



The FAI

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) is the governing body of football, at all levels, throughout the Republic of Ireland. Founded in 1921, the FAI is an affiliate of both FIFA and UEFA with responsibility for overseeing the development, administration and promotion of football. Connected with every community around the country, the FAI aims to have a positive impact - on and off the pitch - to foster the game's continued growth & participation levels.

Football is the biggest sport in Ireland and the FAI's vision is to **Use Football to Inspire the Nation and Connect Communities.**

FAI Strategy

The full 2022-2025 strategy is available [here](#)

After extensive consultation across all key stakeholders, the 2022-2025 strategy was published, setting out a comprehensive map for the future of Irish football that will develop, transform and inspire an Association that can unite and deliver across a number of key pillars:

Mission and Strategic Pillars

1. Transforming football facilities and infrastructure
2. Driving Grassroots football as the heart of the game
3. Nurturing Football Pathways for All
4. Developing the full potential of football for Women and Girls
5. Framing the Future of our League of Ireland
6. Building for International success

Supporting players, fans and coaches.

The underpinning purpose of the FAI is **To Enrich the Lives of All Through Positive Football Experiences**, which will be enabled by:

1. Building a best-in-class, fit-for-purpose organisation
2. Embracing Digital Technologies
3. Building a Trusted and Respected Brand
4. Driving Investment to achieve the Strategy
5. Developing a collaborative and inclusive culture

Supporting administrators, referees and volunteers.

FAI Governance Structure

The Association's structure can be best split into three sections: the General Assembly, the Board of Management and Committees.

The General Assembly is made up of three Chambers, namely:

- The Professional Football Chamber
- The Amateur and Youth Chamber
- The National Body Chamber

Each Chamber is entitled to nominate one third of the delegates to the General Assembly. **The Opportunity**

- **1,186 Grassroots Clubs**
- **75 Leagues**
- **221,500 Registered Players**
- **80,000 Volunteers**
- **1,500 Grassroots Referees**
- **32,042 children engaged in Primary school programmes**
- **11,400 Coaches**
- **98% increase in funding applications for football since 2018**



Job Title: Chief Operating Officer
Location: FAI Headquarters, Abbotstown, Dublin 15, Ireland
Direct Reporting Line To: CEO
Duration: Permanent

The Purpose of the Role:

Reporting to the FAI Chief Executive Officer, and a key member of the FAI Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the Chief Operating Officer (COO) will be involved in setting, driving and delivering the FAI's overall growth strategy at all levels of football across Ireland. The Chief Operating Officer will also deputise for the CEO in times of absence.

The Chief Operating Officer will support the CEO to lead the Association through a period of planned and progressive reform and development to achieve the FAI's mission to promote and develop the game of football to become the team sport of choice in Ireland. The COO will be expected to represent the Association by sitting on external strategic groups and committees.

There will be a focus on the improvement of the Association's performance, effectiveness, governance, reputation, inclusiveness, and transparency during its next phase of development. Working closely with the FAI Board, SLT, Staff, Leagues, Clubs, central government, local government, Sport Ireland, FIFA, UEFA and other key stakeholders, the COO will collaborate with the CEO in Strategic Planning to drive forward and manage the FAI's strategic vision and objectives.

Along with the leadership team, the COO will play a key role in role to set the correct tone from the top to achieve cultural and business transformation. The COO will also oversee and deliver in-depth analysis of current and potential growth strategies as well as managing departmental performance, in line with the FAI Strategy, Budgets and Forecasts.

THE PERSON

The successful candidate will have the following:

Required skills and experience:

- An experienced, commercially-focused Senior Leader with a strong track record in delivering business solutions, steadfast resolve and personal integrity. International business experience an advantage.
- The ability to think strategically and think 'whole organisation' from strategy development to implementation and performance management.
- Commitment to maintaining a high level of integrity, ethics and professionalism in all business dealings.
- Strong decision-making skills and experience of playing a leading role on a management team keeping the focus on strategic objectives and ensuring the organisation is clear on the milestones they must reach in order to achieve goals.
- Outstanding leadership qualities with the ability to work towards collective outcomes, galvanising and energising teams and colleagues, winning hearts and minds and taking them on a journey towards the future.
- Decisive, energetic and enthusiastic with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.



- Ability to develop and build on relationships with FAI's key partners including Sponsors, Sport Ireland, UEFA, FIFA and the Irish Government and representing the FAI and Irish Football in different fora. A proficiency in leveraging technology and data analytics to drive business insights and enhance operational effectiveness. Strong presentation skills and the ability to influence at a senior level and the ability to quickly establish gravitas with FAI Board and Senior Leadership Team. Defining and communicating clear strategic and operational objectives, managing diverse views and providing direction and clarity for the organisation and its wide range of stakeholders. A deep understanding of business planning and regulatory and governance matters. A strong understanding of digital, data analysis and performance metrics.

Preferred skills, experience and qualifications

- A passion for football and understanding of the football landscape in Ireland. Knowledge of the FAI and the operations of FIFA and UEFA would be beneficial.
- A strong track record in developing successful strategic plans for leading businesses, ideally within the sports sector.
- Experience in delivery of Major Events would be an advantage given the upcoming hosting of EURO 2028.
- A relevant business qualification would be an advantage

If you believe you have the drive, passion and experience necessary to take on this role, please submit a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and supporting letter outlining how your experience fits the requirements, by email to execrecruitment@fai.ie referencing **FAI COO**.

Please direct any enquiries or request for the full job description to execrecruitment@fai.ie.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm on Wednesday, 8th January 2025**.

The Football Association of Ireland is an equal opportunities employer and as we are underrepresented in these areas; we welcome applications from women, individuals from Black and Minority Ethnicities, the LGBTQI community and anyone with a disability.