

# FOOTBALL MANIFESTO 2024



**Our mission is to provide the best possible facilities supporting grassroots sport and recreation, that serve all our communities and increase participation for all people, while investing to boost Ireland's international sporting performance.**

Labour knows that properly funding sport and recreations pays off because it is good for our health and our communities. Ireland spends over €1.5bn treating obesity while investing just over €170m a year in sport. With a growing population there is an urgent need to invest more in sporting and recreational facilities.

Labour will introduce a 1% increase in the Betting Levy to fund new multi-sport facilities alongside a dedicated focus on grassroots and League of Ireland football while seeking increased participation for women and girls, disadvantaged communities, and people with disabilities.

## **Supporting Irish Football**

Football is one of the greatest tools available to support the integration of new communities, participation for those with disabilities, and gender equality in sport and we would implement an ambitious strategy to develop community grassroots football and the League of Ireland which have suffered from underfunding over many years.

### **Labour Will:**

- Work with the FAI to roll out an ambitious facility investment vision and strategy, providing significant investment from the grassroots to international levels.
- Develop our domestic league and implement an ambitious programme that ensures our football players can forge careers in Ireland, including centralised contracts for young women and men that would support them to stay in the game in Ireland for a minimum of three years, and education scholarships to build links between the League of Ireland and third-level educational institutes.
- Expand football as a transition year subject countrywide and develop a football academy structure.
- Provide a portion of broadcast revenues to League of Ireland clubs and undertake a programme of national promotion for the game.
- Work with the Northern Irish Executive to consider the feasibility of an all-island football league.

Labour will continue to support and work with Gaelic games, rugby, and other sporting codes, but we believe that Irish football needs dedicated focus and support to address decades of poor governance and underinvestment. .