



SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

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1. Mission Statement

Connacht Schools Rugby aims to, through a unified effort of the Connacht Branch, Schools Committee, students, parents and community, provide a safe, vibrant and encouraging environment which will challenge each individual player to fulfil their potential allowing them to develop both rugby and life skills that reach beyond the game. We aim to enhance the players abilities to deal confidently with the mental and physical demands of the game whilst developing leadership, decision making, teamwork and sportsmanship, the core values of Rugby Union. It is important to provide opportunities for students to make new friends and promote lifelong companionship among the Connacht Schools Community. The Connacht Schools Committee wish to increase participation, promote and develop the game of Rugby Football in all Schools across the Province in accordance with the Laws of the game promulgated by the IRFU under the guidance of the Education Act.



2. DEFINITIONS

Throughout this Schools Information Pack, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 2.1 **“The competition”** refers to, as the wording of the document requires; the Schools Senior Premier League or the Junior Development Cup or any other competition organised by the Connacht Schools Committee and approved by the Rugby Standing Committee, to be a legitimate Schools competition.
- 2.2 The **“Branch”** means the Connacht Branch of the I.R.F.U (CBIRFU)
- 2.3 The **“Rugby Committee”** means the Rugby Standing Committee of the Connacht Branch I.R.F.U.
- 2.4 The **“Competition Co-ordinator”** means the appointed co-ordinator of that specific competition as appointed by the Schools Committee. The appointment will be approved by the Branch Rugby Committee in accordance with Branch Bye Laws.
- 2.5 A **“Bona fide Schoolboy/girl”** is one who has been continually in full regular attendance during school hours (except in case of illness) from the 1st of October of the current season; is on the Department of Education and Science October Roll lists and following the recognised Department of Education Syllabus; is entered for the relevant Department Examination and is in full and regular attendance for the entire academic year; is a registered player with his/her school and is underage (1st Jan) for each competition.
- 2.6 The term **“Competitions”** will be taken to mean any competition under the control of the respective competition co-ordinator with the approval of the Schools Committee and the Rugby Committee.
- 2.7 **“The Disciplinary Committee”** shall mean the Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch to deal with any disciplinary matters.
- 2.8 **“The Appeals Committee”** shall mean the Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Branch under the Bye Laws of the Branch to deal with any appeals.



- 2.9 **“The Executive Committee”** means the Executive Committee of the Connacht Branch.
- 2.10 **“The Schools Executive Committee”** means the Connacht Schools Chairman, Honorary Schools Secretary and the five Executive Officers as voted for by the School representatives.
- 2.11 **“Official Connacht Schools Competitions”** mean competitions that have been notified to the Schools Committee and sanctioned by the CBIRFU.
- 2.12 **“Schools Emergency Committee”** shall be the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and one other Executive Officer who has no links/affiliation with either school involved.

3. SCHOOLS LEAGUE & CUP Rules and Regulations

- 3.1 The Cup competitions shall be called **The Connacht Schools Senior Development Cup, The Connacht Schools Senior Cup, The Connacht Schools Emerging Cup, The Connacht Schools Junior Development Cup and the Connacht Schools Junior Cup, or the relevant name of each cup.**
- 3.2 The Cup shall be open to competition annually to all Schools affiliated to the Connacht Branch.
- 3.3 A **bona-fide** schoolboy/girl is one who:
- (a) has been continually in full regular attendance during school hours (except in case of illness) from the 1st of October of the season;
 - (b) is on the Department of Education and Science October Roll lists and following the recognised Department of Education Syllabus;
 - (c) is entered for the relevant Department Examination and is in full regular attendance until the end of the academic year;
 - (d) is a registered player with his School and is underage (1st Jan) for the Cup competition.



- 3.4 No Schoolboy/girl shall be allowed to play in the competition for more than one School in the same season unless in exceptional circumstances, and with the written approval of the Schools Committee.
- 3.5 The first drawn School has home advantage unless written notification of private mutual agreements between Schools has been submitted to the Schools Hon. Secretary and the Branch office. All games to be played on or before designated dates. **If a School or Schools cannot agree on a date the Schools emergency committee shall fix the date or a subsequent decision will be made.**
- 3.6 The home team is responsible for organising the referee. Please contact the Connacht Referees Association c/o The Connacht Branch on (091-561568 and also Mr. Mick Roche the referee Coordinator for Schools fixtures (0868162428). 72 hours notice is required. Both teams are responsible for contacting the opposition upon receipt of this draw to organise the fixture. Problems with any fixture are to be notified to the relevant coordinator and to the Schools Hon. Secretary immediately.
- 3.7 The home team is responsible for providing a properly marked pitch (roped off), match balls, medical cover and also to provide changing facilities with showers for visiting team and match officials. **Copies of the team sheet inclusive of registration numbers and signed by the School Principal must be handed to the opposition and the referee prior to kick off.**
- 3.8 A league or cup match may only be postponed with the approval of the Executive League / Cup Co-ordinator and the Schools Secretary. When a match is postponed it must be replayed within seven days on a date acceptable to both sides. If a date cannot be arranged by the two schools involved it will be set by the Schools Secretary and the Executive League / Cup co-ordinator. If a match is in doubt due to inclement weather, a pitch inspection must be carried 24hrs prior to the fixture and a decision made. Thus Schools must have 24hrs notice if a match is going to be postponed. In the event of inclement weather rendering pitches unplayable home advantage may have to be forfeited to ensure fixtures take place (the home



team may have to travel to the opposition if their pitch is playable). To avoid forfeiting home advantage a second pitch in the locality should be placed on standby.

- 3.9 **In the event of a draw no additional time may be played.** The match shall be fixed for a new date within seven days of the drawn game. The venue for the replay shall now change to the visiting Schools venue. This date is to be agreed between both coaches prior to departure from the grounds of the initial match. The Hon. Secretary and Cup / League coordinator are to be informed of the drawn game and the date of the new fixture. A school failing to play-off a tie or replay on the stipulated date may be adjudged to have forfeited the match. **If the replayed match ends in a draw then the following criteria shall be used to generate a winner. 1) The team who has scored the most tries in the current tie, including the drawn match and replay, will be deemed the winner.**
- 3.10 Disputes over fixtures will be resolved by the Schools Executive Committee. Protests / objections and appeals must be lodged in writing with the Hon. Secretary of the Connacht Schools Committee within seventy-two hours after the match (or failure / issue) to which they relate. Protests / objections or appeals must be accompanied by the appropriate fee of €200 deposit for protests / objections and €500 deposit for appeals which sum shall be forfeited should the protest or appeal be frivolous.
- 3.11 The winning team coach is responsible for notifying the Schools Hon. Secretary and the Branch Administrator of the result of the particular fixture. In the event of a draw it is the home teams responsibility.
- 3.12 The final of each Cup competition will take place at a neutral venue on a date the Schools Committee has fixed.
- 3.13 In case of any inconsistency between these regulations and the Bye Laws of the Branch, the said Bye Laws shall prevail.
- 3.14 Once a School has filled in the **Connacht Schools Competition Form (appendix 1)**, they are then committed to play in that competition. Failure to do so will result in sanction 5.4(4).



3.15 Schools will be penalised for holding up competitions without any legitimate reasons, and will face sanctions listed in section 5.4. The Schools Committee will set sanctions as it sees fit.

3.16 Each School may enter a squad of 23 players. This will give each School a bench of eight players, five of those players may be used in the match. This rule stands for all Connacht Schools Competitions.

3.17 If a team is unable to start a match with the required number of front row players and substitutes, then the fixture shall go ahead with uncontested scrums and the following shall be the consequences:

If the team who are unable to field a front row win, they are entitled to a maximum of two points (unless they score four or more tries in which case they will be entitled to three points)

If the team who are unable to field a front row lose but score four tries, or lose by less than 7, they are entitled to two points.

The opposing team are entitled to a MIMIMUM of two points even if they lose without four scoring four tries or being within 7 points.

If the opposing team lose and score four tries they are entitled to three points.

If the opposing team lose and are within 7 points they are entitled to three points.

If the opposing team lose, score four tries and are within 7 points they are entitled to four points.

If there is a draw the team unable to field a front row shall be entitled to one point and the opposing team shall be entitled to three points plus a bonus point should they score four tries or more.

If a School fails to nominate the required number of players capable of playing in front row positions so that after injuries to the front row, the captain of that team declares that he has no front row replacements, the



match will continue with non-contested scrums, and sanctions and/or penalties as provided above shall apply.

If a School cannot satisfy the front row requirements and the above laws are then applied, the said School will provide the Schools Executive Committee with a written explanation as to why they were unable to field the required front row players.

Should a school find themselves in the position of being unable to field the requisite front row players on a second occasion then the matter will be investigated by the Schools Executive Committee and further sanctions and or penalties may be applied.

NOTE: IRB Law 3.5

3.18

SUITABLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PLAYERS IN THE FRONT ROW

(a) The Paragraph below indicates the numbers of suitably trained and experienced players for the front row when nominating different numbers of players.

Number of Players & Number of Suitably Trained and Experienced Players

15 or less - 3 players who can play in the front row

16, 17 or 18 - 4 players who can play in the front row

19, 20, 21, 22, 5 players who can play in the front row

A full squad of 23, where possible, 6 players who can play in the front row.

(b) Each player in the front row and any potential replacement(s) must be suitably trained and experienced.

(c) When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

(d) The replacement of a front row forward must come from suitably trained and experienced players who started the match or from the nominated replacements.



- 3.19 Lifting at the line out is permitted from U16 onward. The grip is to be at the knee and buttocks. Suitable strapping and use of lifting blocks is permitted.

4. SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

The official school competitions for Connacht Schools are listed herewith:

1. The Connacht Schools Senior Cup
2. The Connacht Schools Senior Development Cup
3. The Connacht Schools Junior Cup
4. The Connacht Schools Junior Development Cup
5. The Connacht Schools Junior Emerging Cup
6. The Connacht Senior Premier League
7. The Connacht Senior Regional League
8. The Connacht Schools U18 Premier League
9. The Connacht Junior Premier League
10. The Connacht Junior Regional League
11. The Connacht Junior Development League
12. The Connacht U14 Premier League
13. The Connacht U14 Regional Leagues
14. The Galway City Schools Cup
15. The Lowry Cup
16. The Phelan Cup
17. The Connacht Junior Sevens Cup
18. The Connacht Senior Sevens Cup

5. SANCTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

- 5.1 All competitions will be managed by the respective Competition Co-ordinator as appointed by the Schools Committee and approved by the Rugby Committee of the Branch under the Branch Bye Laws.
- 5.2 The competitions stated in this document are open to all schools affiliated to the Branch.



- 5.3 Any school intending to enter any of the competitions mentioned in this document must pay their affiliation fee Euro 50 and complete the Connacht Schools Competitions Form (appendix 1) by 1st June. The above must be returned to Hon Schools Secretary by this date (1st June) so that Season Fixture List may be drawn up prior to Schools starting the new Autumn Term.
- 5.4 The Schools Committee has authority to sanction schools that fail to comply with the above mentioned rules and regulations, these sanctions are listed below:
1. The loss of home advantage
 2. Loss of match with full points awarded to the opposition team.
 3. A reduction of points
 4. Suspension / Expulsion from Competition
 5. A school fine of up to and including Euro 300
 6. Loss of International Ticket Allocation
- 5.5 If a Disciplinary Committee has to be formed to deal with any breach of these rules & regulations they will have the power to impose further sanctions and / or penalties as they see fit.
- 5.6 All draws for all cup competitions must be made by the Schools Committee and submitted to the Rugby Committee for ratification. Each round of each respective cup must be completed before any match in the next round proceeds unless the Schools Committee decides otherwise.
- 5.7 All matches played in Connacht Schools Competitions, including postponed matches and replays, will be played on dates and times set by the Schools Committee. This committee will have the authority to fix, change or postpone matches.
- 5.8 **In any Cup Competition, in the event of a draw no additional time may be played.** The match shall be fixed for a new date within seven days of the drawn game. The venue for the replay shall now change to the visiting Schools venue; they must contact the referee co-ordinator to arrange suitable match officials. This date must be agreed between both coaches prior to departure from the grounds of the initial match. The Hon. Secretary and Cup coordinator are to be informed of the drawn game and the date of the new fixture immediately. A school failing to play-off a tie or replay on the stipulated date may be adjudged to have forfeited the match. **If the replayed match ends in a draw then the following criteria shall be used to generate**



a winner. 1) The team who has scored the most tries in the current campaign 2) The team who scored the first try in the replay.

- 5.9 If a school fails to play a scheduled fixture, replay or postponed match by the agreed date on the fixture list, or, the scheduled date it will be adjudged that the school has forfeited the match.
- 5.10 Schools must give priority to matches within the Connacht Schools fixture list. Schools are not to rearrange fixtures within the Connacht fixture list to play challenge matches with schools outside the Province. In the case of non-compliance with this directive schools will face sanctions.
- 5.11 The fixture date and venue of any Official Connacht Schools fixture must not be changed without the consent of the Schools Committee. If any school(s) contravene this rule they will face sanctions as laid out in section 5.4 of this document.
- 5.12 The referee for each competitive match will be appointed by the Connacht Schools Referee Co-ordinator. If due to injury or medical conditions the referee is unable to complete the match the referee co-ordinator will appoint a referee to complete the match. If the referee co-ordinator is not contactable then the referee will appoint a suitable person. If he/she cannot do so then the home team must appoint a suitable replacement.
- 5.13 All Connacht Schools Competitions will be supervised and governed in accordance with the rules and regulations set out by the IRB the IRFU and the CBIRFU.
- 5.14 All squad members of the both teams that make the final of any official Connacht Schools Competition shall be presented with winners and runner up medals respectively.
- 5.15 A trophy/shield will be presented to each winning school for each competition won every season. The Schools Hon. Secretary will be named as the legal guardian of each cup/shield which will be signed into the care of the winning Schools Principal / Headmaster on completion of a trophy document (appendix 2).



6. ELIGIBILITY OF SCHOOLS & PLAYERS

- 6.1 To be eligible to enter Connacht Schools Competitions a school must be affiliated to the Connacht Branch. To become affiliated a school must have paid the affiliation fee. This fee must be paid by June 1st for affiliation and entry into the next seasons competitions.
- 6.2 The Connacht Schools Committee will have the power and final say in which schools are eligible for each respective competition to ensure that Schools are playing in competitions that match their capability.
- 6.3 In the event of mitigating circumstances such as a bona fide schoolboy/girl not being able to fulfil regular school hours due to illness he/she will not be disqualified from Connacht Schools Competitions as long as they can produce a medical certificate to explain their absence from school.
- 6.4 No player will be permitted to play in any Connacht Schools Competition unless they are registered with a school and have been issued with an IRFU Player Registration Number.
- 6.4 No player shall be permitted to play Connacht Schools Competitions for more than one school in any one season unless in exceptional circumstances, and with the written approval of the Schools.
- 6.5 A school has the right to apply to the Connacht Schools Committee for the clearance of a player, who is otherwise ineligible to play, specifically outlining the players circumstances.
- 6.6 No player, at any age level, who plays from the start of any match shall be eligible to play for any other team within 48 hours, in the interest of that players welfare.
- 6.7 Team sheets, paper copies or electronic, must be signed/authenticated by the Coach, Manager or Principal/Head teacher. One copy must be made available for the opposition team and one for the referee. The team sheet must contain the full name of each player, date of birth, unique IRFU Player Registration numbers of all squad members. All dual status and front row players must be indicated on the team sheet. There will be automatic sanctions for non-compliance.



7. APPEALS & PROTESTS

- 7.1 All schools, coaches and players competing in Connacht Schools Competitions shall be deemed to have accepted and therefore be bound by the rules and regulations in this document.
- 7.2 In the event of conflict between these regulations and any other rules and regulations, the bye-laws of Connacht Branch IRFU (CBIRFU) shall prevail.
- 7.3 The Connacht Schools Committee will have full responsibility for the operation and control of the respective competitions played by Connacht Schools.
- 7.4 Connacht Schools Committee will have the authority and power to make relevant decisions, as it sees fit, for the correct administration and running of the competitions under its jurisdiction and the authority to impose relevant sanctions as permitted by the rules and regulations laid out in this document.
- 7.5 When the Schools Committee or Emergency Committee has to make a decision each committee will hold a full fair hearing with a decision being communicated to each party within one hour of the end of such a hearing.
- 7.6 Any appeal or protest from any decision made from these rules and regulations must be made in writing and submitted to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee and the Hon. Schools Secretary within three working days of the event that gave rise to the protest / appeal. See rule 3.10
- 7.7 All appeals / protests must be in writing and signed by the Head of Rugby / Teacher in charge of Rugby in the school.

All protests / objection must contain the following:

- (a) The date of the relevant match or decision
- (b) Clear and specific details of the objection. If the objection is in relation to a player it must include his/her name and position.

All appeals must contain the following:



- (a) The date of the decision the appeal is against
 - (b) What and why you are specifically challenging
 - (c) The specific grounds of what you are challenging
 - (d) If an appeal is made on behalf of a player by his/her school it must only be done with the prior written consent of the players' parent/guardian if he/she is under 18 or the players consent if he/she is over 18.
- 7.8 All protest / objections must be accompanied by a deposit of Euro 200. All appeals must be accompanied by a deposit for Euro 500. All monies must accompany the written objection / appeal. These payments will be refunded if the objection / appeal is not deemed to be frivolous.
- 7.9 No protest / objection or appeal shall be accepted from any person who is not a member of a school affiliated to the Connacht Branch. If such a person wanted to appeal / object any decision made by the Schools Committee, they must do so through the relevant Head of Rugby / School Principal.
- 7.10 No person will be allowed to be a member of a Committee / Sub-Committee hearing an objection or appeal if they are in any way affiliated, or have been affiliated with the parties involved.
- 7.11 The Branch will forward a copy of any objection or appeal to the School, Player or Person directly involved within three working days.
- 7.12 After the first decision is made by the Connacht Schools Committee, any appeal of such decision shall be heard by the Appeals Committee.
- 7.13 It will be the responsibility of the Branch to arrange for the hearing of any appeal to be heard as quickly as practicably possible. The Branch shall decide the time and place of the hearing as long as any School, Player or Person affected has a notification time of not less than 72 hours. Communication must be in writing by letter or e-mail. The notification period may be altered accordingly as long as both parties consent.
- 7.14 The hearing committee must permit any School, Player or person directly involved to submit evidence, call witnesses and make representations at the hearing.



- 7.15 No School, Player or Person directly involved shall be entitled to be represented by more than two persons, in addition to their legal representative, attending the hearing. If legal representation is necessary, then at least 48 hours' notice must be given to the Appeals Committee, School, Player or other person directly involved / affected by the appeal / objection.
- 7.16 Subject to the Laws of the Land and Natural Justice, the procedures to be adopted at the hearing shall be entirely at the discretion of the Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee shall be entitled to call such witnesses and seek Legal advice as it sees fit.
- 7.17 The decision of the Hearing committee shall be notified after the Hearing and where appropriate in writing, to all parties directly affected as soon as possible or orally directly after the Hearing.
- 7.18 The Appeals Committee hearing the appeal shall be final and binding on all parties. No appeal to the Executive Committee or to the IRFU shall be permitted. Under circumstances where a school is suspended or expelled, an appeal may be sent to the Misconduct Appeals Committee of the IRFU.
- 7.19 In any Connacht Schools Competition where there is a breach or non-observance of any regulation, law, code of conduct, misconduct, disciplinary matter, failure to fulfil a fixture, non-compliance with any regulation or bye-law of the Branch / Schools Committee or withdrawal from a pre entered Connacht Schools Competition the schools committee shall be entitled to impose all or any of the following sanctions or penalties on the offending School, Player or direct person(s) involved:
- (a) The imposition of a fine
 - (b) The forfeiture of or the granting of the points for the match.
 - (c) Suspension or expulsion of the Team, School, Player or Coach from the competition for as long as it sees fit.
 - (d) Require the match to be replayed at such a time and at such a venue as it sees fit.
 - (e) The loss of as many League / Cup points as may be determined.
- Any other sanctions may be dealt with as outlined in section 5.4.
- 7.20 The Connacht Schools Committee shall be entitled to make decisions on such matters not provided for in this document. No proceedings or decisions made pursuant to these regulations shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any



defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided that there has been no miscarriage of justice.

- 7.21 The Connacht Branch Disciplinary Regulations will apply to the hearings of appeals.
- 7.22 The Connacht Branch shall be entitled to make decisions on all matters not provided for by this document.
- 7.23 The Connacht Schools Committee shall be entitled to make relevant changes and amendments to this document as they see fit.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS

A Player shall accept and observe the authority and decisions of referees, touch judges, match officials and all other rugby Disciplinary bodies, subject to IRB Regulation 17 and shall not use crude or abusive language or gestures towards referees, touch judges, other match officials or spectators.

- 8.1 Schoolboys/girls are expected to play rugby for enjoyment and to become part of the Connacht Schools Community.
- 8.2 You are to respect the “Game of Rugby” and always play within the Laws of the Game.
- 8.3 Accept the referee’s decision and let your Captain or Coach ask relevant questions. Never, under any circumstances should you abuse the referee.
- 8.4 Always try your best and be committed to the game, your team mates and school.
- 8.5 Be a good sport. Acknowledge good play whether it be your team or the opposition.
- 8.6 Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- 8.7 Respect your opponents. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or harass any other player. Never abuse opposition players on or off the pitch (including cyber abuse).



- 8.8 Rugby is a team sport so make sure you fully co-operate with teachers, coaches and team mates.
- 8.9 At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match. Show respect for your opposition by lining up and shaking hands before you leave the pitch.
- 8.11 Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Never intentionally break the laws of the game to injure your opponent.
- 8.12 Winning and losing is part of sport; win with humility and lose with dignity.
- 8.13 Always remember that you are representing your team, school, family and the Game of Rugby, always take all possible steps to prevent the game being brought into disrepute.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT – COACHES

- 9.1 Remember that as a coach of a School Team you are acting in “Loco Parentis” and that you have a duty of care to all your players.
- 9.2 Always lead by example – schoolboys/girls need a coach that they can respect and look up to as a role model.
- 9.3 Be generous with your praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match.
- 9.4 Educate your players that the Laws of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
- 9.5 Ensure that you are appropriately qualified by gaining the relevant coaching accreditation for your particular level.
- 9.6 Be reasonable with your demands on your players, they are school children.



- 9.7 Encourage an ethos of respect for all participants; team mates, opponents, coaches and match officials.
- 9.8 Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.
- 9.9 Always follow professional medical advice in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- 9.10 You are advised to develop simple rules / policies for your school to agree procedures regarding discipline, injury prevention & treatment, team selection etc.
- 9.11 Always be responsible and ensure you uphold the ethos of the game, CBIRFU and IRFU.
- 9.12 Support the IRFU Child Welfare Policy and all its policies regarding Children in Sport.
- 9.13 Do not use profane language on the side line or harass referees, opposition coaches or players.
- 9.14 As a coach you must comply with the laws of the Game, the regulations of the IRB, the regulations of the IRFU, the regulations of the CBIRFU and the rules of any competition that your School participates in.

10. CODE OF CONDUCT – SUPPORTERS

- 10.1 There shall not be any provocative chanting, singing, swearing or gestures towards the opposition team, coaching staff or supporters.
- 10.2 There should be silence from all supporters during placekicking.
- 10.3 There shall be no unnecessary noisy instruments other than musical instruments.
- 10.4 The throwing of any object / missile is strictly prohibited. Any supporter caught breaching this rule will be dealt with severely.



- 10.5 Under no circumstances should supporters attempt to enter the area occupied by opposition supporters.
- 10.6 All supporters must remain outside the roped off area / railings for the entire match.
- 10.7 Supporters will not be permitted in or near the dressing rooms at any time.
- 10.8 Supporters who damage property e.g. seats, advertising hoardings, equipment etc. Schools will be held financially responsible for any such damage and charged as necessary.
- 10.9 All supporters should return home or back to their respective schools as soon as the game is over without confronting the opposition supporters and without inconveniencing the general public.
- 10.10 No persons, other than the team and match officials may enter the roped / railed off playing area before or after the game.
- 10.11 The consumption of alcohol and or use of drugs at or on the way to venues is strictly prohibited.
- 10.12 Schools must make every effort to control all pupils, past and present, at matches.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT –ABUSE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

This section has been written in conjunction with the ARCB (Association of Referees Connacht Branch).

All Schools are responsible for behaviour and conduct of players, coaches, pupils and supporters towards Match Officials, and are therefore are expected to take the necessary steps to protect officials from any type of abuse.

Abuse of Match Officials shall be defined as:

“individual perception of personal degradation be it mental or physical, before, during and after the match including but not limited to:

(a) verbal or physical assault



- (b) *intimidatory conduct*
- (c) *racial, religious or sexual harassment*

The IRB Code of Conduct Regulation states that a person:

- (a) Shall not abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge or other Match Official whether on or off the field of play (20.01.10)
- (b) Shall not use crude or abusive language or gesture towards referees, touch judges, or other Match Officials or spectators (20.1.11)

As a result of the above, the Connacht Schools Committee state that:

- 11.1 No person shall abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge or any Match Official (including Stewards or Marshalls) whether on or off the field of play and on School or Club grounds.
- 11.2 No person shall use crude, racial, religious, sexist or abusive language or gesture towards referees, touch judges or any other match official (including Stewards or Marshalls)
- 11.3 Referees, touch judges or any other match official, are entitled to request the removal of any person from the school / club grounds for behaviour that they deem to be inappropriate or in breach of these regulations.

All Affiliated Schools are expected to adhere to these rules and regulations at all times. All Affiliated Schools are expected to commit to these regulations to ensure that all Match Officials' are protected for abuse.

Failure to comply will result in the sanctions detailed in section 5.4 of this document being implemented. It may also lead to players, coaches or schools being brought before the Branch Disciplinary Committee.



12. ALLOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Each season International tickets will be allocated to Affiliated Schools for home International Matches played at the Aviva Stadium. Tickets for Six Nations Internationals will be available.

Ticket allocation for these matches will be governed by the following criteria:

- 12.1 All schools must be affiliated to the CBIRFU and have paid their affiliation fee in full prior to the allocation of tickets.
- 12.2 All affiliated schools must have all their players registered. Each school must ensure that player registration is updated annually.
- 12.3 The disciplinary records of each school shall be used as a determining criterion.
- 12.4 The total number of teams playing in official Connacht Schools Competitions shall be used as a determining criterion.
- 12.5 The schools involvement and attendance at Connacht Schools Committee meetings shall be used as a determining criterion. Schools that are actively involved in the committee and regularly attend meetings will be given precedence.
- 12.6 Ticket allocations will be made based on the previous season's involvement in Connacht Schools Competitions.
- 12.7 If a school continuously fails to fulfil its League or Cup fixtures or holds up competitions during the season, its allocation will be redistributed among other schools.



13. CONNACHT SCHOOLS PHOTOGRAPHIC POLICY

This is a sensitive area and the Schools Committee do not want any children or parents to have any concerns. Therefore, we have written a policy take into consideration the IRFU's Guidelines on video/photographic images.

Overarching Principles

Connacht school's photography policy derives from the IRFU's Policy. The basic principles are:

- **Permission:** Every parent or carer has the option to decline permission for the taking and publication of images/videos of a young person in their care
- **Appropriate Circumstances & Attire:** Photography/video must be undertaken in appropriate circumstances. All young people must be appropriately attired at all times
- **Publication and Identification:** Publication should not be done in such a way that young people are identifiable; images should be published without accompanying sensitive personal details such as the address of a young person.
- **Focus of the Photography:** The imagery should focus on the activity rather than any particular individual
- **Equity Policy:** Wherever possible, imagery should reflect the diversity of the young people making up schools team.
- **Third Party Photography:** Whenever professional photographers or outside media are invited or commissioned, the School will require identification and safeguarding measures to ensure only the proper use and dissemination of imagery

Circumstances of photography/video

Photographs/videos of junior players are usually taken in the following contexts. This list is not exhaustive.

- Coaching - video may be filmed and used thereafter for coaching purposes



- Action photographs - general photographs of players during a game
- Team photographs - posed group photos of teams
- Awards and ceremonies
- Press coverage - local, national and specialist rugby media photographs/video
- Tours and festivals - at other Schools and grounds which will be subject to the host Schools policy permission.

All parents/guardians are asked to indicate on their son's Schools Registration Forms if they do not consent to the taking and use of photographs/videos featuring their children throughout the season. If consent is not withheld, the parent or carers permission continues throughout the season, terminating at its conclusion, unless the parent or carer notifies the Teacher in Charge of rugby or Team Manager / Coach, in writing, of a change of mind.

Focus and content of the imagery

Images taken by parents, carers, supporters and coaches at the School's grounds, and at away games, tours and festivals where the host School applies no stricter policy, should comply with the following restrictions:

1. The School adopts the IRFU guidelines on appropriate dress for young players. These recommend that all young people featuring in photographs/videos be appropriately dressed with outer clothing/ garments covering their torso between the bottom of the neck and the thighs i.e. a minimum of a vest/shirt and shorts. For formal photographs players should be properly dressed in School kit.
2. Wherever possible the School also undertakes to reflect the IRFU Equity Policy. Accordingly, photographs/videos should represent the diversity of young people participating in rugby at the School.
3. Photographs/video should focus on the activity rather than any particular young person. Where possible photography of young people should concentrate on small groups of players.

Sensitive Information

Photographs/videos should not include nor be accompanied by sensitive information which



might enable a stranger to identify the players. Such information might include, but is not limited to, the players full name, age, address, email address, telephone number or such personal details of the parent/guardian or the parents/guardians personal details.

Publication by the School of Imagery

The School must have general parent or carer permission to use an image of a young person (see above). When such permission has been given, the School may publish photographs/videos in its own materials or via third party media organisations such as the local press. Such publication of photographs/videos will not include any sensitive information described or identified above of the young people or of their parents or carers.

Where the reason for publication is an individual achievement (i.e. a players selection for a representative side, triumph over adversity), particular attention will be paid to ensuring specific permission is also secured from the young person to use their image.

Publication by Others of Imagery

The School must have general parent or carer permission to use an image of a young person (see above).

Photography/Video by the Media or Third Party

The School reserves the right to invite photographers from the local media or rugby specialist press to record the Clubs events. If it does so it undertakes that it will

1. Require any such photographers to register upon arrival at a School event; to carry with them, at all times, bona fide and appropriate identification which must be produced on request and to abide by the overarching principles set out above
2. Inform parents and participants that one or more media photographers will be present.
3. Not approve/allow unsupervised access to the players, one-to-one photography sessions with players, nor photo sessions outside the event or at any players home.

Use of photographic/video equipment by parents/guardians and adult supporters

Parents and carers are advised that if they have concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography/filming these should be reported to the Teacher in Charge of rugby / Team Manager, an event organiser or to a member of the Connacht Schools Committee or Branch



member so that these may be recorded and dealt with in the same manner as any other child protection concern.

If parents, carers or adult supporters wish to take images of a game, session, or event at a School ground, they must ascertain whether any member of the squad has had permission withheld for photography; at any other ground they must also be prepared to comply with the policy of the host School.

In addition, wherever the School's young players are playing, photographers may be required to identify themselves and state their purpose for photography/videoing an event. They must, if advised that any visiting or host Schools young player withholds permission for photography, cease doing so immediately unless able to come to an arrangement with that players parent or guardian.

The Connacht Schools Committee / School reserve the right to contact authorities in the event that any individual refuses to stop taking photographs/video or refuses to identify themselves upon challenge by the Committee / School.



APPENDIX 1: CONNACHT SCHOOLS COMPETITION FORM

By completing this official form, we at _____ are committing to playing in the following Connacht Schools Competitions. We have read the Connacht Schools Rules and Regulations and are fully aware of the sanctions that may follow if we now pull out of any competition.

Please indicate by ticking alongside the competitions you intend to enter.

1. The Connacht Schools Senior Cup
2. The Connacht Schools Senior Development Cup
3. The Connacht Schools Junior Cup
4. The Connacht Schools Junior Development Cup
5. The Connacht Senior Premier League
6. The Connacht Senior Regional League
7. The Connacht U18 Premier League
8. The Connacht Junior Premier League
9. The Connacht Junior Regional League
10. The Connacht U14 League
11. The Galway City Schools Cup
12. The Lowry Cup
13. The Phelan Cup
14. The Connacht Junior Sevens Cup



15. The Connacht Senior Sevens Cup

Head of Rugby _____

Date:

School Principal _____

Date:

School Stamp

Verified by Hon Schools Secretary: _____

Date:



APPENDIX 2: CUP ACCEPTANCE FORM

I _____, Principal / Headmaster of _____
_____ School / College acknowledge that we been declared winners of the
_____ for the season of 20_____.

I hereby accept the trophy that accompanies this title and take it into the ownership and
care of _____ School / College.

I will return this trophy to the Hon. Connacht Schools Secretary _____

On or before the 1st February 20____ in as good order and condition as I received it.

I understand that if I lose or damage this trophy I will be financially responsible for its repair
Replacement.

Signed & Verified:

Hon. Connacht Schools Secretary: _____

School Headmaster / Principal: _____

School Stamp:



APPENDIX 3: ABUSE OF MATCH OFFICIALS REPORT FORM

REFEREES CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON MATCH ABUSE

TEAMS: HOME: _____ AWAY: _____

RESULT: HOME: _____ AWAY: _____

AGE GRADE: _____ DATE: _____

VENUE: _____

REFEREE: _____ TJ1, TJ2 4TH _____

NAME OF OFFENDER: _____

OFFENDERS SCHOOL: _____

DETAILS OF OFFENCE: _____

WHITNESSES OF THE INCIDENT: _____

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

