutions allowed.
3. If a team is disqualified or retires during the course of the League, the results of games they have already played will stand and their un-played games shall be awarded to the opposing team(s) (Rule 293).
4. Games against any team that gave a walkover during the round stages are disregarded in score difference
5. Where a team is unable to field on the date of their fixture, due to a COVID-19 case/cases and players identified as close contacts, the team will forfeit that game.
6. If teams finish on equal points in the Group Stages, the final placings shall be decided by the following means and in the order specified:
  - (i) **Where two teams only are involved, the placing will be determined as follows and in the specified order:**
    - a. The outcome of the head-to-head game between the two teams concerned will determine the placings.
    - b. 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.
    - c. Should the teams remain equal at this point, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team with the highest score difference throughout the league i.e. score remaining when all scores for team throughout the league are added together (points will have a value of one whilst goals will have a value of three) and all scores conceded are subtracted from that number. Games against any team that gave a walkover during the league are disregarded in score difference.
    - d. Should the teams remain equal at this point, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team with the lowest number of goals conceded throughout the league

- e. Should the teams remain equal at this point, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team with the highest number of goals scored throughout the league.
- f. Should the teams remain equal at this point, the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team with the highest number of points scored throughout the league.
- g. Should the teams remain equal at this point, a draw will take place to determine which team finishes in the higher position

**(ii) Where three or more teams are level on points the following shall apply:**

- a. The placing will be decided by score difference i.e. score remaining when all scores for team **throughout the league** are added together (points will have a value of one whilst goals will have a value of three points) and all scores conceded are subtracted from that number.
  - b. Should the score difference between the three teams concerned have finished the same, 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, this will determine the overall table placings; e.g. (1st, 2nd, 3rd 4th)
  - c. If Teams are still level on points scored, as per point (b), then the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team **that registered the highest number of points and goals** i.e. scores converted over the bar equals 1 point, goals equals 3 points, this will determine the overall table placings; e.g. (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)
  - d. If two teams are still level after the above, their head-to-head will come into effect.
  - h. Should the head-to-head match between the two teams concerned have finished in a draw, then the team that finishes in the higher position will be the team with the lowest number of goals conceded throughout the league
- 7.** The Home County must endeavour to accommodate the travelling County where possible, by obtaining a suitable ground as near to the County border or appropriate location to curtail the distance to travel.
- 8.** Where there is a substantial distance between the two counties involved in a fixture, the counties may agree a half-way venue. However, the responsibility for the booking, payment and organisation of the fixture lies with the Counties involved. Where half-way venues are being agreed, counties must notify Andrew Cunningham ([andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie](mailto:andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie)) at least 5 days prior to the fixture date.

9. Round Games are set for a Sunday at 2 p.m. However, once both teams agree, Counties may play their NFL fixture on the Saturday prior? or mid-week on the week prior to the scheduled date (5 days' notice must be given to [andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie](mailto:andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie)). If both Counties cannot reach an agreement the fixture must be played on the Sunday at 2 p.m.
10. The Home County must confirm the venue with Andrew Cunningham ([andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie](mailto:andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie)) no later than Tuesday at 1 p.m. the week of the game. If a suitable venue cannot be secured by the Home County, within their County, by the Friday at 12 p.m., the game will move to the Away County.
11. All Home Counties must secure a second playable pitch as a back up pitch within their County. In the event of adverse weather conditions, and no grass pitch or all weather pitch available a county may avail of a grass or all-weather pitch in a neighbouring county. The home county must forward a full report on the list of pitches which were requested along with supporting evidence to show pitches were closed or not available to host the game.
12. A number of NFL games will be televised live on TG4 – games selected for TV coverage will take place on Saturdays or a Bank holiday Monday.
13. All Home Counties must have ambulance cover for their fixtures. Central Council are responsible for ambulance cover for Semi-Finals and Finals.

### Regulations for Final Stages

14. The top two teams in each Division will qualify for the finals of that Division.
15. The top two teams in each Division will be promoted (except Division 1) and the bottom two teams in Division 1, 2 and 3 will be relegated. There is no relegation from Division 4.
16. Where a relegation play off is necessary, Result on the day will apply (Rule 350) where one period of Extra Time will be played followed by a point shoot-out from 25 metres if necessary.
17. Result on the day for all Semi-Finals and Finals (Rule 350). Rule 350 will apply where one period of Extra Time will be played followed by a point shoot-out from 25 metres if necessary.
18. Relegation play offs dates are confirmed as per the Master Fixture Plan for 2025. Times to be confirmed.

### Ground/Match Regulations

19. No fixture (date or time) may be changed without first seeking permission from the National Fixtures Committee via Andrew Cunningham ([andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie](mailto:andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie)) or phone 087 252 3998.
20. Referees will be paid centrally from the LGFA for the NFL and counties invoiced at the end of the league. €40 fee per Referee and 0.40c per km/0.60 per mile.
21. It is the responsibility of the Home County to supply 2 suitably attired lines people for each round of the National Football League. Counties are encouraged to use personnel who attended the LGFA Linesperson training courses.
22. Both counties must provide an accurate team list on the Tuesday of each game week by 10:00 a.m. at the latest to Andrew Cunningham ([andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie](mailto:andrew.cunningham@lgfa.ie)). This is to allow adequate time for teams to be checked for registrations before sending to the Home county, who must then produce an accurate match programme.

Please note Rule 307 applies in relation to panel size:

A team shall consist of 15 players. A panel of 30 players and a maximum of 10 officials are allowed for inter-county teams.

*Only those players named on the Official Panel list (30 players) shall be allowed to the controlled zone. The controlled zone is defined as the dressing room and pitch-side area. All team officials and substitutes must sit in the designated areas identified and must leave the field of play 3 minutes before the throw-in to go to the appropriate designated areas.*

**On the side-line:** only the Bainisteoir, and one other team mentor along with the medic are permitted.

**Sub Slips:** Designated person to write out sub slip and the player to give directly to the referee if no 4<sup>th</sup> official is appointed to the game.

23. There shall be two designated areas for team personnel and officials:
  - Management zone in which seats for the Bainisteoir, one other team mentor, a Physio and a Doctor should be provided (see pitch layout below);
  - A seated area for substitutes and all other permitted team officials.

Seating for medics must ensure uninhibited access to the playing area at all times. Medics may sit together in the designated area for substitutes, or one medic may be positioned in the Management zone.

24. Players shall be numbered in accordance with the official list forwarded and from 1 to 30 as per Rule 311. An exception will be made only in the case of a valid withdrawal. Such withdrawal shall be notified in advance of the commencement of

the game to the referee or for the final stages to the Committee in Charge 30 minutes before game.

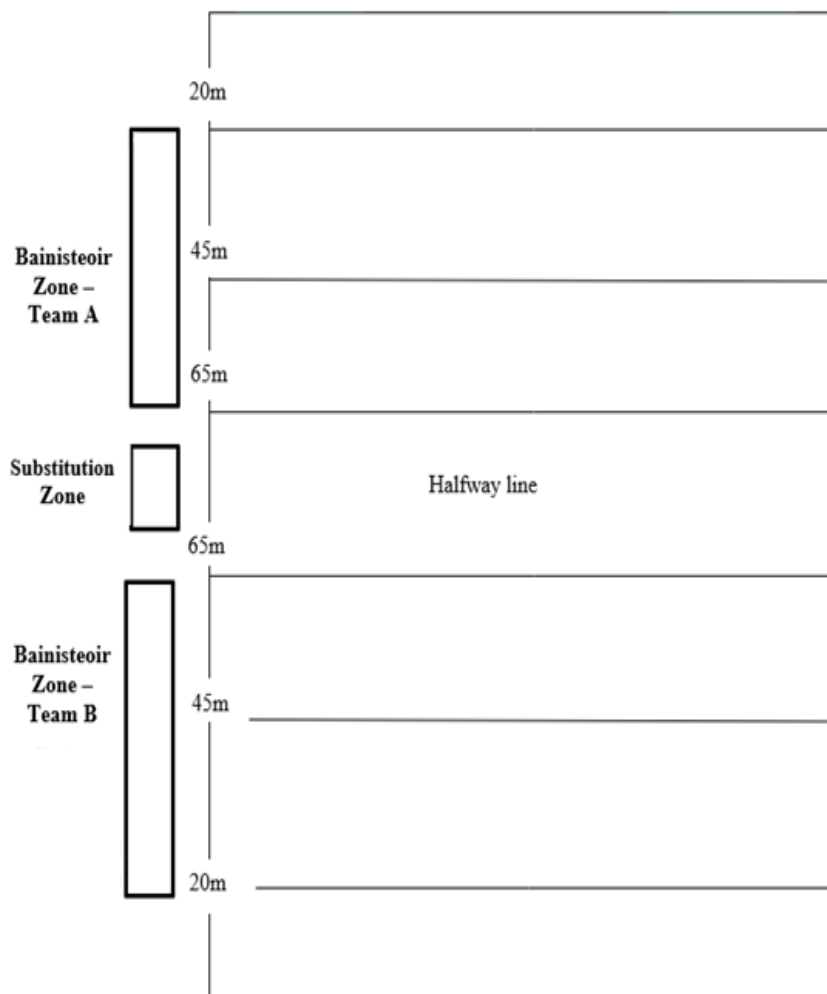
**25.** The inclusion of A.N. Other is not permitted as per Rule 314.

**26.** Girl/Boy mascots are not permitted.

**27.** Accreditation Requests:

- a. Filming or photographing of league matches is not permitted unless permission is obtained from the LGFA. Forms must be filled out with details and permission granted before any filming or photography can take place. The request must come via email to ([jackie.cahill@lgfa.ie](mailto:jackie.cahill@lgfa.ie)) by 1 p.m. on the Thursday of a weekend fixture.  
Failure to meet the conditions outlined will result in a fine of €100.
- b. Any media (local or national) who wish to cover a NFL Round game, must apply directly to Home County PRO. The Home County PRO must keep a record of all media who apply to attend the game.
- c. Any media (local or national) who wish to cover a NFL Semi-Final, Final or Relegation game must apply directly to Jackie Cahill ([jackie.cahill@lgfa.ie](mailto:jackie.cahill@lgfa.ie)) before the Wednesday the week of the game. Only approved media will be permitted to attend the game.

## Pitch Layout



## Game Regulations

### 28. Match Officials

- The Referee is in overall charge of Game Regulations and shall delegate authority to the lines people & fourth official if in place; s/he shall include the fourth official report(s) with their match report as appropriate.
- The Referee has the authority during the game to send any person in repeated breach of these regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.

### 29. Chairperson/Secretary

- Games and Ground regulations apply to all players and officials and adherence to the regulations is the responsibility of the County Chairperson or Secretary, or their designated representative from the County Executive.

### 30. Bainisteoir

- The Bainisteoir shall wear a designated distinctive top and is not permitted to enter the field of play. S/he may move along the sideline from the 65m line to the 20m line as per the “Pitch Layout” in these Regulations.
- The Bainisteoir may not act in any other capacity (e.g. as Maor Uisce, etc.).
- The Bainisteoir also shares the responsibility of ensuring the Games Regulations are respected by players and members of team management and can have their sideline privileges removed for any breaches by players and members of team management.
- The Bainisteoir is not permitted to enter the field of play unless to attend to an injured player with the team medic/physio.
- In the case of joint managers, only one is permitted to move along sideline at any time.

### 31. Water Carriers/Maor Uisce

- **Four** Water Carriers/Maor Uisce are permitted per Team and must **not** be under 16 years of age. They must be **female**. Water carriers must not be members of the management team *or* substitutes.
- The Water Carriers/Maor Uisce should be confident and capable and know exactly what their role on the day is.
- ***Water Carriers may only enter the field of play during a break in play.***
  - **A Break in Play**
  - A break in play is when the ball has gone out of play following a score or a wide or a stoppage in play called by the Referee for medical attention to an injured player. The taking of a free and/or sideline kick does not constitute as a break in play.
- Water Carriers/Maor Uisce must wear distinctive bibs (**supplied by the County Committee**) with the words ‘MAOR UISCE’ in clear large letters and numbered 1, 2, 3, 4.

### 32. Additional Sideline Team Mentor (Meantóir)

As per Rule 307, one other team mentor is permitted on the sideline. This mentor must wear a distinctive bib with the wording Meantóir

- The Meantóir cannot move along the sideline from the 65m line to the 20m line as per the “Pitch Layout” in these Regulations.
- The Meantóir is not permitted to enter the field of play unless to attend to an injured player with the team medic/physio.
- The Meantóir must not be a listed member of the team panel
- The Meantóir may not act as a Maor Uisce.

### **33. Team Officials/ Selectors**

- Team Officials/Selectors must sit in their designated area.
- Team Officials/Selectors may not act as Water Carriers and do not wear bibs.
- Team Officials/Selectors must remain on the same side of pitch to the dugouts
- Team Officials/Selectors cannot interfere with play
- Team Officials/Selectors cannot remain behind the goal area
- Team Officials/Selectors cannot engage in any behaviour which is deemed by the Committee in Charge to interfere with the control of the game by Referee, Linespersons, Umpires and Fourth Official.

### **34. Medics**

- A maximum of two (2) Medical personnel shall be identified on the Officials list and shall sit in the areas designated in Ground Regulations; they shall wear clear identification which must not clash with the playing jerseys of either team and may only enter the field of play to attend to an injured player(s) on the instruction of the referee.
- When not attending to injured players, the Medical Personnel shall remain seated in the designated area on the sideline.
- The Bainisteoir, Meantóir, selectors or team officials cannot act as a medic person, without advance approval from Central Council
- Medical personnel while performing their duties are required to wear PPE.
- The Referee is advised to delegate authority to the Linesperson to assist him/her in the event of an emergency i.e. serious injury on the field of play.

### **35. Substitutes**

- Substitutes are not allowed a kick around at half-time.
- A maximum of three substitutes wearing designated distinctive tops/bibs and without a football(s) may warm up on the sidelines at any one time on their designated half of the field.
- Substitutes should not swap bibs or tops.

### **36. Media Interviews**

- Any Provincial/County Committee Official or Players who make derogatory comments in relation to Games Officials before, during or after a game in interviews may be dealt with under the CODA Rules.
- Team Official(s) or Designated Person(s) (as per the list supplied to Andrew Cunningham prior to the game) may be subject to the withdrawal of sideline privileges for future games

### **37. Distinctive Tops**

- If not wearing the official bib, the distinctive tops as listed above in relation to the Bainisteoir, shall not clash with the main colour of either team.

### **38. Matters not provided for**



- Matters not specifically provided for in these regulations shall be dealt with by the referee and the team of officials on the day, and then by Central Council when reported via the Referee or designated official.

### 39. After-Match Presentation

- The winning team must come to the podium to receive the cup immediately after the final whistle. Post match cool downs, by either team, can only be conducted after the presentation.
- It shall be the privilege of **the captain** of the winning team to accept the cup or trophy on behalf of her team (Rule 305). Only **one** person, the captain is allowed to accept the cup.
- In respect to the opposition and the occasion the winning captain's speech **should not exceed three minutes**.

### 40. Programme Requirements

- Programmes must be produced by the home County for all round games.
- Players shall be numbered in accordance with the Official Programme – an exception will only be made in the case of a valid withdrawal. Such withdrawal shall be notified in advance of the commencement of the game to the Committee in Charge 30 minutes before game.
- AN Other is not considered as a playing member and must not be included. Only 30 players permitted.
- Officials/ starting 15 must be confirmed at least 30 minutes before the start of the game.

## Penalties

41. Penalties for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations shall be at the discretion of the Management Committee. These may include warnings, fines, the withdrawal of sideline privileges for individuals as outlined in these regulations or suspension of individuals as considered appropriate.
42. The **Referee** has the authority during the game to send any person in repeated breach of these Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.
43. The Bainisteoir shares the responsibility of ensuring the Games Regulations are respected by players and members of team management and can have their sideline privileges removed for any breaches by players and members of team management as deemed appropriate by Committee-in-Charge.
44. Maximum fines for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations and Clár an Lae: **High €700; Medium €500; Low €300** (for each reported breach).

45. Where a Meantoir's sideline privileges have been withdrawn, a replacement is permitted to act as the Meantoir.
46. Where Bainisteoir sideline privileges have been withdrawn for the next or subsequent games, the Bainisteoir will be confined to a designated area as decided on by the Management Committee.
47. The frequency and gravity of reported breaches in each game shall be taken into account by the Committee-in-Charge and may lead to next match penalties.
48. The misconduct of any Team Official shall be dealt with as per CODA Rules.
49. Individuals reported for unauthorised entry on to the field of play may be dealt with under CODA Rules.

### **Player and Team Officials**

#### **50. Compression Garments**

- Players can wear compression tops once in same colour as county colours e.g. Cork are red and white so could be red or white.
- Players cannot wear compression shorts or leggings that show below shorts (as per Rule 340).
- Compression tops cannot contain any sponsors name on sleeve unless it is the logo of:
  - (a) The current sponsor as per the County jersey
  - (b) The LGFA licensee,
  - (c) LGFA
  - (d) The county name/crest

**\*\*Additional regulations will apply to any games played in Croke Park. Teams will be notified on qualification**