



# Mentor Survey Responses










FAI Schools Leinster Branch Boys Section

## 85 respondents across 74 schools

All responses are given below - responses & clarification from the Boys Section are in RED

It has been proposed that the Affiliation/Competition Entry Process should be altered from its current practice to a split entry format - please choose your preference below.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Continue Current Format (All Entries in late August, Competitions Commence in September)	71.8%	61
Split Entry (Senior & Junior Competition Entry pre-Summer, Minor & First Year Competitions in late August)	16.5%	14
Any other suggestions/comments?	11.8%	10
<i>answered question</i>		<b>85</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

-  Come up with a more user friendly method of registration of players. It's very frustrating as it is now.  
Switchover to the more user-friendly FAI net system will take place in September. Player registration is separate from Affiliation/Competition Entry.
-  Have Entries in September not possible to have entries in Aug. for as eg. we do not return to school until Thurs Aug 25 2016
-  I am assuming this means the simple process of ticking a box and choosing which competitions the school is entering in August. This process is fine.
-  Poor suggestion from Fais to want this work to be done pre-summer & before start of school year.  
This was suggested to us by one of our member schools during the season as one possible way of starting Senior & Junior Cup competitions earlier. This is why we were asking the question!!
-  Scrap the bizarre electronic entry system. An organisation with a remit to promote Schools soccer should be ashamed of removing teams for misspelled names or boxes not ticked.  
There is no bizarre electronic entry system - it is done via a straightforward Survey Monkey form. Also, although this should be under registration, schools are NEVER removed for misspelled names. As for boxes not ticked - what does this refer to?
-  No competition I was in started in September. So signing up for competition entry can start in mid-September when we've had a chance to train the teams once at least. Then we'd know what numbers we'd have and what competitions to enter.  
Preliminary round matches in the Senior & Junior Cups commence in late September.
-  Simplified system
-  earlier start for senior competitions would be helpful
-  Split entry only if this will ensure fixtures are finalised pre summer also.

Overall, what are your views on the number of games that your team played this season?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too many games	2.4%	2
Too few games	27.1%	23
Exactly the right amount of games	70.6%	60
Any comments?		19
<i>answered question</i>		<b>85</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

- 🏆 Number of games were ok but problems arise when we were left waiting on schools to fulfil fixtures which left us playing games on consecutive days. Ultimately we were being punished for other schools messing up
- 🏆 We reached the Senior Leinster Cup final and the Leinster League Quarter final so it was good to get a lot of matches but it's difficult getting time off for 6th years late in the year
- 🏆 More because I'm over 3 teams- problem is lack of willing coaches
- 🏆 Boys would like more but that is a boarding school issue.
- 🏆 Right amount of games as we qualified from group stages but would rather one group of six instead of two groups of three if/where possible?  
**Based on previous experience, when group sizes are larger than four teams, the last few matches (the 'dead rubbers') don't get played. So four teams per group is our desired number.**
- 🏆 Fais Leinster has a good record of throwing our teams out of competitions so for some teams too few.  
**If teams are removed from competition, then it is because a rule has been breached & clearly indicated sanction has been imposed - the school is responsible for all removals, not the FAI Schools.**
- 🏆 Organise finals with mentors in mind. Allow them to have a reasonable working day. Treat them with respect.
- 🏆 Large gaps between games and then it gets hectic in Jan/Feb. Either start earlier or ensure regional competitions finish before Christmas.
- 🏆 We have difficulty getting competitions completed at present so more games would make things worse.
- 🏆 Just about right
- 🏆 Depends on how successful a school is. Ideally a league or larger group format would see all games play an acceptable number of games.
- 🏆 Think more time should be given for competitions to be completed. The Leinster cup and All Ireland fixtures appeared to be have been rushed this season considering there is still an entire term to go.  
**It is the stated aim of the FAI Schools that, as far as possible, no exam students should be involved in school teams during the last term. As Easter was earlier this year, this may have been a factor in the National Calendar, which is set by the National Executive.**
- 🏆 We didn't win much so didn't play much, not the FAIS fault
- 🏆 overall happy with number of games this year
- 🏆 Too few games for 1st years as we were expelled from the competition without ever being informed before or after the fact, due to being unable to get a pitch due to one of the wettest winters on record.  
**Not sure what this means, as all removals from competition should be notified via the Honorary Secretary. If the home pitch is unavailable, then the game automatically switches to the away school, as per rule.**
- 🏆 The amount of games seem fine, however sometimes it seems as if the cup competitions refuse to acknowledge some schools play in the league as well. While I understand games need to be played and you don't want gaps of weeks, some consideration needs to be given in trying to fit in all games. The league organisers seemed quite flexible with giving time, the cup organisers, not so much.  
**The priority is always on finishing the cup competitions first, as Leinster has to have provincial qualifiers for National competitions - in the case of a fixture clash, cup fixtures always take priority.**
- 🏆 Division 3 did not have a lot of games. And it took a very long time to get them played as other mentors were difficult.
- 🏆 I'm happy with the number of games, however I feel the season is too focused pre Christmas. There were too many instances with clashes with other sports early in the year. I also found the cup competitions were very hard to organise this year. The matches were being played well behind schedule.
- 🏆 Our teams were removed from every competition we entered due to registration errors.

Please choose your preferred format for Leinster Cup competitions

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Open Draw	32.8%	21
Regionalised Draw (Up to QF stage)	67.2%	43
Any comments?		7
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>64</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>21</b>

Certain regions are a lot stronger than others therefore making it difficult to get out of. End up playing the same teams year after year.

This has been an issue but is unavoidable if we retain regionalised draws. For 2016-17, we have reverted to an open draw for the First Year Cup on a trial basis, whilst all other cup draws will be regionalised, with all Metropolitan schools placed in an open draw within the regionalised draw.

If it's regionalised you end up playing all of the same teams as I the league. Our first 3 cup games we all against opposition we also had to play in the league .

See above.

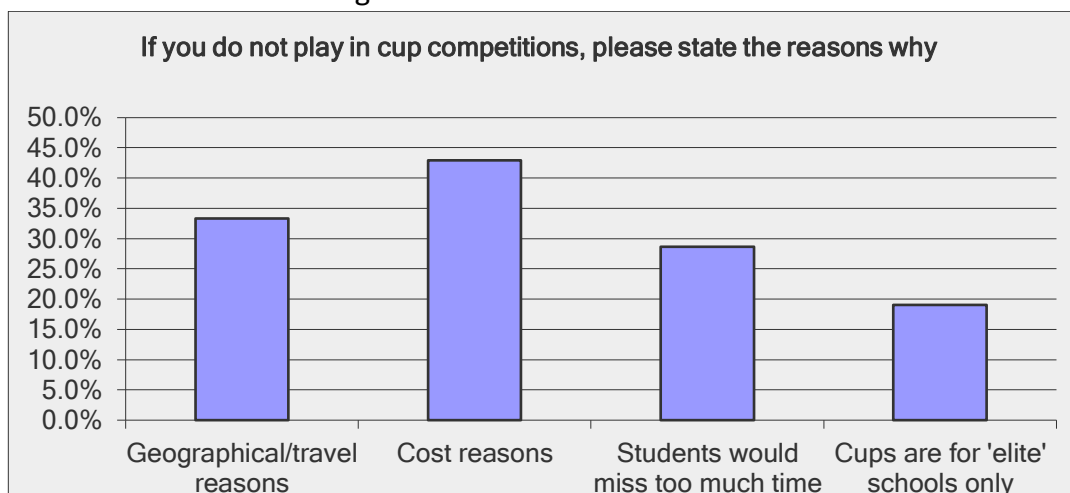
An open draw would freshen up the cup process but it is difficult enough to get out for games as it is- games are frequently squeezed in in the morning or afternoon, so the current format would suit us better to allow matches to be played.

It cuts travel time and costs for teams that never progress, like our boys.







Carlow/ kilkenny teams are strong so should have a chance of avoiding each other at the beginning of the cup.

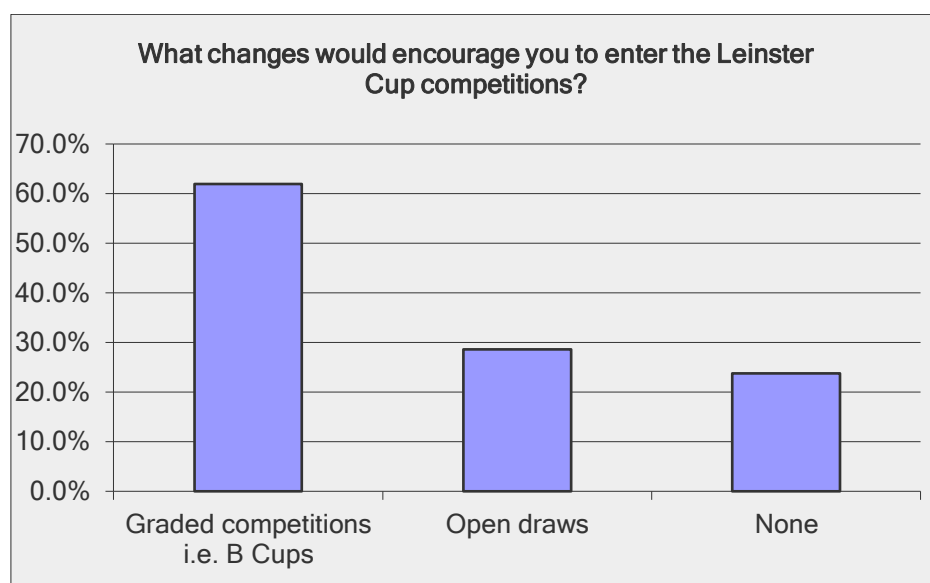
I feel that with regional draw you play the same teams over and over again. This year we played the same team in the 1st round of the cup and again the following week in the 1st league game.

Dublin teams knocking each other out on strong side of draw very often. Can lead to one sided matches in later stages.





If you do not play in cup competitions, please state the reasons why		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Geographical/travel reasons	33.3%	7
Cost reasons	42.9%	9
Students would miss too much time	28.6%	6
Cups are for 'elite' schools only	19.0%	4
Other (please specify)		6
<b>answered question</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>64</b>

-  Not au fait with system of application  
**You tick the appropriate box on the online application form!**
-  being drawn against much stronger/ geographically distant schools
-  Lost B status , competition too high in A.
-  The registration for this tournament is very early. This year as new coaches we only found out the date of registration when it was too late. Otherwise we would have entered.  
**As above, you need to tick the appropriate box on the online application form - the link to this form is e-mailed & registered posted in late August & allows a 2-3 week entry window - the date of competition entry should not prevent competition entry.**
-  We enter cup if team has achieved some success previously
-  Teachers would miss too much time



What changes would encourage you to enter the Leinster Cup competitions?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Graded competitions i.e. B Cups	61.9%	13
Open draws	28.6%	6
None	23.8%	5
Any comments?		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>64</b>

-  Would need to be regional or perhaps with a blitz dimension to it
-  We have a very small pool of students to pick from. A graded competition would offer them a bit of hope going into the competition, leading to more players wanting to get involved.

2016-17 will see a Junior B cup offered at Leinster level, which means that all four age groups now have a B competition. We have also proposed that the Minor B Cup goes to National level, which will mean 3 out of 4 cup competitions will have National B finals also.

Didn't enter this year but entered last year, this was also due to change in staff and I as principal not wanting new members of staff missing too much time when they are settling in to school

If placed in a group of 3 in league and knew this before deciding to enter cup. Possibly only 2 games would be too few

This is impossible to know in advance as league group sizes are entirely entry dependent - the only way out of this would be to separate the cup & league entry processes, which would lead to too much duplication.

More graded

I like the idea of the graded competitions. The possibility of playing more teams from different parts of Leinster in the cup is vital for rural schools to improve. West Leinster teams end up playing the same couple of teams every year in the league.

Matches with local teams to cut down on travel costs.

**What age group should a Shield competition be offered to preliminary/first round cup losers next season?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Senior	15.5%	13
Minor	10.7%	9
First Year	23.8%	20
All of the above	50.0%	42
Any comments?		9
<b>answered question</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

Provide more activity and an opportunity to get to know the players. Also, keeps their interest high when other sports within the school might be drawing on the same player resources.

Shield competitions will be offered at all four age groups from next season onwards - this has been made possible by a significant number of volunteers offering to run competitions. Many thanks to all concerned.

First Year in particular would be good. They are mad for games, and are easiest to bring out for 60 minute matches.

If schools are competing in leagues there should not be any need to offer shield competition - none of the above but it is not an option on the list

Roll it out on a phased basis. It would get more games for 1st yrs and is not effected by mocks etc. - provided we have someone to run additional competitions

The more competitive fixtures for weaker schools at all age groups the better.

Gives teams an opportunity to prolong season. Gives students a release from studies.

This could be a very good idea, the kids love playing, the more opportunities they have the better.

Senior students have enough time constraints already

The shield was a great change and gave the lads a lot more to look forward to.

Should a 'B' Cup competition be offered at the Junior Age Group (U-17) next season?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	75.6%	62
No	19.5%	16
Other (please specify)	4.9%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>82</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

- 🏆 Worked well with the Senior level. Would give the smaller schools a realistic chance of further progression
- 🏆 Would this be "B" teams in schools? There would be players to fill this but it would be very difficult to get the time to bring any extra teams out with S&S.  
**No - we always work on the principle of one team per school.**
- 🏆 not sure

Did your school play league competitions in 2015-16?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	97.6%	82
No	2.4%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

Organisation of Competition						
Answer Options	5 - exc	4 - gd	3 - fair	2 - poor	1 - vp	Response Count
Carlow-Kilkenny	1	3	0	1	0	5
Metropolitan	11	16	4	5	0	36
Midlands	2	2	1	0	0	5
North East	2	9	0	0	1	12
West Leinster	4	7	1	0	0	12
Wicklow-Wexford	4	4	0	1	1	10
Grading of Competition						
Answer Options	5 - exc	4 - gd	3 - fair	2 - poor	1 - vp	Response Count
Carlow-Kilkenny	1	4	0	0	0	5
Metropolitan	8	14	12	2	0	36
Midlands	1	2	2	0	0	5
North East	3	8	1	0	0	12
West Leinster	2	9	1	0	0	12
Wicklow-Wexford	2	6	2	0	0	10

- 🏆 50 first yr pupils high for b schools as it brings in big schools resulting from amalgamations into mix lots of schools out there still Under 50 including both sexes.








**This criteria is being examined at National level & may change.**

- 🏆 Referee cards not sent in. This be addressed.

**We have worked extremely hard with the FAI Referees Department & the FAI Referees Assessors to address this issue & we have noted a significant improvement this season. However, a small number of schools & referees have ignored the established protocol & appoint officials directly. The list of errant schools & referees is currently being compiled & they will be dealt with.**

- 🏆 Senior League was straight final (not organizer's fault but think it put us at disadvantage as teams in C.L. had far more games played.
- 🏆 Maybe one or two more games in the league to be played before cup competition  
Discussed at the Development Meeting - not possible due to the large number of entries in the cup competitions & the need to meet National deadlines for the Cup competitions.
- 🏆 There was no option to choose no league participation  
Yes there is! Just don't tick the league box - a number of our member schools play cup competitions only.
- 🏆 Too much pressure to play games. No account taken for the poor weather conditions throughout the season. Incredibly difficult for a school with no home pitch.  
Appreciated, but if no home pitch is available, the game automatically switches to the away school, as per rule. Also, with the proliferation of astro pitches, many facilities offer special off-peak rates to schools.
- 🏆 Having to pay for pitch booking and 3 officials for a final is extremely unfair and basically penalising success. All schools pay very substantial affiliation fees why can this not cover finals. In Rugby schools get paid for reaching a final.  
In an ideal world, we would love to be in a position to pay for all 70+ finals, but we are simply not. We (the Leinster Branch) are completely self-financed. Maybe Denis O'Brien might have a few spare euro...
- 🏆 First year league was a bit of a disaster
- 🏆 The inclusion of Boyne and Ratoath has helped to lift standards- they are excellent teams. The biggest problem is they make it harder to reach finals!
- 🏆 We won the U15 Div 2 by the odd goal in 5 (final) and odd goal in 7 (semi) so very close
- 🏆 One group needed more teams to make it work better but we got it over the line in the end.
- 🏆 Took two teams. Don't like groups of 3! Especially first year  
As detailed above, groups of four are the ideal, but depending on entry numbers, groups of 3 are sometimes unavoidable.
- 🏆 Happy with the number of games
- 🏆 It is well known that our school had serious issues with registration and subsequent penalties this year
- 🏆 Games not played early enough and then a rush at the end. Bring deadline for finals forward to Dec. Jan/feb too busy with mocks and project work.  
This was part of the reason why we floated the proposal to split the entry process. Moving finals forward creates difficulty in several regions with larger entries, particularly the Metropolitan area.
- 🏆 All West Leinster leagues ran very well
- 🏆 The organisers of west Leinster were very good and understanding. The problem that arose was with other teams cancelling fixtures. I feel that teams that cancel a game 2-3 times must forfeit the game at the discretion of the organiser. We were held up for months in the u-15 league waiting on a semi final due to other schools. Damien did a fantastic job at trying to get teams to fulfill fixtures. But there is only so much he can do. One team should have been removed from the competition.  
The competition organiser has the power to remove teams in situations such as these, but are reluctant to do so in an effort to encourage participation. If a school feels strongly enough, then contact the competition organizer &/or Honorary Secretary.



-  No team should progress if they have not played their matches on time. 8-9 weeks should be more than enough to get four matches played.
-  PITCHES!! some pitches were disgraceful. grass not cut, lines not marked properly. At senior Division 1 all schools must have a certain standard of pitch i.e grass cut and straight lines!!  
 The match referee has the final say as to whether a pitch is playable & that includes markings & length of grass etc. If the matter is raised with the referee prior to the game & the referee agrees, then the school is fully entitled to not play the match & switch the venue. If the referee disagrees, then nothing can be done.
-  Very well runs leagues in Metro at 1st year and Minor this year, however I am concerned about how my school is placed in groups and regions, it is like we are being used to fill gaps. In one age grade we are in North Metro, in another we are in West...  
 Placing in Metro regions depends entirely on the number of entrants - to try to even things out between regions (rather than having 9 teams in the west region & 7 in the north) schools can be moved around to facilitate four team groupings - nothing malicious going on!
-  Was very difficult to get games played and it dragged on over a long time. Considering there were only two games to be played before quarter finals.
-  Only concern was having to travel to Carnew for a group game is a bit far from Bray. Takes over an hour.  
 Groupings take place in regional leagues on a geographical basis - remember, they might have to travel an hour to Bray to play another school - generally speaking, fixtures should be balanced out so that travelling time is even enough amongst schools.
-  junior and senior were very well organized. minor first year and girls were not as well organized
-  Our teams were removed from every competition we entered due to registration errors.  
 The onus is on the school to ensure that all players are registered - the school/mentor is responsible for ensuring this.

**Should Division Two competitions in the Metropolitan Region be divided into North, South & West (as with Division One)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	40
No	17.5%	14
Other (please specify)	32.5%	26
<i>answered question</i>		<b>80</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		5

**Should the Metropolitan Division Two Leagues have three representatives in the Leinster Champions League competition (as with Division One)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.8%	35
No	22.5%	18
Other (please specify)	33.8%	27
<i>answered question</i>		<b>80</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		5

- 🏆 Should Division Two teams qualify for the Division One Competition? If they are good enough, they should be competing in the Division One competition.  
All Division Two (& Three) finalists are promoted for the following season at the appropriate age group. This has been standard procedure since 2009.
- 🏆 Maybe. Clarity needed here.
- 🏆 They are always the strongest team and near impossible to beat the metropolitan champions as it is  
Not the case - statistics prove otherwise. At Division One (where 3 Metro schools compete per competition), 5 of the last 12 winners have been Metropolitan schools. At Division Two level (where currently 1 Metro school competes per competition) the statistic is the same - 5 from the last 12 winners have been Metro schools. Considering that Metropolitan schools make up almost 60% of our membership, they are punching below their weight at Leinster league level.
- 🏆 Absolutely not. This gives more chance to teams from one area of Leinster to be more successful. It would not be fair on the rest of Leinster. It would look like favouritism to Dublin.  
The counter argument presented is that it is a fair reflection of our membership!
- 🏆 don't know enough about the league
- 🏆 Only at that level.
- 🏆 dont know . not in this region
- 🏆 Possibly as greater number of teams involved

Please rate the following								
Answer Options	EXC	VG	Fair	Poor	VP	N/A	Average	Count
Communication r.e. Affiliation/Competition Entry	31	30	14	1	1	1	1.84	78
Communication from Boys Section Honorary Secretary	35	23	10	2	2	6	1.79	78
Communication r.e. Competition Fixtures	26	32	13	6	1	0	2.03	78
Communication r.e. Player Registration	24	24	17	6	5	2	2.26	78
Communication from Competition Organisers	23	29	19	7	0	0	2.13	78
Support from Boys Section Honorary Secretary	26	28	8	2	3	10	1.93	77
Support from Leinster Branch Honorary Secretary	25	25	7	2	1	17	1.82	77
Support from Competition Organisers	22	34	18	2	0	1	2.00	77
Support from National Administrator	17	21	12	1	4	22	2.16	77
Any comments?								20
<i>answered question</i>								<b>78</b>
<i>skipped question</i>								<b>7</b>

- 🏆 Some organisers are excellent. Waiting on others can be frustrating.
- 🏆 Overall it was very good, only thing was one or two of the referee contact numbers were wrong.  
All referees should be appointed via the Referees Allocators ONLY. Referees should NEVER be contacted directly by schools.
- 🏆 A welcome or start up pack for new schools would be useful - outlining competitions, ages groups, fees, dates and typically what is expected to enter. Other disciplines have been very proactive in this regard and sent coaches and reps to promote the sport.  
This IS done, generally in September & is entitled 'Welcome Pack'. Last season, due to IT issues, it was issued in November.
- 🏆 Appreciated the personal sentiments expressed by David Archibold acknowledging the considerable challenges faced by teachers in schools where soccer is at the very bottom of the priority list; as well as the frustration caused by the current archaic registration system
- 🏆 Everyone doing a very efficient job
- 🏆 Declan McGrath is excellent at responding to emails/queries. Thank you! Cup competition organisers and others in the Leinster branch can be very slow to

respond.

- 🏆 Communication from teachers to organisers could be better
- 🏆 I Organise and Mentor but I got very positive feedback from teams in Minor Cup over organisation etc. It is still hard work though.
- 🏆 Big thanks to all for their time, effort and skill
- 🏆 The administration by the honorary secretary at postprimary level and expectations of teachers are above and beyond what should be expected of teachers. I believe in the best interest of sport that this position needs a fresh face after many years.  
**Please feel free to volunteer!**
- 🏆 My interactions with the national administrator were unpleasant. She displayed a distinct lack of respect for mentors. Depressing.
- 🏆 Registration has to be made simpler next year otherwise more and more schools will not participate in competition anymore
- 🏆 Girls section needs more attention. We ended up only playing one girls game this year.  
**The Girls Section generally do a similar end of season mentor survey - please respond & outline any issues to them.**
- 🏆 I would like to see more updates from competition organisers on results and upcoming fixtures.
- 🏆 Too many emails. Keep information succinct and relevant.  
**No superfluous e-mails are ever sent - all e-mails are related to FAI Schools activities. All information provided is relevant.**
- 🏆 one issue was gap between group stages of league, minor and senior and quarter finals was far too big,,
- 🏆 Going forward I think it may help if there was more emphasis on Cup results going out on Twitter/FAI site etc.  
**The FAI Schools website has been revamped & will be formally relaunched next season - part of the problem here is collating the information - as we currently don't have a PRO - any volunteers?**
- 🏆 had a fixture pile up due to lack of communication in leinster senior cup. were waiting on name of opponents for extended period.
- 🏆 Player registration is a complete mess. It is too complicated, too time consuming and in order to delete a player a whole team had to be deleted and start all over again.  
**It is in the process of being sorted - from 2016-17 onwards we are moving to the new FAInet system, which is based on the DFB (German FA) system that has been in operation for over ten seasons. Also, we constantly reviewed the use of Project Inform & the associated registration sanctions. Digital player registration is a UEFA requirement.**
- 🏆 Our teams were removed from every competition we entered due to registration errors.  
**Answered previously.**

Last season, it was decided to change the registration process to a 'school-wide squad', where up to 120 players were added to one school squad. Do you want to?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Continue with the 'School-Wide Squad' System	69.2%	54
Revert to the old system - one squad per age group	12.8%	10
Any comments?	17.9%	14
<b>answered question</b>		<b>78</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>7</b>

- 🏆 one squad reg per school with option to print out age group squads
- 🏆 The issue is not with 'school-wide squads' or otherwise, the issue is the outdated and cumbersome registration system.  
**Addressed above.**
- 🏆 The 'School-wide Squad' system has been much more user friendly for team mentors

- 🏆 School-wide process made it easier, especially for handful of players who may play in two grades. Less chance of being caught out for not registering player to right age grade etc.
- 🏆 The impact on competitions of removals is more of an issue.  
**An additional written warning sanction has been proposed as a rule change.**
- 🏆 System is a shambles. Keep moving the goalposts on teachers. Yet fit to dismiss teams where admin errors made. How many e-mails sent last year with different changes made along the way.  
**One e-mail was sent at the end of September last year outlining changes adopted at the National AGM.**
- 🏆 With a new simpler system please
- 🏆 School wide system without assigning players to particular teams thus avoiding some of the issues over the last year.  
**On health & safety grounds, we are required to have separate squads for each age group to ensure only underage players are being used - it is a UEFA requirement.**
- 🏆 Why not just use the school roll as the basis and let any player of the correct be eligible to play. The registration process has turned so many football enthusiastic teachers off coaching a team.
- 🏆 This worked well.
- 🏆 Scrap this process, all students in our schools are potential representatives of our schools. If a student being a registered student of our school satisfies the HSE, Department of Social Protection, The Revenue Commissioners, An Garda Síochána etc etc. It should satisfy the FAI. This is a waste of valuable mentor resources. A letter was sent from a large number of representatives in the Wexford-Wicklow region this year outlining our opposition to this process. A number of the mentors have withdrawn their schools for the foreseeable future till this registration process is scrapped.  
**Registration of players has been part of the FAI Schools system since 1974 & player registration is not only an FAI requirement, but is a UEFA requirement. There is also a Health & Safety requirement to ensure that only underage players are playing. There are potential legal ramifications if we did not have a registration system.**
- 🏆 The registration system for schools soccer is by far the most complicated and time consuming of any of the three sports I am involved with. a simple system of players name and DOB is all that should be required.  
**As far as we are aware, that is all that FAInet requires - we are awaiting further details.**
- 🏆 Seems to work. Easier than registering individual teams.
- 🏆 Our teams were removed from every competition we entered due to registration errors.  
**Already addressed.**

**Do you have any other suggestions with regards to improving the 'Player Registration system?'**

Answer Options	Response Count
	37
<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>37</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>48</b>

- 🏆 Whatever about improving it maybe simplifying it might be a start.
- 🏆 Too much detail is required to register players. Schools gets deducted points / eliminated from competitions if there are mistakes in registration.
- 🏆 have system automatically update entries from previous years with option to delete if left school or to remove if a new entry puts you over required nos  
**As far as we are aware, the new FAInet system allows a player to be 'active' on the system for a defined period (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year for example) & then the system will automatically deactivate them - the setting of the deactivation date will be under the control of the school.**
- 🏆 I know it's old school but faxes could be accepted as well.

Not possible - the only access to fax is via the school office - this is not school business.

If a player is registered at one age this should follow on until completion of schooling

See above.

The current school wide format is very good.

At present it does not work at any level . An ordinary person would need aPhd in Computer science to register a team . Why not just have a registration form filled out by the mentor and returned to the branch . The current on line registration is impossible to work out and in itself does not work to register players in a squad !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Overhaul it completely. And start having some respect for the hard-work and sportsmanship of team mentors. Having teams (de facto) ejected from competitions for minor registration errors is an insult to the time and effort of everybody involved in a school team. The basic principle of trust should guide the process. No issue causes more frustration; and more anger towards FAIS.

Should not need to include the level of detail that we currently need to as all this information is with the school in the event it is needed.

I think that players should be able to play for all three age groups if they are eligible. Also, the dates for each age group need to be made clearer for mentors in regards to cut-off points for each age group/section.

Under health & safety recommendations & the FAI player development plan, the maximum number of age groups any one player can be registered with is two - this is to prevent too much of an age gap between players & potential sources of injuries.

Use a different programme. Takes to much time to register squads. Not user friendly

As this stage, the e-portal system seems to have been mastered by mentors and school administrators.

The Player Inform system takes a lot of time to get used to, especially for teachers new to it and this can lead to teams being removed from competitions, which is unfair on students. A fairer system is hard to decide upon though.

Let's see the new system in action. Also, maybe a single A4 page guide / checklist instead of/as well as the huge 'Booklet' we issue.

The current booklet is 14 pages, of which at most 4 are relevant. Is this not short enough?!!?

Yes system should be all players in school eligible to play. If an unregistered player plays the Fai should contact the school and ask them to register player. Better system than one where you receive a letter informing you of removal from competition. Teachers do not have time to check lists of who is eligible or otherwise.

There is a misrepresentation here between eligibility & registration. Theoretically, all students are eligible to play, once they are underage & not under suspension. We have staggered sanction & removal only occurs in cup competitions or play-off stages of the league. We have also proposed that an extra layer of sanction - a written warning - be introduced from next season. This will depend on a vote at the National AGM in late May.

Done via school/national database if possible, less chance of mistakes/misrepresentation

More flexibility needed.

Return to paper. Scrap the shameful electronic expulsions.

As stated in previous correspondence, the rate of sanctions under the old paper system was largely the same - different system, same outcome.

Yes find a easier user friendlier way of doing it!

Make it much easier to delete players. Forget about parents details and addresses. Just names and DoB is plenty of info. Addressed above.

The reg system is not very realistic. If a student is under age and enrolled in a school they should be eligible to play for that school team. They are but the requirement is that they have to be listed against a particular squad. Teachers are

giving up huge amounts of time to try promote soccer in schools and in some cases have been severely punished for putting wrong names on match card. If a teacher wanted to cheat and play an overage player or a player who wasn't reg it would be very easy to do. Each school should have unlimited panel sizes and be allowed add players as they see fit or as students show an interest in playing. An excel document with the lists of students names that are playing for each squad would be a much easier system for teachers. I cannot understand why we are using the other system as we are not paying to register our players individually as you would in a league system. The system needs to be simplified as it is turning teachers off our game. I for one am constantly checking and double checking reg lists and match cards for fear that I might put down a wrong name and as I said above if a teacher or school wanted to cheat a match card is not going to stop this. Suggestion: excel doc per school, tab for each age group, players name and DOB included, any updates can be e-mailed to sec with school name and date on it so most up to date list is easy to find. Limit panel to 30 if necessary but this would make it much easier for teachers to add and remove players as required.

The advent of FAInet should see the entire process simplified - far less information needed & a far more streamlined process involved - watch this space!

The cut off dates for the first year comp are very early. Having little time to work with unknown players results in difficulty maximizing squad potential. This is particularly the case when 3 other school teams have to be addressed.

First year competitions don't start until November & First Year player registration is to be completed by October mid-term break - this allows 8/9 weeks to work with this new group - surely this is enough time?

I would like to see a notification on the site that states that the player is definitely registered. Especially for new coaches it can be confusing as it just says pending. Apparently catered for in FAInet.

See previous comment section.

Simplify even further. It should be a case of name, age, school and nothing else. Also no time restrictions on registration. If a player is registered the morning of a game that should be acceptable. See earlier comments.

I would like to be able to delete the players who have left school from the system

The registration system only provides for the student to be put "into the system". You then have to ensure that each student is allocated to the correct team. This seems like duplication. I think that once the player is in the system this should be enough. See earlier comments.

Paper registration not this over complicated, time consuming and confusing eportal system

New system that doesn't require as much info for each player See previous comments.

With the IRFU there is a whole school system that once the player is registered once for the school he is then registered until he is removed (After 6th year) or if they move school they simply transfer over. A lot easier than system that is in place at the minute with FAIS See earlier comments.

Our suggestions were submitted to FAI Schools in November of this school year by letter. Teachers do not have the time to fill in this player registration process. It is a complete waste of time and completely unnecessary.

Technically it might not be possible, but parts of it are over excessive and if could be cut out would be helpful. For example, have to click the button to register each individual player is very time consuming. See earlier comments.

Simplify it. Design a new online system, current system is poorly designed and confusing.

Please no more project inform!!

Girls section seem to manage with an excel sheet (open to correction on that) which can be easily updated and emailed to the organiser

Our teams were removed from every competition we entered due to registration errors. So perhaps a little bit more leeway or introduce a fine system for teachers who make clerical errors. Rather than just kicking teams out so frequently with no consideration for the players.

We are flexible & do offer leeway, despite opinions to the contrary - schools are

afforded every opportunity & support to get the process done, are aware of the sanctions if they don't & then complain if sanctions are imposed. As for a fine system, this possibility was floated as an option last year & was overwhelmingly rejected in the mentor survey.

Perhaps you might consider that the teachers are busy starting back in the new year, are unsure of who theyre players are, are organising more than one sport and just simply dont have the time to read 30 + pages of regulations regarding registration and just want to put a team out to play and win or lose.

As stated above, the registration user guide is 14 pages long, not 30+, & a maximum of four pages is relevant depending on whether you are a first time or returning user.

#### Any other comments?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	39.0%	30
No	61.0%	47
Any comments?		30
<i>answered question</i>		<b>77</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>8</b>

Deadlines are too early for division 3 league fixtures. There should not be so much pressure to get the games played so early in the year. Often the weather prevents games being played and organisers insist on sticking to deadlines. Very unrealistic to meet deadlines in some instances.

small school cut off 50 still allows quite big single sex schools to compete against small schools having Under 50 of both sex in them

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work during the year.

Branch should pay for finals **Addressed above**

The complete lack of recognition of the work of mentors in schools is an ongoing source of resentment. It's made particularly acute when placed alongside the recognition and support provided by other sporting organisations in the same school. More transparency needs also to be provided around how registration fees are spent within the organisation. **A valid point, but the FAI Schools does not have the same resources as other bodies. As for how our money is spent, it was decided that, from September/October 2016 onwards, the annual accounts summary, which is always presented at our AGM, will be forwarded to all member schools asap after the AGM.**

"We were deducted 3 points for playing an unregistered player. I just want to let the league know that I think this sanction is extremely harsh considering the nature of the breach in regulations. Such a sanction should be imposed possibly in a situation whereby a player is ineligible due to be over age whereby there is an obvious advantage to the team. However, when the sanction is imposed due to a player simply being overlooked in the registration process, I feel that this is somewhat extreme.

**The points deduction sanction is standard throughout all levels of the game - playing an overage player is a separate offence & the sanction there is removal from the competition. When the FAI Schools Rulebook was being re-drafted in 2013-14, comparative rulebooks from 14 other leagues/competitions were consulted - the deduction sanction was present in over 10 of them.**

For the sake of the competition and allowing our students to partake in the game we enjoy, I feel that we should stop allowing this level of bureaucracy prevent teams taking part in the later stages of a competition. We must remember that this is a schools competition and not the Champions League.

Yes, but we must also provide a safe & structured environment for the competitions to take place. Whether it's the Champions League or FAI Schools, it must be run properly.

🏆 We had a successful year with our Senior team but we were severely financially penalised for getting to the Leinster Semi Final and Final and the Dublin West Final. For each of these games we had to pay for the pitch €50-60 and 3 officials €22.50 x 3. That is over €360 which is a severe penalisation for success. This is on top of the over 300 we paid in affiliation fees at the start of the year. In Rugby, schools get paid for reaching finals. That was extremely unfair on us as surely you should be rewarding teams for success not punishing them

Addressed above.

🏆 Our First Year team made it through to the Leinster Quarter Finals. We had to travel to Longford. Perhaps a neutral venue halfway between the two schools would be better. The match was played on an artificial pitch which I felt gave the other team an unfair advantage. It was very obvious that their players were much more comfortable playing on that surface as they play all their home games there and I assume that many of the boys play or train on it with their club. Our boys struggled to gauge the pace of the Astro Turf. It would be much fairer to insist on all matches being played on grass.

The issue of neutral venues has been discussed annually & the consensus always has been (mainly for cost reasons) that the SF & Final should be neutral only. Also, in this day & age of restrictions due to S&S & the inclement Irish weather, it is just not possible to play all matches on grass.

🏆 The 1st year age rule of Under 14 - our team consisted of under 13 players predominantly. Are other schools similar? It means that an under 13 player will be giving a 'year away' in 1st year. When in 2nd year, they will no longer be eligible for their natural under 14 section and will have to play at Minor level (U15). So, it will be 3rd year by the time that the player can play against his own age group - for smaller kids, this is a major problem and we're losing players to other schools sports as a result, as well as some parents contacting us regarding same. FOOD FOR THOUGHT MAYBE

A regular issue this - the age criteria is the same for all schools, so all schools will be affected equally. We have also proposed an age realignment to the National AGM to try to return, as far as possible, to the pre-2011 structure. This is detailed on a separate document.

🏆 Suspensions can be too severe. I have no issue with strong suspensions for serious issues such as abusive language or disrespecting a referee, violent player etc. However, three match bans for a last man tackle is too much. This can often end a player's season, which is unfair. Can this be reduced to a one match ban? I know this may be a refereeing issue, but maybe give refs the option to report it as a last man tackle so that the suspension is less severe, and ultimately fairer.


As a schools-based organisation, we demand higher standards of players & mentors than perhaps the club/league system does. The suspensions imposed have been in place since the 1980's & have been regularly reviewed & updated in line with the FIFA Laws of the Game. A 'last man tackle' never gets a three game suspension, unless the referee reports it as serious foul play or violent conduct. Technically, it is a 'professional foul' for which a two-match suspension is issued.


🏆 At the beginning of the school year could we request that once your school has entered the cup and league competitions, that your school grass pitch maybe used as a venue to hold a cup semi or final. It would be interesting to see the response and perhaps have the option instead of immediately looking to an astro



turf. Perhaps a survey could be set up. Example - Would you be willing to provide your school pitch for semi-finals or finals if requested? Joe Carroll in the past has requested the use of our school grass pitch for Midland finals and we have never disappointed to deliver. This proposal in my view would create a fairer playing field for everyone. Firstly not every school has the use of an astro turf pitch and hence are not getting the same time to train or play on it. Secondly it would be less of a strain financially for all schools.

Worth considering - we can certainly ask the question in the affiliation/competition entry form.


 I think an updated website with details of tables fixtures would be very helpful. The website has been updated & will be formally launched at the start of the new season - we will update as often as possible, but we also need a PRO - any takers?

 Poorly run organization. Other sports in our school GAA, basketball & rugby laugh at us. In no other sport are teachers expected to spend hours working a registration system that doesn't work and then kicked out if we make a mistake. Death by email - so many emails from organization it's treated as spam mail. Simpler system and new secretary a must.


The current registration system is not without its issues, but it does work. Schools are not automatically kicked out for 'making a mistake' - there is a structured system of sanctions to deal with registration issues. They system is also not psychic - if someone registers an overage player & then plays them, that is the schools issue, not ours.


E-mails are only ever sent if necessary for competition organisation or other important issues - they only enter spam folders due to attachment sizes, which won't be an issue from 2016-17 onwards, as links to the website will see access to most documents online.

As for a new secretary, no problem if anyone is willing. This season has seen 10+ new competition organisers volunteer. In the past we have had people who have volunteered for Committee positions at the AGM & then disappear. If you are genuinely interested in making a contribution, contact me by e-mail or attend the AGM in September & make yourself known.


 Overall very well run, would like to see stricter upholding of league fixture deadlines, and zero tolerance approach towards abuse of officials.


We do have a zero tolerance approach towards abuse of officials - we deal with all cases if reported to us.

 "Terrible experience with officialdom this year!

 Pitches should be of a certain standard or forfeit home games!


See point made earlier about pitches.

 Referees should be able to walk at least, would be a bonus if they could run."


 Provide organisers with new rain coats and tee shirts and euro 2016 tickets.

Might be able to do something on the first two, not sure about the last one!

 Its a tough job! Keep up the hard work.

 Why does the League stop at provincial level? We are restricted to playing either league or cup and we choose league as we are guaranteed games. However as a result we can never possibly compete for a national title. Is there a reason for this? It would mean only two more games.

Leinster is currently the only province that offers separate league & cup competitions, so therefore is the only province that can have provincial league winners. Other provinces use a league/group format to get to cup semi-final stages, which is a different set-up.

 Would like a review of the organisation and running of the Leinster Champions League as a result of difficulties encountered this year.

This was done as part of the Development Meeting - revised structure to operate from 2016-17 onwards.

The disciplinary process is an issue. 100 euro for an appeal for some schools is unfair. Some schools simply can't afford it or won't pay it. My school could not appeal a decision which resulted in a very unfair 5 match ban on a player. A time ban may be more appropriate as there are such few games in the year. Some players can end up missing an entire season. These procedures are fine with club teams, but there needs to be more common sense with school teams.

As part of the Rulebook revamp, protest & appeals procedures across 14 other leagues/competitions were examined. The fee settled on is very much in the mid-range of appeal fees charged throughout all areas of the game. Remember, the appeal fee is returned if the appeal is successful, so if you have a valid case, the appeal fee should not be an issue.

Registration is becoming a real pain when it comes to points deductions and penalties. This should not be the case and it makes life needlessly difficult for all parties with too much admin.

Referee booking is another layer of bureaucracy not needed by voluntary coaches. We book our own referees. Often these referees never showed up for the games. Referees should not officiate in games where their son is playing for the home team. This happened in a senior cup game involving my school.

This was requested by the majority of schools during last season's mentor survey. Schools are required to use the FAI approved allocators only & referees should not accept appointments directly from schools. It is still only one phone call or text message. If the referee does not show up, then that is a disciplinary matter for the allocator/league to deal with & should be reported on. As for a referee officiating in games where their family members might be playing, there is nothing to preclude this in FIFA/UEFA/FAI regulations.

Suspensions. Would a one game suspension for an offence deemed as a professional foul not be sufficient? Addressed above.

The main point of the FAIS is to get students playing to create a healthy lifestyle and to give students a release from studies. To do this I feel that the cup competition should start later. If it were to start later I feel that more friendlies could be played and that teams can be better prepared and students feel that they have been given a good opportunity to give it their all. If teams are unlucky and lose first round of the cup and get knocked out of league games they could be finished by October leaving them with a long wait until their exams in the summer without any real positive extra-curricular activity.

There are two sides to this - if eliminated early, then at least they will have played 3-4 games. However, the introduction of shield competitions should see the option of more matches being played.

The changes over the last few years are very welcomed. Well done on improving the game. More games are welcomed. Not everything has to be a cup where half the teams lose the chance to play every time they line up. a league that guarantees games without a playoff at the end would be beneficial for shield teams.


Stop punishing Children for clerical errors by busy teachers.


This has been stated previously - last season we floated the possibility of a whole raft of teacher or school-based sanctions for registration breaches rather than team-based. None of them achieved any level of support. If you have any concrete suggestions for 2017 onwards, please suggest them for discussion.

The referee allocator refereed a lot of games for Ballinteer himself. This is the first year that we had an issue with our pitch. No team has ever complained nor has a referee since the school opened. I feel that this issue was excessive and


over exaggerated by the referee allocator. Although the referees made complaints, this was never communicated to us before games, and each game was played. I feel referees in this area did not get their fair share of games and I also feel Ballinteer has been treated unfairly by the allocator. Each mentor, past and present, have tried to do our best for the students in the school and work to our best with the FAI. We are a division three schoolboy soccer team and I feel we need not be penalised to the extent it has this year as the result of a pitch."

The issue of allocations & the spread of matches between all referees was discussed & has been communicated to the allocators concerned.

 Lot of effort being put in, it is appreciated despite all the whinging!

 I would like an introduction of a rule where the home team must make contact with the away team. This will get rid of the issue where coaches are not getting in contact with other coaches.

This is a rule - the onus is on BOTH schools to make arrangements for matches - if mentors are not returning calls, contact the competition organiser immediately.

 Stop kicking teams out for registration errors if they can be proven to be simply clerical mistakes. Introduce a fine to be paid if mistakes are made and then remove the team if the fine isnt paid within 14 days.

The possibility of fines on mentors/schools as a sanction for registration errors was floated as part of the mentor survey last season & was overwhelmingly rejected.