

Irish Football Association

INTEGRITY

EDUCATION STRATEGY



Introduction

The Irish Football Association is committed to promoting and upholding the integrity of our sport across the football family.

We adhere to UEFA and FIFA integrity regulations and requirements and as such identify education around betting, use of inside information and match fixing as essential to protect and maintain the integrity of football in Northern Ireland.

Article 45 of IFA Football Regulations states that “All persons bound by IFA’s rules and regulations must refrain from any behaviour that damages or could damage the integrity of matches and competitions and must cooperate fully with IFA at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour.”

Vision

To give those who are involved in football the relevant level of knowledge and information to support them in making the right choices in relation to betting, use of inside information and match fixing.

Current position

We currently have information available to teams, players and player support staff via our website and publications but plan to expand on this to a more formalised education delivery. This education plan will enable us to build on our current strengths but also identify areas of need and risk which we will work through during the implementation of this strategic plan.

The Irish FA, in partnership with NIFL, will appoint integrity ambassadors from senior International squads and NIFL Premiership, both male and female, to support the profile, operational delivery and implementation of the education strategy.

Strategic objectives:

The Irish FA has identified two strategic objectives to be achieved by 2024 to improve and strengthen the integrity education within football in Northern Ireland.

Objective 1	Educate all players and player support personnel in the mandatory (Appendix 1) groupings and offer relevant education opportunity to all optional personnel.
By when	December 2024
How	<p>Year 1 (2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver , face to face integrity education to all international representative teams U17-senior teams (both men and women) (mandatory) • Deliver value based, face to face integrity education to all NIFL Premiership teams (both men and women) (mandatory) • Deliver value based, face to face integrity education to any Futsal teams competing in UEFA competition (both men and women) (mandatory) • Deliver value based, face to face integrity education to UEFA Academy students (mandatory) • Ensure all clubs involved in League Cup and Irish Cup, along with regional senior cup competitions, have received information around betting, use of inside information and match fixing via digital source. • Referees: junior, intermediate and senior referees to receive educational training around betting and integrity (mandatory) <p>Year 2 (2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer online integrity education module to all football participants in Northern Ireland via website and social media campaign • Offer online integrity education module to all NIFL Academy U20 and U18 teams (optional) • Build a return to sport process to ensure bespoke education is delivered to anyone returning from a sanction <p>Mandatory education will be delivered annually</p>

Objective 2	Promote integrity education and information to raise awareness across football in Northern Ireland
By when	December 2024
How	<p>Year 1 (2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the website (irishfa.com) dedicated to providing information and support on all integrity matters. This page should include the Irish FA education plan as well as links to relevant information such as reporting procedures. • Appoint a minimum of 4 ambassadors (1 from each of senior men's and women's international teams and 1 from NIFL Premiership men's and women's) to help promote integrity matters and campaigns
By when	December 2024
How	<p>Year 2 (2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain detailed records of education delivered in a face-to-face setting (mandatory) • Build online learning record keeping • Review and monitor engagement traffic via website • Collect feedback from players and player support personnel in attendance at face-to-face education sessions for feedback following each session. Review this and consider actions required for continuous improvement • Seek feedback from UEFA in relation to progress against plan • Monitoring information will be provided to UEFA on request

Appendix 1

Target group	Members
1. (Mandatory): Will participate in UEFA competitions	Women's international teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U17, U19, senior, futsal Men's international teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U17, U19, U21, senior, futsal
2. (Mandatory): Compete at the highest level in the country	NIFL men's Premiership & Championship NIFL women's Premiership
3. (Mandatory): Referees	Junior, intermediate, and senior referees.
4. (Mandatory): Talent or development pathway squads	UEFA JD Academy
5. (Optional): Talent or development pathway squads Recreational athletes	NIFL The 'Everyday Game' including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots football – both youth and senior football • NI Futsal League • Junior, intermediate, and senior referees
6. (Optional): Held positions within the football club	The 'Everyday Game' including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots football – both youth and senior football and NI Futsal League officials such as directors secretaries/board members etc.

