

2026 Club Licensing Manual – Changes Document

(UEFA application requirements removed)

2026 Manual (Domestic Only)	2025 Manual
 <p>Men's Club Licensing Manual Based on UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Sustainability Regulations, Edition 2024, The FAI Constitution and Regulations contained within the most recent FAI Handbook and Stadium Regulations. Version 8.6 Approved by the FAI Board on the</p> <p>2026 LEAGUE OF IRELAND SEASON Men's Premier Division Men's First Division</p>	 <p>Men's Club Licensing Manual Based on UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Sustainability Regulations Edition 2024, The FAI Constitution and Regulations contained within the most recent FAI Handbook and UEFA Stadium Regulations. Version 7.6 Approved by the FAI Board on the 11th of December 2024</p> <p>2025 LEAGUE OF IRELAND SEASON Men's Premier Division Men's First Division</p> <p>2025/26 UEFA MENS CLUB COMPETITIONS SEASON UEFA</p>
<p>Section 3.2 Powers of the FAI Club Licensing Department include: Fines of €300 may be sanctioned to clubs following caution and formal warning for initial failure to comply. This fine will double for each failure of compliance.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>Section 5.3.1 7. Any 'A' Criteria non-financial supporting documentation due on submission date of August 31st, submitted after the 14th of September will incur a €300 fine per criteria affected, unless otherwise agreed by the licensing manager. Any financial supporting documentation due on submission date of September 30th, submitted after the 14th of October will incur a €300 fine per criteria affected, unless otherwise agreed by the licensing manager.</p>	<p>Section 5.3.1 7. Any supporting documentation due on submission date, submitted within two weeks of the Club Licensing Committee decision meeting will incur a €200 fine per criteria affected but will be included in the report to the Club Licensing Committee.</p>
<p>Section 5.3.1 13. The LM will send a copy of the report to each member of the FAI Club Licensing Committee and to the Club Licensing Officer at least seven calendar days) before the meeting of the FAI Club Licensing Committee.</p>	<p>Section 5.3.1 13. The LM will send a copy of the report to each member of the FAI Club Licensing Committee and to the Club Licensing Officer at least five calendar days before the meeting of the FAI Club Licensing Committee.</p>
<p>Social and Environmental Sustainability - Removed reference to FSR.</p>	<p>Football Social Responsibility (FSR) / Social and Environmental Sustainability (SES)</p>
<p>SES 1.01 – FOOTBALL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY The licence applicant must establish and implement a football social responsibility strategy in line with the UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030 and relevant UEFA guidelines, for at least the areas of equality and inclusion, anti-racism, child and youth protection and welfare, football for all abilities, and environmental protection.</p>	<p>FSR/SES 1.01 – FOOTBALL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY The licence applicant must establish and implement a football social responsibility strategy in line with the UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030 and relevant UEFA guidelines, for at least the areas of equality and inclusion, anti-racism, child and youth protection and welfare, football for all abilities, and environmental protection.</p>

<p>The Strategy must include the title and publication date. Submission must also include a hyperlink to the strategy document.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>SES Guidance notes: SES Strategies and policies will be reviewed & assessed based on them being 'established' and implemented. Establish means/refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly evidenced establishment process (e.g. internal & external consultation process) Clear strategy priorities and activities Clear board/highest executive level sign off on the strategy Strategy published/communicated (website) <p>Implementation means/refers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear implementation plan with activities and KPI's <p>All SES policies must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear purpose Clear scope (e.g. who the policy relates to) Clear procedures and practices Clearly aligned to legislation where relevant (Football and State) Clear review date and responsible function Signed of by board/highest executive level of the club Communicated/circulated 	<p>Not included</p>
<p>INF 1.01 – STADIUM FOR THE LEAGUE OF IRELAND AND UEFA MEN’S CLUB COMPETITION</p> <p>Additional B Criteria Medical rooms must meet the standards as set out in reference document section – LOI Medical Guidance Document.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>INF 1.02 – STADIUM CERTIFICATE</p> <p>Starting in 2026, it will be mandatory to align all stadium certifications, pitch certifications (FIFA Quality PRO), and floodlighting certifications (linked to FIFA Quality Standards) with the calendar year (January to December).</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>INF 1.05 – FLOODLIGHTING CERTIFICATE</p> <p>Starting in 2026, it will be mandatory to align all stadium certifications, pitch certifications (FIFA Quality PRO), and floodlighting certifications (linked to FIFA Quality Standards) with the calendar year (January to December).</p>	<p>Not included</p>

<p>9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF CRITERIA Note: All roles must be accompanied with a signed mandate</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>PAD 2.01 – HEAD COACH OF THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD</p> <p>Garda Vetting and Safeguarding training The head coach of the first team must have completed Garda vetting through the FAI and Safeguarding 1 basic awareness training through the FAI or any other Irish National Sporting body or Sport Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that Garda vetting and Safeguarding remains valid during the entire period the mandated person is in post.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>PAD 2.02 – ASSISTANT COACH OF THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD</p> <p>Garda Vetting and Safeguarding training The assistant coach of the first team must have completed Garda vetting through the FAI and Safeguarding 1 basic awareness training through the FAI or any other Irish National Sporting body or Sport Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that Garda vetting and Safeguarding remains valid during the entire period the mandated person is in post.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>PAD 2.03 – GOALKEEPER COACH</p> <p>The goalkeeper coach of the first team must have completed Garda vetting through the FAI and Safeguarding 1 basic awareness training through the FAI or any other Irish National Sporting body or Sport Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that Garda vetting and Safeguarding remains valid during the entire period the mandated person is in post.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>PAD 2.07 – Medical Doctor</p> <p>g) be familiar and comply with the latest FAI Medical Guidance documents</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>PAD 2.09 – Academy Medic</p> <p>Men's Premier Division - A Men's First Division - A The licence applicant must have appointed at least one doctor or physiotherapist recognised as such by the appropriate national health authorities who is responsible for the medical care of the academy teams. The</p>	<p>Not included</p>

<p>mandated academy medic must meet the qualifications as set out in either PAD 2.07 or PAD 2.08. The mandated academy medic can be the same person mandated in the role of first team Doctor or Physio.</p> <p>Garda Vetting and Safeguarding training The Academy Medic must have completed Garda vetting through the FAI and Safeguarding 1 basic awareness training through the FAI or any other Irish National Sporting body or Sport Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that Garda vetting and Safeguarding remains valid during the entire period the mandated person is in post.</p>	
<p>PAD 3.10 – FOOTBALL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER</p> <p>The SES Officer is required to complete the FAI SES online compact course.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>11.1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Where a club has a men’s and women’s team, separate financial submissions are required to be provided as part of the respective applications.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>FIN 1.02 – LETTER OF SUPPORT</p> <p>FAI Finance department may request additional information such as audited statement of means, evidence of funds (bank statement) or other (at the discretion of the FAI).</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>11.2 NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS, THE FAI (including disciplinary fines and referee fees), OR BODIES AFFILIATED TO THE FAI</p>	<p>11.3 NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS, THE FAI OR BODIES AFFILIATED TO THE FAI</p>
<p>FIN 1.06 – MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS</p> <p>The licence applicant must supply management accounts for the month ending March, June and September in the format specified by the FAI. The accounts must be received no later than the 15th day of April, July & October respectively.</p> <p>Management accounts submissions must include the following elements, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profit & Loss Account • Balance Sheet • Cashflow Statement 	<p>FIN 1.06 – MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS</p> <p>The licence applicant must supply management accounts for the month ending May, August and November in the format specified by the FAI. The accounts must be received no later than the 15th day of June, September & December respectively.</p> <p>Not included</p>

<p>FIN 1.07 – FUTURE FINANCIAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Assessment of the future financial information</p> <p>5. The total value of contracts submitted to the league department, cannot exceed the player salary costs included in the budgetary submission. Any amounts above this will result in rejection of contracts and a requirement to submit a new budget</p>	<p>Not included</p>
<p>APPENDIX VI: Owners’ and Directors’ Test – Updated</p>	<p>APPENDIX VI: Owners’ and Directors’ Test</p>
<p>APPENDIX III: Medical Care of Players Toolkit – Included</p>	<p>Not included</p>