

# **LEAGUE CHAMPIONS TROPHY RULES**

*(These rules to apply in conjunction with the General Cup Rules.)*

1. The cup shall be called the “Munster Football Association League Champions Trophy” and is the property of the Association.
2. (a) The competition shall be annual and shall be open to the winners of the top Division in the affiliated Junior Leagues but only if the club are still competing in the League, otherwise the runners-up shall participate. *(only 1 team per League shall compete)* All teams must confirm their entry into the competition in writing no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>. Players who play in the FAI Senior Cup or FAI Intermediate Cup or other competitions of a similar status after the 31<sup>st</sup> August shall not be eligible to take part in this competition subject to rule 2c below. A Junior player may take part in not more than a total of five Intermediate or National League grade matches or a combination of matches in these grades during the current season without losing his Junior status subject to rule 2(e). For the purpose of this rule National League matches shall include games in the National League and League Cup. For the purpose of this rule also, a player under 19 years of age who plays in Under 19 League or Cup competitions or a player under 17 years of age who plays in Under 17 League or Cup competitions shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing more than 5 games at this level.
2. (b) For the purpose of these rules the National League season shall be the year in which the Junior season starts.
2. © A Junior player assisting a Junior club in the FAI Senior Cup shall not be adjudged to have lost his Junior status by playing in that competition.
- 2.(d) No player on professional forms is eligible to play in this competition. Any professional player may apply to be reinstated as an Amateur player provided at least 30 days has elapsed since his last match as a Professional. Applications for reinstatement must be forwarded in writing to the FAI Domestic Football Department for consideration by the FAI Domestic committee.
2. (e) Any player who plays more than 5 games at National League or Intermediate level in the current season may be re-graded by his League and notice of this re-grading must be forwarded to the MFA Secretary in writing by the League concerned. No team may play more than 4 players re-graded in the current season in any one Cup game. All applications for re-grading must be made prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> January in accordance with FAI rules.
3. The trophy shall be competed for annually by eleven members of each competing team who are duly qualified according to the rules of the association. While the players in each team may be changed, no individual shall play for more than one team in the competition during any one season, and he must be a registered playing member of the team in their League for which he proposed to compete.
4. The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes. The match must be started at the time appointed by the council, but no protest will be upheld for early or late starting unless the council is satisfied that the result of the match was affected thereby. The referee shall have power to allow extra time for stoppages, his decision thereon to be final. When a game finishes level after 90 minutes, 10 minutes each way extra time is to be played. In the event of a drawn match being still undecided on goals after extra time, the match will be decided by each side taking five penalties. If still undecided, each team shall take penalties alternatively until a result is reached.
5. (a) Clubs favored with a home draw in the semi-finals shall be allowed play that game on their own ground provided the ground is deemed suitable by the Council.
5. (b) In the semi-final ties the net gate receipts, after payment of match officials fee & expenses shall be divided equally between the two competing teams.
6. (a) In the final tie, which shall be hosted by the League of the home team on a neutral ground in the home teams area, the net gate receipts, after payment of approved expenses shall be divided equally between the two competing teams.
6. (b) The match officials for the semi-finals and final shall be selected from the League panel of referees of the home team by the MFA in conjunction with the FAI Senior Referees assessor for the Province.