

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS 2024-25 SEASON

Date Sent	6 th October 2024
Subject(s)	Division 3 Competition Rules

This Email was sent to all Clubs with Division 3 teams

Dear all

Just reaching out following events over the last few days.

It is clear that the rules for Division 3 this season have come as a surprise to many, especially those who haven't read them. To be clear, this is no longer a development/youth league, this is an adult league that sits just below the National League competition and is administered as such by the National League Management Committee. Division 3 doesn't have the full rules of the National League but, given this is an adult competition, rules still exist – and which apply to all.

I attach again a copy of the competition rules and would strongly urge you to read the contents. Specifically, please note the following:

Player Eligibility – The process that needs to be followed is laid out clearly in rules 3.2 and 3.3. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that any player who has not followed the process in 3.2, or if the club's admin on JustGo has not added them to their NL team, the player is ineligible. This process applies to all players. Under 18s are not exempt, and exceptions cannot be made. These rules apply to all players and teams taking part in the competition. If a team plays an ineligible player in a match, that team will be subject to forfeiting the match.

The deadline for registering players is laid out in the competition rules, for which no exceptions are made. The registration process includes the allocation to NL teams on JustGo.

Referee Eligibility – Refereeing requirements are laid out in rule 6.6. However, just sitting the Level 1 course isn't enough – referees who do sit that course are instructed to complete a Safeguarding 1 course and receive Garda Vetting clearance before they can stand in matches. Again, any team who appoints a referee who has not done the above will be subject to forfeiting the match.

As I put in virtually every email I send, I ask that if anyone has any queries they can ask (and should ask asap). A number of D3 matches were postponed this weekend because of player eligibility issues, but for those who didn't check and had ineligible players, those matches have been forfeited.

The NLMC makes no apology for the consistency it takes in applying the competition rules. They apply to everyone and, in turn, everyone expects all teams to be subject to them. Any exception that is made for one player is automatically unfair on every other player and team – and nobody wants that.

Please let me know asap if you have any queries on the above.

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