
A SHORT GUIDE TO THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION **BETTING RULES**

YOUR REPUTATION! YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! YOUR CAREER!





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Introduction

UEFA and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have a number of rules relating to betting which affect all players, managers, coaches, club medical staff and other Participants (e.g. Directors, Licensed agents). The purpose of this guide is to tell you what these rules are, what they mean and how they affect you.

The rules cover three main areas; betting, the use of inside information and match fixing.

The reason the IFA has rules in this area is to ensure that in every football match both teams and individual players are playing to the best of their ability and with a clear motivation to win the game, without any conflicting objectives for either club or any player or club official.

It is also very important for the reputation of the game that players, managers, coaches and other club officials are not involved in non-match betting (for example, on promotion and relegation in league competitions in which their team is involved).

Furthermore, due to your position in the game, you are sometimes privy to information that would possibly enable you to make money (or enable others to make money) through betting activity. Again, this type of activity is detrimental to the image and reputation of the game and is not permitted under the rules.

There is now a wide range of types of bets that can be placed on football, including in-play betting. Consequently, it is vital for football to protect, and be seen to protect, the integrity and reputation of the game.

This is a guide to this area only. All Players and Participants are bound by UEFA and IFA rules and regulations and should refer directly to those Rules and regulations for the definitive position. Should there be any inconsistency between this guidance and the rules and regulations, the rules and regulations prevail.

WHY ARE THERE RULES RELATING TO BETTING?





WHAT TYPE OF BETS ARE PROHIBITED?

Betting

Betting covers a wide range of bets, including in-play betting and doesn't just cover the end result, for example, spread betting.

The Rules

- Betting can be done online, over the telephone, in a betting shop or even with friends.
- You are not allowed to place any bet on a game involving your club;
- You are not allowed to place any bet on a game in a competition (such as cup competitions or the league itself) in which your club plays;
- This includes competitions that your club is due to play in but has not yet started and competitions that your club has been knocked out of;
- You are not allowed to place a bet on a game or competition in which you have any influence, either direct or indirect;
- You are not allowed to bet on any under 18 matches;
- You are not allowed to ask or instruct anyone to place any of the bets above on your behalf;
- The above includes all bets related to the following:
 - The result of a particular match, matches or the competition itself;
 - Any events in the progress of a match or matches (for example, number of red/yellow cards, corners etc);
 - Any other events involving your club or other clubs playing in the same league competition.
- All Players registered with a club are deemed to participate in every match played by that club, at whatever level (e.g. first team, reserves), while they are so registered. So, even if you're injured or suspended, you are still not permitted to place any of the above bets;
- All employees of a Club are deemed to participate in every match played by that Club while they are so employed.



WHAT TYPE OF BETS ARE PROHIBITED?

Examples – Betting

The following are all examples of bets which breach the rules. They are a guide only. If you are in any doubt whatsoever about whether a bet is permitted, you should speak to your Club Secretary, or the IFA Integrity Officer before placing it.

- A Player registered with a Premiership club betting £10.00 on the top team in the Premiership to beat the bottom club in the Premiership – The player is in breach of the rules because he is betting on a competition in which his club competes.
- A Championship 2 player placing a bet on the first goal scorer in the Irish Cup Final which is being played between two Premier League teams – The player is in breach of the rules because he is betting on a competition in which his club has competed during that season.
- A player asking his wife to put a bet on him being the first goal scorer in his match that Saturday – The player is in breach of the rules because he has instructed someone (his wife) to bet on his behalf on a match in which he is playing.
- A player bets on a youth game – he has bet on an under-18 match.
- A player places a bet on a game involving a club in a lower division where he was on loan earlier in the season – The player is in breach of the rules because he has placed a bet on a game in a competition in which he has participated during that season.





WHAT IS INSIDE INFORMA- TION?

Use of inside information

Inside information is information that you have become aware of through your involvement at your club or other clubs which is not publicly available. For example, you may find out that your club is about to appoint a new manager before this news is made public. This is inside information, and you are not allowed to use it for betting purposes.

The Rules

- You are not allowed to use inside information to place a bet or to instruct someone else to place a bet on your behalf;
- You are not allowed to pass inside information on to someone else which they then use for betting;
- You may be in breach of the rules if you pass inside information on to someone else even if you did not know they were going to use it to bet. If you could have reasonably known that they would use it for betting then you may still be in breach of the rules;
- You should be aware that the passing of information would not just be by word of mouth
 - The rule applies equally to emails or social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter).



WHAT IS INSIDE INFORMA- TION?

Examples – inside information

The following are all examples of the use of inside information which breach the rules. They are a guide only. If you are in any doubt whatsoever about your responsibilities in this area you should speak to your club Secretary or the IFA Integrity Officer.

- A player at one club tells a player at another club in the same league that he has heard who the new manager at his club is going to be. He tells the player it is worth a bet. At the time he tells him, this information is not publicly available. The player receiving the information places a bet on who the next manager will be. This is a breach by the player giving the information as he has passed on inside information and it has then been used to bet. It is also a breach by the player receiving the information as he has used information that is not publicly known for betting and he has bet on a football matter in his league competition.
- A player is called by an old friend on the morning of the game who asks him about team selection as he wants to have a bet on the result. The player tells the caller that he and two other players have just failed fitness tests and his team will be severely weakened. This information is not publicly known. The friend then has a bet on the player's team to lose. This is a breach because the player has passed on information that is not publicly available that has been used by his friend for betting.





WHAT IS MATCH FIXING?

Match Fixing

Match fixing is the arranging in advance of the outcome of a match, or of events within that match, usually for the purpose of making money, often from betting.

The Rules

- You are not allowed to accept from or offer to anyone any bribes/gifts/rewards of any nature in relation to seeking to influence the outcome, result or conduct of a match or competition;
- You must immediately report to the IFA any approach or any offer of a bribe/gift/ reward made to you or any other Participant related to seeking to influence the outcome, result or conduct of a match or competition. Failure to do so will be considered a breach of the rules.

Examples of breaches of the rules – Match Fixing

The following are all examples of events which breach the Rules on Match Fixing. They are a guide only. If you are in any doubt whatsoever about your responsibilities in this area you should speak to your club Secretary or the IFA Integrity Officer.

- A player is offered £10,000 to put the ball out for a corner in the 17th minute of a game. The player ignores the offer but does not report the approach. The player is in breach of the rules because he should have reported the offer to the IFA.
- A player is offered and accepts a week's holiday from a local travel agent if his team loses. The player is in breach of the rules as he has accepted a gift from someone seeking to influence the conduct of a match.



HOW CAN I GET CAUGHT?

Monitoring

You need to be aware that there is a great deal of monitoring of the betting markets. The football authorities work closely with specialist companies who are constantly reviewing data and betting patterns from betting operators.

In addition, we have links with the betting operators themselves and with the Gambling Commission and the regulatory body for betting operators in Northern Ireland.

All of these organisations are aware of our betting rules and advise us of issues that arise in the cash, telephone and online betting markets. The IFA has the power to refer the matter to the Police Service of Northern Ireland and a criminal investigation may ensue. The PSNI may interview you and require you to produce records such as itemised phone bills, betting account statements and bank statements.

In summary, if you breach the betting rules, you are likely to get caught!

You will then be subject to the IFA's disciplinary procedures and, if found guilty, you will be subject to a range of sanctions including a warning, fine or a significant period of suspension. This is in addition to any criminal sanction that may be undertaken.

Remember, it's your reputation, your responsibility and your career.





CONCLUSION

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It is the responsibility of every individual, be it as a player, staff or club official to be aware of the betting rules imposed on them by UEFA and the Irish Football Association.

Downloads are available from the Irish Football Association website www.irishfa.com by following links to 'The Irish FA' and 'Integrity Officer'.

If you require any assistance or advice you should contact the IFA's National Security and Integrity Officer, **Stephen Grange on 07889 181094** or at sgrange@irishfa.com.

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