

THE ASSOCIATION OF REFEREES, LEINSTER BRANCH IRFU

# International Tickets

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## Membership allocation process

**Ticket Sub-Committee: Peter C Donnelly, Frank O'Dwyer (Hon Treasurer), Brendan Lynch**

**19/07/2011**

## **Introduction**

For many years the Association has made every effort to satisfy the demand for International Tickets amongst its members. Without doubt this has placed a considerable responsibility and workload on the Association's Ticket Secretary, a post so ably managed for the last 19 years by our esteemed member Mr Ned Cummins, and more recently ably assisted by our past Hon Treasurer, Mr Brendan Lynch. It would be remiss not to thank them for a job well done.

With the advent of the AVIVA Stadium, the development of the professional game and the greater dependence on Sponsors, debenture seat holders etc., the Association's ticket allocations reflect the consequent pressures. Also, with the increasing membership of the Association, the ability to match ticket supply with demand is challenging. Accordingly it may not be possible to meet member demands in the future. Having regard to this reality the process described hereafter will be used to determine the allocation of tickets, henceforth.

## **Association Ticket Allocation**

The Association's current allocation for all Home International is 320 Tickets. This allocation includes tickets in all Categories i.e. Premium, Category 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The allocation for Away Internationals varies by location and is generally in the range 30 – 60. Scotland is typically the most generous!

The Association receives its allocation from the Leinster Branch and has no input into the location of the tickets supplied to it. Representations have been made regarding member feedback in relation to the location of the Association's tickets. However, the Association, like the Leinster clubs and other ticket stakeholders, is assigned tickets based on the Branch's desire to ensure the equitable distribution of its allocation, in qualitative terms.

## **Membership Priority**

From a macro perspective, the Association's ideal is to provide each member with two tickets per game. It is recognised that some members may require less and some more. However, where a member orders greater than two tickets, and where overall supply allows, it should be understood that the excess may not be co-located, and may be in a different ticket category.

In determining the allocation to members the following table of priority will apply:

- **ARLB President**
- **ARLB Sponsors/Executive and Management Committee members**
- **ARLB Past Presidents**
- **ARLB Active Referees and Assessors – based on years seniority**
- **ARLB Life members**
- **Retired/Inactive members**

Where you belong to more than one of the above membership categories your membership of the highest priority category will apply.

### **Other Factors**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and having regard to membership behaviours, the ticket sub-committee will over-ride membership priority taking account of the following:

- **Member response timeliness/adherence to deadlines**
  - **The published deadlines are included so as to meet the external deadlines placed on the ticket sub-committee and reduce/eliminate the last minute crisis.**
- **Member payment promptness and completeness**
  - **The ticket allocation process is dependent upon members returning their payments in full, as invoiced, by the payment date deadline. Failure to do so may result in member's allocation being re-assigned. The practice of follow-up phone calls etc. will no longer apply.**
- **Member payment history**
  - **A number of members have a history of being consistently late with payments. Offenders will no longer receive priority in future ticket allocation.**
- **Member Order history**
  - **As with payment history, a number of members are consistently late returning their ticket orders, do not comply with imposed order protocols and fail to accept their allocation. Such behaviour will no longer be acceptable and will influence ticket allocation.**
- **Current Season Order completeness**
  - **Has the member included the necessary details in accordance with the order form requirements? (Don't forget to include your name/address – we have a number of instances where initials are the same!)**
- **Member Usage intent**
  - **The Association offers ticket to its members for their own personal use.**

- Any irregular behaviour in relation to the Association's ticket allocation will likely lead to a member's right to ticket supply in the future being withdrawn – as a minimum.

It is necessary to take account of these extra factors since there are a number of members who, despite the published deadlines, have required consistent telephone follow-up to confirm requirements, extract payment, arrange delivery, refusing allocations etc. etc. This gives rise to much unnecessary extra workload and cannot be tolerated.

### **Membership Details**

It is important that you advise the Association of any changes to your recorded details, particularly your address. All correspondence in relation to tickets will be sent to your address of record. Should you change address or wish tickets to be sent to another location you should advise the ticket sub-committee as soon as possible. The ticket sub-committee cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of mis-directed mail.

### **Ticket Surpluses**

In circumstances where the Association is facing ticket surpluses for any game the ticket sub-committee reserves the right to modify/override the priority allocation system outlined so as to limit any potential financial risk.

### **Conclusion**

In presenting the foregoing, the ticket sub-committee seeks to inform members of the allocation process and the parameters within which it operates. Paramount to the smooth running of the process is the cooperation of members in complying with the deadlines and protocols that apply. The sub-committee wishes to serve the needs of the members as efficiently as possible and to satisfy your ticket requirements, where possible. As in all instances, where issues arise the sooner a member makes contact the better.