

Membership and Refund Policy

Clear guidance on seasonal membership, payments and refund requests

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WEBSITE
www.ardaghunited.com

Ardagh United is a volunteer-run grassroots football club. Membership fees contribute towards the cost of running the club, including league affiliation, player registration, insurance, equipment, facilities, coaching resources and other football-related costs.

This policy explains how club membership works and when membership fees may be refunded.

1. Club Membership

All players participating with Ardagh United must be properly registered with the club and, where applicable, with the relevant football league and governing bodies.

Membership is for the relevant football season and does not automatically carry forward into the following season.

Membership is only confirmed once:

- The required registration information has been completed.
- The appropriate membership fee has been paid or an agreed payment arrangement is in place.
- Any additional registration requirements requested by the club have been completed.

Ardagh United reserves the right to refuse or cancel membership where necessary, including where registration requirements have not been met or where membership would result in the club being unable to comply with league, FAI, safeguarding or insurance requirements.

2. Membership Fees

Membership fees are reviewed by the club and may change from season to season.

The applicable membership fee will be clearly displayed during the registration process.

Where family or multi-player membership rates are available, these apply only to eligible players registered as part of the same family.

Membership fees help cover costs incurred by the club throughout the season and should not be considered a payment based on the number of training sessions or matches attended by an individual player.

3. Refunds Before Registration is Finalised

Where a player withdraws before their registration has been processed with the relevant league or governing body, the club may provide a full refund of the membership fee.

Any payment processing charges or other costs already incurred by the club may be deducted where appropriate.

4. Refunds After Player Registration

Once a player has been registered and the club has incurred league, affiliation, insurance or other associated costs, membership fees will normally be non-refundable.

This includes situations where:

- A player decides to stop playing during the season.
- A player moves to another club.
- A player's personal circumstances change.
- A player is unable to attend training or matches regularly.
- Training sessions or matches are cancelled due to weather, pitch conditions, league scheduling or circumstances outside the club's control.

The club may consider exceptional circumstances on an individual basis.

5. Injury or Long-Term Absence

Membership fees will not normally be refunded because of injury, illness or other periods of absence.

Where a player suffers a serious injury or experiences exceptional circumstances which prevent them from participating for a substantial part of the season, the committee may consider a full or partial refund at its discretion.

Each request will be considered individually.

6. Where the Club Cannot Provide a Team

If Ardagh United determines that it cannot enter or continue to operate a team due to insufficient player numbers, coaching availability or another club-related reason, affected members will be contacted.

Where the club cannot provide football for a registered player, an appropriate full or partial refund will be considered depending on the stage of the season and any costs already incurred on behalf of the player.

7. Cancellation or Suspension of Football

The club cannot guarantee that every scheduled training session or match will take place.

Sessions and fixtures may be cancelled, postponed or changed because of:

- Weather conditions.
- Unplayable pitches.
- League decisions.
- Opposition teams withdrawing.
- Facility availability.
- Health and safety concerns.
- Events outside the reasonable control of Ardagh United.

Individual cancellations do not normally entitle a member to a refund.

8. Disciplinary Matters

Where a player's membership is suspended or terminated following a disciplinary matter or serious breach of club rules or codes of conduct, membership fees will normally not be refunded.

Any such decision will be made in accordance with the club's applicable disciplinary and safeguarding procedures.

9. Duplicate or Incorrect Payments

Where a membership fee has been charged more than once or an incorrect amount has been paid, the club will refund any confirmed overpayment.

Members should contact the club as soon as possible if they believe an incorrect payment has been made.

10. Requesting a Refund

Refund requests should be submitted to Ardagh United and should include:

- Parent or guardian name.
- Player's name.
- Team or age group.
- Date of payment.
- Reason for the refund request.

Where appropriate, refunds will be returned to the original payment method.

Refund requests requiring committee consideration will be reviewed as soon as reasonably possible.

11. Club Discretion

Where this policy allows for a discretionary refund, the decision will be made by the Ardagh United Committee or an authorised club officer.

The club will aim to apply this policy fairly and consistently while recognising that individual circumstances can differ.

12. Statutory Rights

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit any rights a member may have under applicable Irish law.

13. Contact

Questions regarding membership, payments or refunds can be submitted via email to **info@ardaghunited.com**