



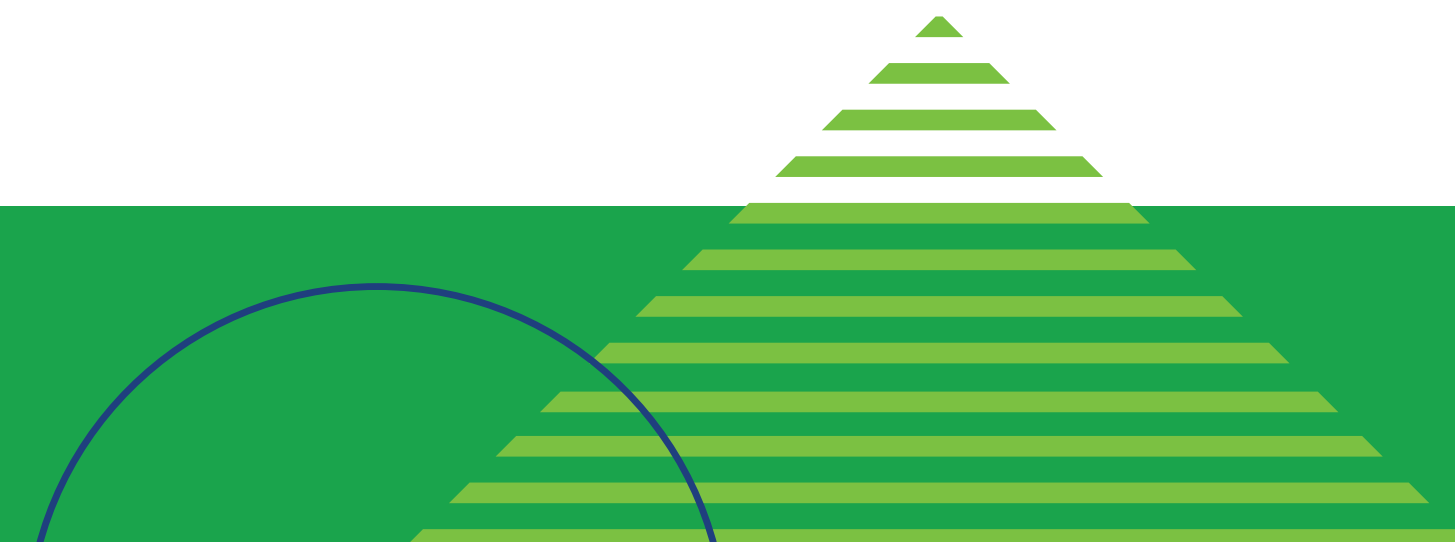
MEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID RESTRUCTURE



WHAT IS THE RESTRUCTURE?



- The Irish FA is undertaking a significant restructure of the men's football pyramid in Northern Ireland to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the men's amateur game
- An opportunity to 'reset' the football pyramid and provide an improved pathway for ambitious clubs to be promoted to the top tiers of the amateur game, with the future potential for progression to the professional game
- Introduction of a new 'Conference' layer to allow clubs to compete at a national level directly below the NIFL Premiership and Championship



IRISH FA STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE PILLAR

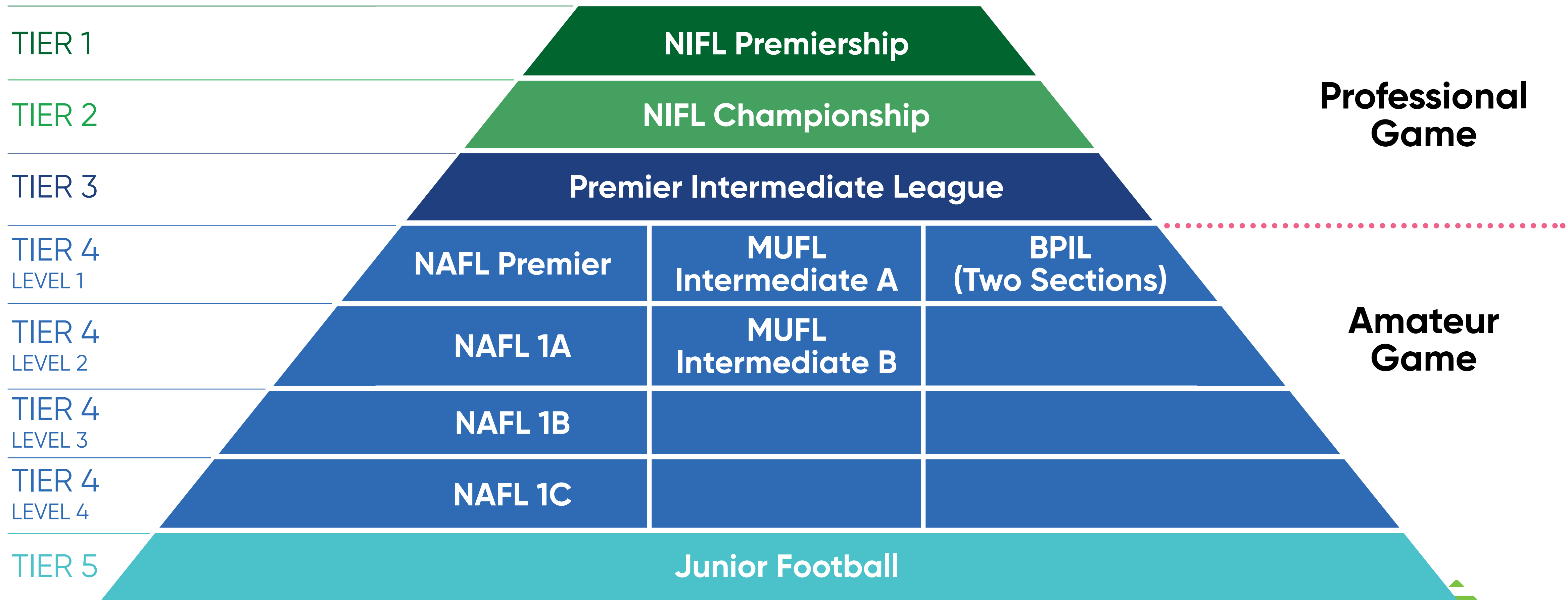


In the Irish FA Corporate Strategy 2022 –2027 the following strategic objective has been set;

'TRANSFORM THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID TO CREATE A CLEAR PATHWAY FOR AMBITIOUS CLUBS.'



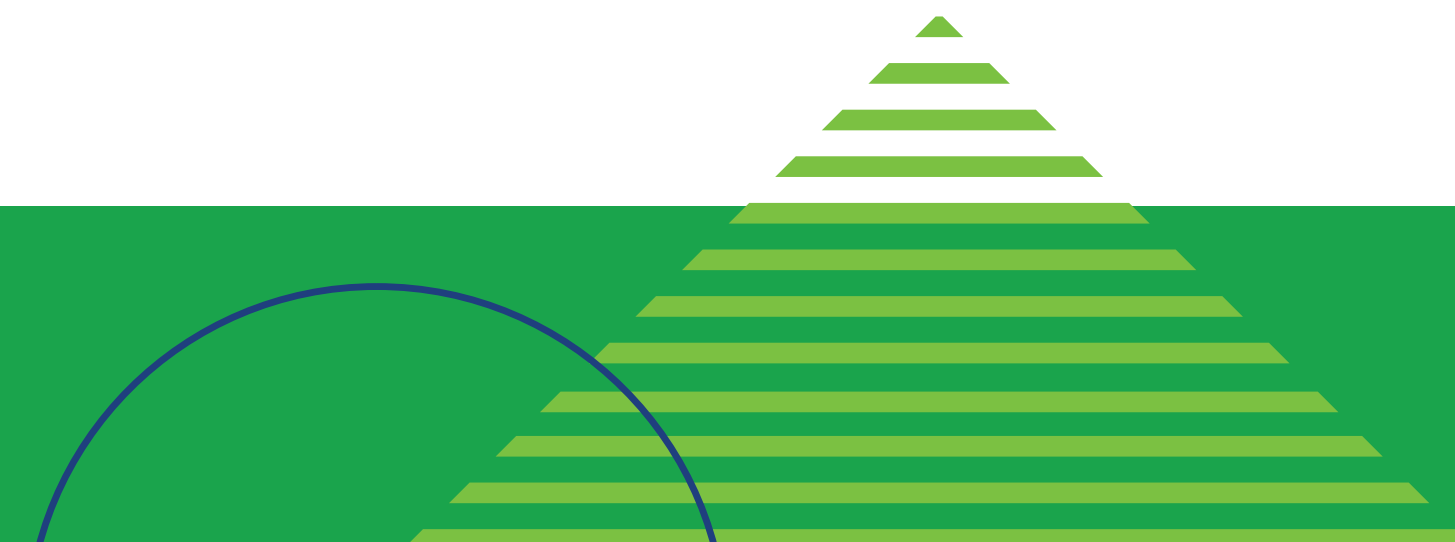
CURRENT PYRAMID STRUCTURE



THE CASE FOR CHANGE



- Following a consultation process the Irish FA has identified a need to develop **consistent** league formats (number of teams and matches) and fixture calendar for the top tiers of the amateur game
- To establish a dependable mechanism for promotion and relegation across the highest levels of men's amateur and professional game
- Improve playing standards below the Senior Professional Leagues - Best v Best of Amateur Football
- Improve the quality of football facilities and spectator experience via enhanced ground criteria and invest €1million in club facilities



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AMBITIOUS CLUBS



Opportunity to reset the men's football pyramid and allow clubs and players to compete at the level that best suits their ambitions and capacity

Performance Game

Aspirations to progress through the pyramid and continually compete at the highest level of competition possible and play on a national basis.

Versus

Everyday Game

The Everyday Game is designed to provide regular, competitive football on a regional basis for teams and players with a philosophy based on participation.

Performance Game

Everyday Game



Clubs will be requested to self identify if they consider themselves as a Performance club who wish to participate in the **Performance Game pathway** or are a club with a philosophy based on participation wishing to remain within the **Everyday Game structure**.



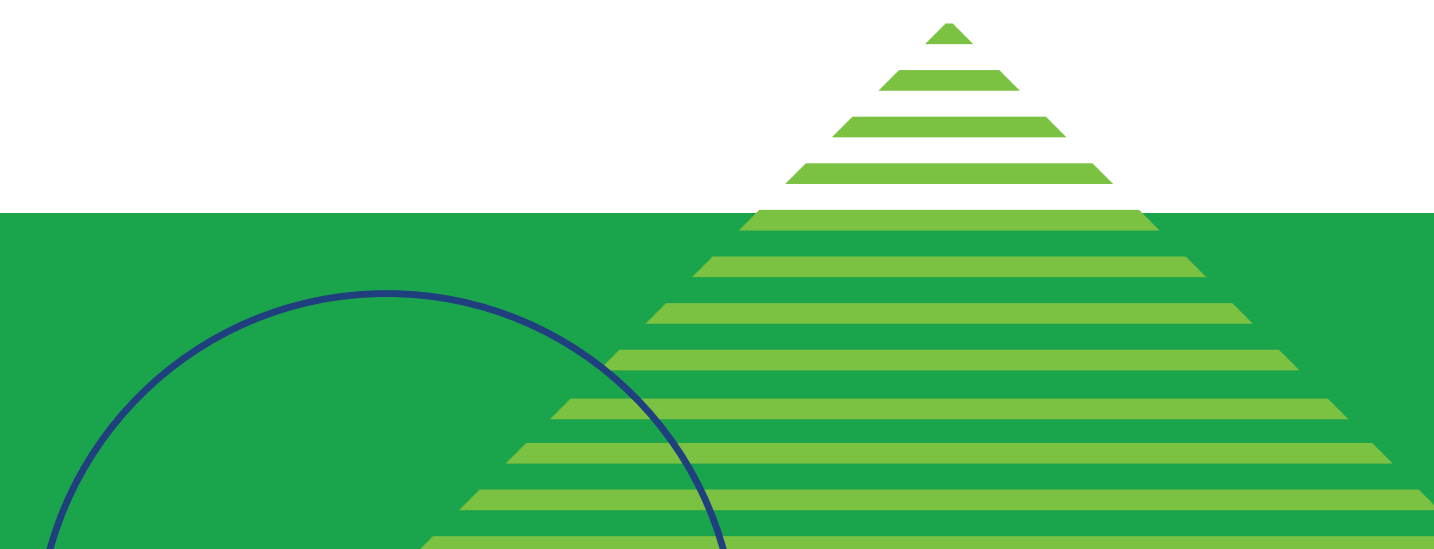
RESTRUCTURE OF PERFORMANCE GAME



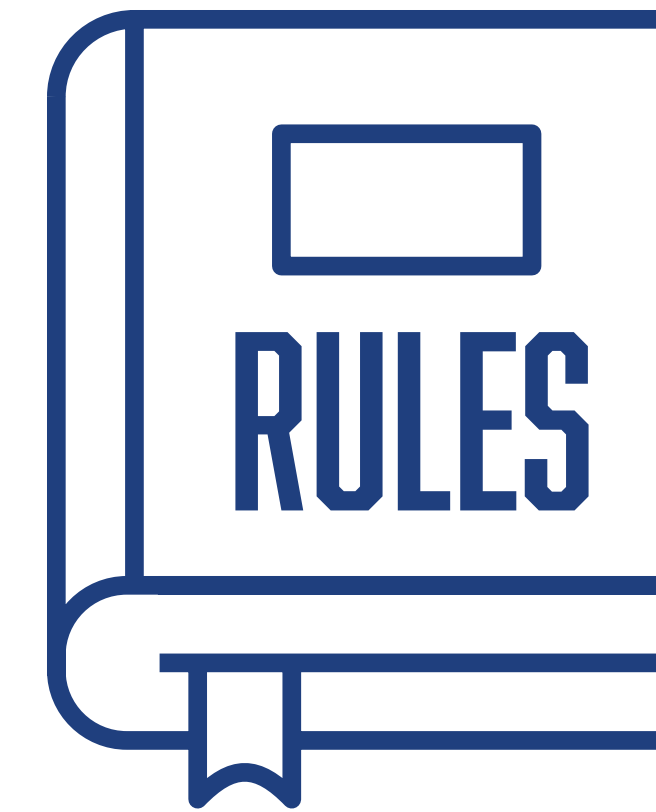
RESTRUCTURE OF MEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID



Promotion/Relegation to/from Everyday Game Structure/Performance Game Structure will remain unchanged from existing PIL – Intermediate Football mechanisms.



IMPLEMENTATION



The Irish FA will support the appointed league operator who will confirm the application process for interested clubs and the composition of leagues for commencement of Season 2026/27.

The Conference Layer will be governed by agreed rules and regulations which will modernise and standardise the approach of all leagues within the performance game.

