

SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF WOMEN'S & YOUTH CRICKET

BRIEFING NOTE FOR CLUBS (APPROVED BY CL BOARD, AUTUMN 2025)

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

From a strategic perspective, Cricket Leinster has an objective to have a sustainable youth cricket (boys and girls) programme in-place at all member clubs by end 2027. Cricket Leinster is also targeting a material growth in adult female cricket participation over the same time period.

Cricket Leinster is focused on supporting an appropriate balance between 'Open' cricket growth and an environment for youth & women's cricket to flourish at club level.

SUPPORTING ACTIONS BY CRICKET LEINSTER

Cricket Leinster recognises that the development of youth and women's cricket will take time to be fully achieved in every member club and in that context, the following supports will be provided:

TYPE OF SUPPORT	DETAILS
Coaching Kids (5-11 yrs) Certified Training	<p>Any club committed to participating in CL youth competitions in 2026 will be provided with a minimum of two places on this course which will be run on at least two occasions over the winter period in each of 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>The fees paid for the two course places will be credited against the club's second-half affiliation fees (total value is €130.00 per club) in 2026 provided that the club participates in at least one age category for boys <u>and</u> one age category for girls in 2026 and 2027.</p>
Smash-It programme as an entry point for boys & girls (5-9 years).	<p>All clubs which sign-up and provide a Smash-It programme offering in 2026 can avail of CL's Personal Accident insurance cover for all participants on a free-of-charge basis.</p> <p>The first 20 kids signed up in each club will receive the participant pack on a free-of-charge basis (total value is €300.00 per club) provided that the participant is also registered as a player with Cricket Leinster.</p>
Registration Fees (all under 18s playing youth competitions in first year of registration)	A new 'aspirant' registration fee will be introduced in 2026 for any youth player registering with Cricket Leinster for the first time in 2026 or 2027 at a nominal year one rate of €5.00 per player.

TYPE OF SUPPORT	DETAILS
Registration Fees (females over 18 yrs playing adult competitions in first year of registration)	A new 'aspirant' registration fee will be introduced in 2026 for any adult female registering with Cricket Leinster for the first time at a reduced year one rate of €15.00 per player (46% discount on normal adult rate).
Entry Fees for Women's Division Four	No team charge will be applied in year one for any team entered into Women's Division Four (participative focus) for the first time in 2026 or 2027.
Clubs with Open Competition teams only in 2026 and 2027	<p>Clubs competing in CL Open Competitions only in 2026 will be charged a 'youth & women's cricket levy' of 5% of their affiliation & competition fees in 2026 rising to 10% in 2027 and any subsequent years. This levy will not apply in 2026 and 2027 where material progress has been made in the establishment of both boys <u>and</u> girls programmes evidenced by team entries for both in CL competitions for 2026 and 2027.</p> <p>The proceeds from this levy will be directed towards actions which support the growth and development of youth and women's cricket across the province.</p>
Open Competition teams per club ground.	A maximum number of Open Competition teams will be allowed to compete in CL competitions for each accredited club ground. This maximum number will be 5 Open teams in 2026 reducing to 4 Open teams in 2027 and all subsequent years. This is to facilitate clubs in allocating meaningful and material capacity and time in the playing calendar for youth and women's teams to participate on an equitable basis.

It is intended that a new club designation/categorisation model will be implemented from 1.1.2028 which will be broadly defined as follows:

CLUB CATEGORY	CORE REQUIREMENTS
Category One (Strategic Member)	Has team(s) competing in Open, Women's & Youth competitions.
Category Two (Full Member)	Has team(s) competing in Open & Youth competitions.
Category Three (Ordinary Member)	Has team(s) competing in Open Competitions only.
Category Four (Associate Member)	Current associate member clubs which have not fulfilled the criteria for categories 1 or 2 above (no new clubs will be admitted with an aspiration/plan to achieve category 3 status only).

Whilst the details have still to be finalised (and will be communicated well in advance), it is intended that these designations will be used as a guide for the future allocation of development resource capacity, the future dedication of coaching expertise and the future distribution of funding/grant-aid support.