

# NIFL Policy for Curtailment of Leagues in Exceptional Circumstances

## Danske Bank Premiership

### 1. Status of an unfulfilled season due to exceptional circumstances

In the event that the 2020/21 season should be required to halt due to unforeseen circumstances, and it is deemed not possible by government authorities, Irish Football Association or the NIFL Board to complete the season, the final standings will be determined as follows:

#### Fewer than 38 matches played

By the end of May 2021, if fewer than 38 matches have been played.

- The standings after 33 matches played (when each club has played each other three times) shall determine the league placings.
- All sporting consequences flow, including declaration of champion club, promotion and relegation of bottom and top Clubs in divisions, together with European qualification slots.
- The top three ranked clubs and the Irish Cup winner will be nominated to participate in the UEFA Club Competitions in accordance with the UEFA Access List. The Europa League Play Offs would not be played.
- Should the IFA not determine or nominate a UEFA position, arising from the Irish Cup in accordance with the UEFA Access List, if offered to the NIFL that position will be allocated to the fourth ranked club as per rule 7 of the NIFL Premiership Rules.
- In the absence of promotion/relegation play offs the bottom ranked club only would be relegated.

#### Fewer than 33 matches played

By the end of May 2021, if fewer than 33 matches have been played (when each club has played each other three times).

##### If more than half of the third round of fixtures have been played (MD28 onwards)

- League positions determined on the basis of points per game (followed by goal difference).
- All sporting consequences flow, including declaration of champion clubs, promotion and relegation of

##### If less than half of the third round of fixtures have been played (Less than 28 matches)

- The standings after 22 matches played (when each club has played each other two times) shall determine the league placings.
- All sporting consequences flow, including declaration of champion clubs, promotion and relegation of

<p>bottom and top Clubs in divisions, together with European qualification slots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The top three ranked clubs and the Irish Cup winner will be nominated to participate in the UEFA Club Competitions in accordance with the UEFA Access List. The Europa League Play Offs would not be played.</li> <li>• Should the IFA not determine or nominate a UEFA position, arising from the Irish Cup in accordance with the UEFA Access List, if offered to the NIFL that position will be allocated to the fourth ranked club as per rule 7 of the NIFL Premiership Rules.</li> <li>• In the absence of promotion/relegation play offs the bottom ranked club only would be relegated.</li> </ul>	<p>bottom and top Clubs in divisions, together with European qualification slots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The top three ranked clubs and the Irish Cup winner will be nominated to participate in the UEFA Club Competitions in accordance with the UEFA Access List. The Europa League Play Offs would not be played.</li> <li>• Should the IFA not determine or nominate a UEFA position, arising from the Irish Cup in accordance with the UEFA Access List, if offered to the NIFL that position will be allocated to the fourth ranked club as per rule 7 of the NIFL Premiership Rules.</li> <li>• In the absence of promotion/relegation play offs the bottom ranked club only would be relegated.</li> </ul>
---	---

### **Fewer than 22 matches played**

By the end of May 2021, if fewer than 22 matches have been played.  
(when each club has played each other twice).

- The season will be left unfinished. In this scenario there would be no Champions declared and there would be no relegation from the Premiership or promotion into the Premiership.
- The NIFL Board, in consultation with UEFA, would determine the participants in the UEFA Club Competitions.

## *2. Extension of the season due to exceptional circumstances*

- The NIFL Board reserve the right, in the scenario where the season has been suspended, to restart the season to ensure that a minimum of 22 matches are played in Season 2020/21.
- The NIFL Board reserve the right to extend the end of Season 2020/21 (currently 31 May 2020) if the Irish FA extend Season 2020/21 and/or the deadline for nomination of clubs for UEFA Club Competitions is extended.
- Should one or more clubs have unfulfilled fixtures in any of the respective rounds of matches (as detailed above) the NIFL Board may appoint an Independent Panel that will determine the final standings at each point.