



Club Rules & Guidelines

2016/ 2017 Season



1. Introduction

St James Athletic was founded in 1953. The clubs logo "Nils Satis Nisi Optimum" reflects its' goal, meaning "nothing but the best is good enough" for our children. The club has always operated as an all-inclusive club, with no screening of players on entry to the club. The club today is run by volunteers, who share the same passion as your child for football and the joys one can get from participating in such an exciting sport.

2. History of the Club

Who could possibly have envisaged that when Rev. Canon Alcock called a meeting, in the Spring of 1953, of his football playing parishioners in the St. Cathrines' / St. James' Church of Ireland Parish Hall in Dublin's inner city, that almost 60 years later St. James' Athletic Football Club is still as strong as ever.

This first committee meeting elected the Rev. Alcock as President and Robert Kerr as Captain, they decided the club colours would be red and blue and that they would apply to the United Church's League for membership. In 1954, having won Division 2 of the U.C.L they were promoted to Division 1.

In the early Sixties the Club was finding it difficult to field a team while staying within the rule of the U.C.L. that allowed only Protestants to participate and so decided to enlist a Catholic or two whose surnames would not be obviously of that persuasion. The names Diskin and Alwell were lucky enough to fall into that category and so in 1965 began a new era for St. James' Athletic.

The situation of playing 'inelegible' players was overlooked by the U.C.L. up until 1971, when St James Athletic beat Strand United F.C. in a cup semi-final while fielding ten (10) such gentlemen. Following this cup win, St James Athletic was thrown out of the league. For the following three (3) years these players kept the club alive by playing friendlies and rugby with Bective Rangers R.F.C. and so, when in 1975 the U.C.L. decided to allow players from all religions participate, St. James' Athletic was re-born.

Under the Presidency of Stephen Stuart and Captaincy Alan Diskin the Club embarked on the 'orange and black' journey that has taken us to where we are today, thanks to the amazing work by many committed members over the years. May it long continue.

3. Current Club Organisation:

Following the AGM in June 2012, the following were elected into the following positions:

Club Chairman

James Greaney,
Ph: 086 8332567
Also Coach, U12A

Club Secretary

Eddie McGrath
Ph: 086 8102950
Also Coach, U12B



Club Treasurer

Peter McElroy
Ph: 086 165 2465

Child Welfare Officer

Tuhin Mukerji
Ph: 086 355 6639

Communication Secretary

John Hamilton
Ph: 086 1740344

Academy Director

James McClafferty
Ph: 086 3159849

Small Sided Pitch Coordinator (Raphaela's)

John Hamilton
Ph: 086 1740344

Full Sided Pitch Coordinator (Benildus)

James Greaney
Ph: 086 8332567

Coaches

See schedule for contact details:

Gear & Equipment Coordinator

James Greaney
Ph: 086 8332567

4. Fees & Registration

The annual fees are outlined on the club application forms. Fees contribute to the rental costs of three grounds and the maintenance costs (training grounds and playing pitches), also for insurances including public liability and accident insurance along with football equipment, referee fees and other expenses.

All players participating in the SDFL must complete a separate registration form, with the child and parent required to sign the form. The forms must be submitted by the end of September at the latest. Forms will be available from the club treasurer. Failure to register the team players may result in the SDFL stopping the team from playing in the league.

All fees must be collected by the last Monday in September



5. Child Protection Policy

The club has a detailed child protection policy. Please take time to read this policy and understand the procedures when dealing with any issues within the club. All new team coaches will be vetted by the Garda in line with their procedures.

By enrolling your child as a registered member, you are agreeing to the club code of conduct for players, parents and coaches. This code of conduct supports our club's child protection policy.

6. Insurance:

The club maintains Public Liability (Euro 10,000,000 per any one event, with a Euro 1,000 excess for third party property damage and Euro 15.00 for windscreen damage) and Personal Accident Insurance through FIRST IRELAND. Insurance cover is effective from the 1st September for each season, annual cover. All claims must be registered with the insurance company within one month of the incident occurring.

For insurance claims, please communicate all claims through the club chairman, who will process the claim with the clubs insurance company.

7. First Aid:

All club coaches should have received first aid awareness training at the start of the season. If not, such training will be funded by the club.

All teams will be issued with a first aid kit, with the minimum contents. It is important for club coaches to keep this minimum stock available.

There is a defibrillator located in the green container at Benildus Grounds. The battery is not connected. Please connect before use.

8. Club Jerseys:

The club jerseys are sponsored by Shanahan Engineering, an International Energy Service company based in Dun Laoighre, Dublin. New kit will be issued at the start of the season for the new entrants to the SDFL. Also each team will be issued with a bag of footballs, bibs, cones and other training aides.

A club training jacket will be issued to all coaches. All gear & equipment needs should be communicated with the club's Gear & Equipment Coordinator.

Should players leave the club, please request the parents to return the jersey and shorts to the club. At all times we should try to recycle club kit. There is a box located in the container at Benildus for storing this gear.



Please check the container at Benildus for gear that has been handed back. This may fit your team requirements.

9. League:

The club teams play in the SDFL (South Dublin Football League) league cups and league. SDFL clubs include clubs from south and west Dublin. Some other clubs in south Dublin also play in the DDSL (Dublin District School Boys League).

The SDFL web site includes information on weekend fixtures, results and also details of opponents including club secretaries. <http://www.sdfli.ie>

All coaches should access the site to determine the weekend fixture and location. The fixtures are put up on the site every Tuesday.

For home games only, please text the result to Eddie McGrath. Please study the rules of the SDFL.

If you wish to postpone a match, please communicate directly with the relevant league secretary for your age group. Please check the SDFL web site for details.

10. Club Playing Facilities:

Academy

The club academy play on the Astra pitches (Cages) at the rear of Benildus College, Upper Kilmacud Road every Saturday at 9.45am to 10.45am. The season typically ends on the 1st Saturday in June 2013, followed by the club's annual BLITZ.

Small Sided Teams (7 aside, 9 aside)

The junior teams train every Monday or Tuesday on the Astra pitches at the rear of Benildus College, upper Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan.

The U9 – U11 teams play every Saturday, commencing on Saturday 17th September 2016. The teams play their home matches on grounds rented from Raphaela's Primary school. The pitch is located at the rear of the school. There are two grounds available. The club stores fully assembled small sided goals and nets at the back of the school, under the far trees. Flag poles and lining equipment (including fluid) is also stored. There is also a storage box (lock code 199) with hammer and pegs.

Full side teams:

The U12 – U18 teams play every Saturday & Sunday (depending on the team), commencing on the 10th September 2016. The teams play on the full pitch, and play their home matches on the grounds at the rear of St Benildus College, Upper Kilmacud Road, Dundrum, D14.



The U12 team uses the new small sided goals, set up on the 18 yard line. Pegs for these goals are kept in the first container with the hammer. Please return to the container after the match, and also place the assembled goal along by the fence after the weekend matches.

In 2003, St James Athletic developed an intermediate pitch at the back of Benildus College, behind the astro pitches. The grounds are under long term lease from the school and are available on an exclusive basis for the U12 – U18 teams. The senior team no longer plays at Benildus, and has joined up with PEGASUS.

All teams must respect the property and grounds that we rent from the local schools. All litter should be removed from the pitch. Visiting teams must locate themselves in the away dug out (left side of the pitch when entering the grounds). Gates must be closed and secured after leaving the grounds. Club equipment, including goals, corner posts and nets must also be located close to the perimeter fence, to facilitate the cutting of the grass each week. The flag poles are stored in the first container. Please return to the container after the weekend match. Also the pitch is pre-lined with weed killer. Each weekend, the first team out must go over the lines with lining paint . The equipment and paint is available in the 40 foot container. The small drums of paint must be mixed with water (1:4). The large drums are pre-mixed.

The container key box code is 1979 (year the pope visited Ireland!). There are four keys. One for the 40' container lock, one for first container (where poles, nets, gear are stored), one for the main gate to the pitch and one for the personnel gate on the right hand side next to the dug-out (useful for getting the ball).

Spare nets are kept in the press within the first container, for both small sided goals and full sided goals, along with clips.

The school principal is Mr. Martin Johnson, Email: mjohnson@stbenilduscollege.com
Phone: 01 2986539.

11. Garda Vetting Procedure

All club coaches must complete this procedure, and return a copy of the FAI certificate to the club Chairman. The FAI is registered with the Garda Central Vetting Unit it and is entitled to receive Garda Vetting services in respect of its club coaches.

Garda Vetting Procedure is as follows:-

- The applicant completes the application form and returns it to the Organisation. He or she must sign the form, thereby providing authorisation for the Garda Vetting process.
- The Chairman will submit the forms to the FAI, the registered organisation who sends the form on to the Garda Central Vetting Unit.
- Garda Vetting checks on the applicant are carried out following receipt of the application form at the Garda Central Vetting Unit.
- A Garda Vetting disclosure is issued directly to the FAI, who in turn issues a notification to the applicant.



- Garda Vetting will only be conducted, and relevant disclosure will only be issued to the FAI, a registered organisation for Garda Vetting, predicated on the written authorisation of an individual vetting subject to do so in a Garda Vetting application form.

12. Match scheduling, Pitch Playability, Markings, Goal Posts and Results

Any changes in scheduled matches must be communicated directly with the SDFL. It is generally difficult to cancel a scheduled match if the match is already published on the SDFL web site on a Tuesday. If you feel it necessary to postpone a weekend match, please do so in advance. The SDFL allows each club two postponements in a season.

For ease of marking, the club pre-lines the pitch ahead of the season. This makes it easier for coaches to line the pitch on the morning of the game or the night before.

Goal posts must be properly erected and secured. Please refer to the FAI guidelines.

All use of the pitch must be coordinated with the **Pitch Coordinator**.

All coaches will be issued with a key for the Benildus main gate. Usually this is open at weekends. The coach of the first team out on the pitch at the weekends is responsible for ensuring the lines are re-marked. This takes about 15 mins, to go over existing lines. There is line paint in the container. It is pre-mixed (1-4). Line marking paint will be kept in sufficient quantity at both locations. If the supply is low, please inform the Club Chairman who will order a new supply.

Please repair any divot marks or holes following a match. The club will provide top soil and seed to close in such openings. This is kept in the second container.

Before a match, the coach will inspect the pitch to ensure there are no holes or dangerous openings in the ground. Such openings will be closed in before the match starts.

During the winter season, the pitch may not be playable. The pitch coordinator will inspect the grounds before the weekend matches, and will inform the club coaches/ SDFL that the pitch is unplayable. Best that the club coach also informs the visiting team that the match is cancelled and the referee.

All home weekend results must be sent by text to the club secretary, who will update the SDFL.

In advance of the weekend match, the relevant coach must determine the location of the away grounds and text the parent's directions. Pitch locations can be found by viewing the SDFL web site under club details.

Scheduling friendly matches must be coordinated through the pitch coordinator.

The Benildus main pitch is pre-marked at the start of the season by Stephen Hingerty (087 2390319).



13. Referee fees

In accordance with the SDFL rule book, for home matches, the coaches must pay the referee the match fees, equal to:

U10, U11

Match Fee	Total	Half Fee
€ 20.00	€ 20.00	€ 10.00

U12

Match Fee	Total	Half Fee
€ 24.00	€ 24.00	€ 12.00

U13, U14

Travel Allowance	Match Fee	Total	Half Fee
€ 18.00	€ 8.00	€ 26.00	€ 22.00

U15, U16

Travel Allowance	Match Fee	Total	Half Fee
€ 18.00	€ 13.00	€ 31.00	€ 24.50

U17, U18 Top Divisions

Travel Allowance	Match Fee	Total	Half Fee
€ 18.00	€ 33.00	€ 51.00	€ 34.50

To calculate a half fee for ages U13 to U18 divide the match fee in half and add to the travel allowance.

To calculate a half fee for ages U10 to U12 divide match fee in half, travel allowance does not apply to these age groups. The top division or where only one division exists, is deemed a top division. For example if there is only one Division, whether it is called Premier or division 1, fee's are € 51.00. All subsequent divisions are € 45.00

All referee fees will be reimbursed by the club at the end of the season.

14. Ball Sizes (in accordance with SDFL rule book)

U8	size 5 (290 gms)
U9, U10, U11	size 5 (320 gms)
U12, U13, U14	size 5 (370 gms)
U15, U16	size 5 (450 gms)



15. Lessons learnt

1. Please allow sufficient time to line the pitch and erect the goals/ nets. It is best to ask parents to turn up 30 minutes before a home match and help erect the goals. Also at the end of the last home match the team must put back the goals, nets and flags in a secure location.
2. Best to maintain records of all league and cup matches as the SDFL does not maintain a log of all matches.
3. If you suspect opponent players that are overage, please speak to the referee at half time and make a complaint. He will take down the name of the player and check with the league on his registration details.

Match Days Tips

- Check the Daily Star or SDFL web site for your fixtures on a Tuesday
- Bring a few cones and balls for a warm up session
- Check the first aid kit and bring with you
- Fill and bring six (6) water bottles
- All players MUST get 20 minutes per game
- On no account play an unregistered player
- Players should wear their club gear
- Have a team talk and send your players out in a positive mood
- Document any injuries (accident form included appendix H)
- In the unlikely occurrence where you feel the players are subject to abuse/ consistent bad tackling or bad weather withdraw your players and forfeit the game. Forward any complaints to the club secretary who will lodge a complaint with the SDFL
- Always file your score with the club secretary after the game

Home games:

- Arrive 20 minutes before your game
- Meet with the referee and fill out the names on the match card
- If your first up or last off on the schedule put up/ remove goals/ flags to their stored area
- Pay the referee fees

Away matches

- Ensure you know the venue and arrive at least 20 minutes before kick off
- Communicate location clearly to all parents
- Introduce yourself to the away manager
- Fill out the match card
- File the score with the club secretary
- Away team pays the referee fees