

# CIS Mini Soccer Centres



**cis**  
Co-operative Insurance



Dear applicant

Thank you for requesting information regarding the setting up of a CIS Mini Soccer Centre.

I am delighted to enclose an information pack, which consists of the following items:

- An application form
- A list of the required criteria to obtain IFA endorsement
- The benefits of running a CIS Mini Soccer Centre

CIS Mini Soccer Centres are often children's first serious introduction to football. We believe they should provide a fun, enjoyable, safe, rewarding and positive learning experience. If a child's first experience is positive, he or she will hopefully continue to be involved in football long into the future as a player, coach, referee or administrator.

We are asking all existing and new CIS Mini Soccer Centre partners to embrace our criteria, not only to benefit your individual organisations but to improve football standards in general in Northern Ireland.

We are extremely pleased that Co-operative Insurance (CIS) has extended its commitment to Northern Irish football by sponsoring the CIS Mini Soccer Centres. CIS has been investing in football since the 1970s and has been sponsor of the CIS Insurance Cup here in Northern Ireland since 2001. CIS is fully committed to supporting the game at all levels and its grassroots programme focuses on providing coaching and equipment to youth teams throughout the United Kingdom.

I hope you find the enclosed information pack useful and if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me:

**Ian Stewart**  
**IFA Grassroots Development Manager**  
**Irish Football Association - CIS Mini Soccer Centres**  
**20 Windsor Ave**  
**Belfast**  
**BT9 6EG**

**Telephone: 02890 682758**

**Email: [istewart@irishfa.com](mailto:istewart@irishfa.com)**

Yours faithfully

Ian Stewart  
IFA Grassroots Development Manager





## Criteria

### 1. Staff

- Centre Co-ordinator must have a minimum Level 3 / UEFA 'B' football coaching award, a valid emergency first aid certificate, CNI Insurance or equivalent
- All other personnel must have minimum IFA Grassroots Leaders football award
- All staff must be POCS checked

### 2. Registration

- Contact sheet filled in with all numbers of parents / guardians / carers to be provided in case of emergency and coaches made aware of any medical conditions
- Register maintained for all sessions

### 3. Coach / Player Ratio

- Maximum 1 coach to 20 players

### 4. Programme

- Minimum 30% practical football base
- Small-sided games (recommended minimum 60% of games)

### 5. Facilities and Equipment

- Coaches check facilities / equipment daily
- Equipment suitable for age and stage of development of youngsters

- First aid equipment on site
- Access to telephone land line / mobile
- Changing facilities which cater for a minimum of 40 boys / girls
- A safe playing area to accommodate a minimum of two 60m x 40m pitches

### 6. Playing

- Children should be grouped appropriately in terms of age, size and ability
- Game supervisors must ensure equal playing time for all
- The IFA recommend that due consideration should be given when catering for young players with regard to the weather. We therefore advise that only those approved centres with access to indoor facilities should operate in December, January and February
- No centre should run beyond 2 hours

### 7. Child Protection

- Appoint designated Child Protection person
- Adhere to all IFA Child Protection Policies & Procedures
- Adhere to IFA Coaches', Volunteers', Players' & Parents' Codes of Conduct

### 9. Insurance

- Appropriate Personal and Public Liability Insurance to be provided by the centre organisation

### 8. Equal Opportunities

- Open registration
- Courses can be marketed to, and available for, both boys and girls
- Operate Equal Opportunities Policy

### 10. Financial

- All Co-ordinators must keep an up to date account book
- Max of £2 per hour and £3 per 2 hours

### 11. Communication

- Provide all parents / guardians with a copy of the Code of Conduct for Parents
- Provide an up to date list of all staff to parents / guardians

### 12. Duration of Licence

- 2 years with an annual assessment
- The IFA reserve the right to withdraw a licence if any of the criteria are not adhered to
- The cost of a licence for 2 years is £50. This includes 2 assessments per year and all benefits listed on the following page



## Benefits

### 1. Parents / Guardians

- All centres will be visited at least twice during the year by an IFA Assessor
- Provide reassurance that their children are enjoying themselves in a safe, well organised and supervised environment
- Ensure that their children are playing without pressure from the sidelines
- Encourages fair play

### 2. Players

- More touches of the ball allowing children the chance to practice their techniques and skills
- Provides a safe and friendly environment to allow children to develop as people and players
- Simplified rules (e.g. no off-side)
- Emphasis on fun
- Provides the children with additional social skills and opportunities to make new friends
- Reinforces fair play
- Promotes healthy lifestyle
- Pathway to participation for life

### 3. Organisation / Club

- Positive promotion of your centre on the IFA web site and IFA publications
- Could enhance position for future funding opportunities
- Cash back-scheme for every adult or child who joins the IFA Membership Supporters Scheme
- Your centre short-listed for International half-time displays
- Create a large base of players to enhance your junior teams
- Use of the IFA Logo and the Grassroots logo
- Entry into IFA / CIS monthly equipment awards

### 4. Staff

- 10% discount for all volunteers / leaders when applying for a Level One coaching licence (maximum of 8 per centre)
- Gain valuable experience when obtaining your Level One Award
- Free tickets to CIS Insurance Cup matches\*
- Free IFA / CIS apparel supplied\*



# Application Form

Name of Proposed Centre:

Address of Proposed Centre:

Post Code:

Proposed Centre Co-ordinator:

Tel:

Mob:

E-mail:

Highest Football Coaching Qualification:

Date Awarded:

First Aider (designated):

Child Protection Officer:

I wish to apply for an Irish Football Association  
CIS Mini Soccer Centre Licence on behalf of

organisation / club

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to:-

**National CIS Mini Soccer Centre Co-Ordinator**  
**c/o The Irish Football Association**  
**20 Windsor Avenue, Belfast BT9 6EG**

