

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

Staitisticí 2003

Craobhacha na hÉireann

Iomáint

Sinsir	Cill Chainnigh	(1-14)	Corcaigh	(1-11)
Sinsir 'B'	Cill Mhantáin	(4-16)	Ros Comáin	(2-13)
Idir Mheanach	Corcaigh	(1-21)	Cill Chainnigh	(0-23)
Sóisir	Maigh Eo	(1-08)	Dún na nGall	(0-09)
Mionúir	Cill Chainnigh	(2-16)	Gaillimh	(2-15)
Mionúir 'B'	Ceatharlach	(2-05)	An Mhí	(0-10)
Fé 21	Cill Chainnigh	(2-13)	Gaillimh	(0-12)
Fé 21 'B'	Iar Mhí	(3-10)	Maigh Eo	(0-12)
Eadar Club (2002/2003)	Biorra	(1-19)	Dun Lathar	(0-11)

Sraith Chomórtas Náisiunta

Roinn I	Cill Chainnigh	(5-14)	Tiobraid Árann	(5-13)
Roinn II	Aontroim	(3-18)	Ciarraí	(3-12)
Roinn III	Maigh Eo	(2-11)	Sligeach	(2-06)
Roinn Sheild	Dún na nGall	(2-09)	Liatroim	(1-09)
Corn An Bhóthar Iarainn	Laighin	(4-09)	Connacht	(2-12)
Seanóirí	Tiobraid Árann	(3-19)	Ciarraí	(1-10)

Iomáint Faoi Aois

Faoi 16 'C'	Ard Mhacha	(3-20)	Longfort	(2-04)
Mionúir 'C'	Dún na nGall	(0-10)	Sligeach	(0-09)
Faoi 16 'B'	Aontroim	(2-14)	An Mhí	(1-07)

Peil

Sinsir	Tír Eoghain	(0-12)	Ard Mhacha	(0-09)
Sóisir	An Mhí	(0-16)	Gaillimh	(1-07)
Mionúir	Laois	(1-11)	Baile Átha Cliath	(1-11)
	Laois	(2-10)	Baile Átha Cliath	(1-09)
Fé 21	Baile Átha Cliath	(0-12)	Tír Eoghain	(0-07)
Eadar Club (2002/2003)	Raonaithe Nemo	(0-14)	Crois Mhaoiliona	(1-09)

Sraith Chomórtas Naisiunta

Roinn I	Tír Eoghain	(0-21)	Laois	(1-08)
Roinn II	Iar Mhí	(2-12)	Luimneach	(1-14)
Corn An Bhóthar Iarainn	Uladh	(0-14)	Connacht	(0-09)
Seanóirí	Dún na nGall	(1-12)	Baile Átha Cliath	(2-08)

Clubs Affiliated in Each County - 2003

CONNACHT

Gaillimh	86
Liatroim	33
Roscomáin	51
Sligeach	51
Muigheo	52

AN MHUMHAN

An Clár	88
Corcaigh	259
Ciarraí	73
Luimneach	107
Tiobraid Árann	82
Port Láirge	55

ULADH

Aontroim	108
Ard Mhacha	55
An Cabhán	59
Doire	60
Dún na nGall	63
An Dún	70
Fearmanach	50
Muineachán	50
Tír Eoghain	68

LAIGHEAN

Cill Dara	70
An Longphort	47
Cill Mhantáin	65
An Mhí	153
Baile Átha Cliath	211
Cill Chainnigh	41
An Lú	51

Loch Garman	187
An Iarmhí	48
Ceatharlach	32
Uibh Fháilí	85
Laois	85

AN BHREATAIN

Londain	38
Hertfordshire	9
Warwickshire	16
Gloucestershire	6
Yorkshire	6
Lancashire	8
Scotland	5
New York	50
North American Board	70
Australasia	70
Canada	13
Europe	21

Allocation of Tickets for All Ireland Finals - 2003

Overall Capacity (Planning Permission) **79,500**

<u>Tickets not available for circulation</u>	
Long Term (On Cusack Stand)	5,166
Premium and Box Tickets	10,528
Miscellaneous	184
	15,878

Available for General Circulation **63,622**

County Allocations	24,422
Competing County Allocations	24,028
Extra Allocations for Competing Counties	4,260
Ard-Chomhairle	796
Former Presidents	659
Provincial Councils	385
Handball	162
Camogie	120
Ladies Football	140
Overseas	540
Schools and Educational Bodies	2,278
Public Representatives	140
Staff and Subcommittees	1,340
Sponsors	645
Ard-Stiúrthóir	334
Media	253
Minor Teams (On the Day of Game)	70
Jubilee Teams + CLG/INTO	340
Player's Tickets (Competing Counties)	540
Inter-County Panels	1,920
Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta	250

63,622

Championship Attendance 2003

Date	Competition		Venue	Attendance
04 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	Cill Dara V An Iarmhí	Newbridge	600
04 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	An Mhí V Ceatharlach	Navan	1,000
04 Bealtaine	Connacht Senior Football	Nua Eabhrach V Leitrim	Gaelic Park	4,000
05 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	Laois V Cill Mhantáin	Portlaoise	1,200
10 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	Laois V Ceatharlach	Portlaoise	1,300
10 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	Áth Cliath V An Iarmhí	Parnell Park	1,100
11 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Football	Cill Mhantáin V An Lú	Páirc an Chrócaigh	17,200
		An Iarmhí V Ceatharlach		
		Laois V Loch Garman		
11 Bealtaine	Munster Senior Hurling	Port Láirge V Ciarraí	Walsh Park	7,162
11 Bealtaine	Munster Senior Football	Corcaigh V Luimneach	P. Uí Chaoimh	8,138
11 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Football	Muineachán V Ard Mhacha	Clones	17,326
11 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Hurling	Aontroim V Londain	Casement Park	794
11 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Hurling	Nua Eabhrach V Doire	Gaelic Park	905
18 Bealtaine	Munster Senior Hurling	Tiobraid Árann V An Clár	P. Uí Chaoimh	20,139
18 Bealtaine	Connacht Senior Football	Gaillimh V Roscomáin	Pearse Stadium	23,000
18 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Football	Tír Eoghain V Doire	Clones	23,161
18 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Hurling	Aontroim V An Dún	Casement Park	2,273
24 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling	Áth Cliath V Laois	Nowlan Park	4,000
24 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Football Replay	Tír Eoghain V Doire	Casement Park	21,982
25 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Football	An Longfort V Cill Dara	Mullingar	6,000
25 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Football	Laois V An Uibh Fháilí	Portlaoise	12,000
25 Bealtaine	Munster Senior Football	Port Láirge V Tiobraid Árann	Walsh Park	1,721
25 Bealtaine	Connacht Senior Football	Londain V Sligeach	Ruislip	1,500
25 Bealtaine	Ulster Senior Football	Aontroim V An Cabhán	Casement Park	8,312
31 Bealtaine	Leinster Senior Hurling Replay	Áth Cliath V Laois	Nowlan Park	4,000
31 Bealtaine	All Ireland Hurling Preliminary Qualifier	Ciarraí V An Iarmhí	Nenagh	113
01 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Football	Áth Cliath V An Lú } An Mhí V An Iarmhí }	Páirc an Chrócaigh	67,756
01 Meitheamh	Munster Senior Hurling	Port Láirge V Luimneach	Thurles	34,515
01 Meitheamh	Connacht Senior Football	Liatroim V Gaillimh	Carrick-On-Shannon	6,500
01 Meitheamh	Ulster Senior Football	Fearmanch V Dún na nGall	Enniskillen	14,500
02 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Football Replay	Uibh Fháilí V Laois	Tullamore	15,000
07 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Hurling	Áth Cliath V Cill Chainnigh	Nowlan Park	11,500
07 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Football Replay	An Mhí V An Iarmhí	Portlaoise	16,200
07 Meitheamh	Munster Senior Hurling Replay	Port Láirge V Luimneach	Thurles	27,004
07 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Preliminary Round 2	Ciarraí V Ceatharlach		
07 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Londain V Uibh Fháilí	Tullamore	500
07 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Loch Garman V Doire	Wexford Park	2,053
07 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Roscomáin V Corcaigh	Dr. Hyde Park	4,000
07 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Dún na nGall V An Longfort	Ballybofey	9,250
08 Meitheamh	Munster Hurling Semi-final	Corcaigh V An Clár	Thurles	35,475
08 Meitheamh	Connacht Football Semi-final	Sligeach V Muigh Eo	Markievicz Park	11,900
08 Meitheamh	Ulster Senior Football	An Dún V Muineachán	Casement Park	21,948
08 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Hurling	Uibh Fháilí V Loch Garman	Nowlan Park	31,350
08 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	An Lú V An Cabhán	Navan	8,000

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08 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Ceatharlach V Cill Mhantáin	Dr. Cullen Park	1,833
08 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier	Port Láirge V Ard Mhacha	Walsh Park	2,250
14 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Football	An Mhí V Cill Dara	Páirc an Chrócaigh	29,500
14 Meitheamh	Ulster Senior Hurling Final	Aontroim V Doire	Casement Park	4,319
14 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 1	Tiobraid Árann V Laois	Portlaoise	8,000
14 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 1	An Clár V Gaillimh	Ennis	20,194
14 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 1	Muineachán V An Iarmhí	Clones	15,316
15 Meitheamh	Leinster Senior Football	Laois V Áth Cliath	Páirc an Chrócaigh	57,500
15 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 1	Uibh Fháilí V Áth Cliath		
15 Meitheamh	Munster Senior Football	An Clár V Luimneach	Cusack Park	13,117
15 Meitheamh	Munster Senior Football	Ciarraí V Tiobraid Árann	Tralee	10,150
15 Meitheamh	Ulster Senior Football	Tír Eoghain V Aontroim	Casement Park	20,865
21 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Tiobraid Árann V Ceatharlach	Thurles	1,776
21 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Liatroim V Roscomáin	Carrick-on-Shannon	9,500
21 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Ard Mhacha V Aontroim	Casement Park	6,112
21 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Uibh Fháilí V An Clár	Cusack Park	2,800
21 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Muineachán V An Mhí	Clones	14,193
22 Meitheamh	Ulster Senior Football	Fearmanach V An Dún	Clones	16,691
22 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Dún na nGall V Sligeach	Ballybofey	11,750
22 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 3	Ciarraí V Doire	Tullamore	80
28 Meitheamh	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 1	Ciarraí V Luimneach	Tralee	5,814
28 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	Doire V Áth Cliath	Clones	18,869
29 Meitheamh	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2	An Cabhán V Fearmanach	Enniskillen	8,000
29 Meitheamh	Munster Senior Hurling Final	Corcaigh V Port Láirge	Thurles	52,833
05 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3	Uibh Fháilí V Roscomáin	Mullingar	11,600
05 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3	Dún na nGall V Tiobraid Árann	Páirc an Chrócaigh	63,143
		Áth Cliath V Ard Mhacha		
06 Iúil	Connacht Senior Football Final	Gaillimh V Muigh Eo	Pearse Stadium	31,029
06 Iúil	Leinster Senior Hurling Final	Loch Garman V Cill Chainnigh	Páirc an Chrócaigh	48,000
06 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3	An Mhí V Fearmanach	Clones	14,505
13 Iúil	Munster Senior Football Final	Ciarraí V Luimneach	Killarney	38,204
13 Iúil	Ulster Senior Football Final	An Dún V Tír Eoghain	Clones	31,590
13 Iúil	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 3	Gaillimh V Tiobraid Árann	Pearse Stadium	29,145
17 Iúil	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 3	Luimneach V Uibh Fháilí	Thurles	12,675
19 Iúil	All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Round 3	Loch Garman V Port Láirge	Nowlan Park	26,000

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19 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 4	Muigh Eo V Fearmanach	Markievicz Park	11,000
20 Iúil	Leinster Senior Football Final	Cill Dara V Laois	Páirc an Chrócaigh	61,300
20 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 4	Luimneach V Ard Mhacha	Hyde Park	14,500
20 Iúil	Ulster Football Final Replay	An Dún V Tír Eoghain	Clones	29,838
26 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 4	Cill Dara V Roscomáin	Portlaoise	23,751
26 Iúil	All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 4	An Dún V Dún na nGall	Clones	10,296
27 Iúil	All Ireland Hurling Qtr-finals	Loch Garman V Aontroim	Páirc an Chrócaigh	46,076
		Tiobraid Árann V Uibh Fháilí		
03 Lúnasa	All Ireland Football Qtr-finals	Tír Eoghain V Fearmanach	Páirc an Chrócaigh	76,195
		Laois V Ard Mhacha		
04 Lúnasa	All Ireland Football Qtr-finals	Gaillimh V Dún na nGall	Páirc an Chrócaigh	56,296
		Ciarraí V Roscomáin		
10 Lúnasa	All Ireland Football Qtr-final Replay	Gaillimh V Dún na nGall	McHale Park	25,000
10 Lúnasa	All Ireland Hurling Semi-final	Corcaigh V Loch Garman	Páirc an Chrócaigh	59,435
16 Lúnasa	All Ireland Hurling Semi-final Replay	Corcaigh V Loch Garman	Páirc an Chrócaigh	46,670
17 Lúnasa	All Ireland Hurling Semi-final	Cill Chainnigh V Tiobraid Árann	Páirc an Chrócaigh	60,087
24 Lúnasa	All Ireland Football Semi-final	Ciarraí V Tír Eoghain	Páirc an Chrócaigh	58,687
31 Lúnasa	All Ireland Football Semi-final	Dún na nGall V Ard Mhacha	Páirc an Chrócaigh	76,134
14 Meán Fómhair	All Ireland Hurling Final	Cill Chainnigh V Corcaigh	Páirc an Chrócaigh	79,383
28 Meán Fómhair	All Ireland Football Final	Tír Eoghain V Ard Mhacha	Páirc an Chrócaigh	79,391
Total Attendance:				1,962,769

Ulster	214,504
Munster	248,458
Leinster	386,506
Connacht	77,929

Provincial Total: 927,397

All Ireland Football Qualifier Games:	269,997
All Ireland Hurling Qualifier Games: (including Leinster Football & Munster Hurling Final Replay)	186,525
All Ireland Quarter-finals:	203,567
All Ireland Semi-finals & Finals:	459,787

Croke Park Attendances for Championship Games: 982,753

Other Croke Park Attendances:

17 Márta	All Ireland Club Finals	26,235
	Raonaithe Nemo V Crois Uí Mhaoilíona	
	Biorra V Dún Lathaigh	
21 Meitheamh	Opening of Special Olympics	70,000
29 Meitheamh	Closing of Special Olympics	70,000
15 Meán Fómhair	Craobh Camogaíochta	16,118
29 Meán Fómhair	Craobh na hÉireann Peile na mBan	30,487

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ALL IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER 2003

Round	Teams and Scores	
Prelim.	Ciarraí (3-15)	Iar Mhí (0-13)
Prelim.	Ciarraí (3-15)	Ceatharlach (3-07)
Prelim.	Ciarraí (2-15)	Doire (1-16)
1	Gaillimh (1-15)	An Clár (2-11)
1	Tiobraid Árann (3-28)	Laois (0-13)
1	Uíbh Fhailí (1-20)	Baile Átha Cliath (1-14)
1	Luimneach (0-24)	Ciarraí (1-14)
3	Tiobraid Árann (1-18)	Gaillimh (1-17)
3	Uíbh Fhailí (1-18)	Luimneach (0-14)
3	Loch Garman (1-20)	Port Láirge (0-18)
Q/F	Loch Garman (2-15)	Aontroim (2-12)
Q/F	Tiobraid Árann (2-16)	Uíbh Fhailí (2-11)
S/F	Corcaigh (2-20)	Loch Garman (3-17)
S/F	Corcaigh (3-17)	Loch Garman (3-17) Replay
S/F	Cill Chainnigh (3-18)	Tiobraid Árann (0-15)
Final	Cill Chainnigh (1-14)	Corcaigh (1-11)

ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER 2003

Round	Teams and Scores	
1	Muineachán (0-14)	Iar Mhí (1-09)
1	Doire (3-10)	Loch Garman (0-09)
1	Uíbh Fhailí (4-16)	Londain (0-10)
1	Ros Comáin (0-14)	Corcaigh (1-10)
1	Dún na nGall (1-17)	Longfort (1-11)
1	Ceatharlach (0-18)	Cill Mhantáin (0-13)
1	Ard Mhacha (2-21)	Port Láirge (0-08)
1	An Lú (2-07)	An Cabhán (1-12)
2	Tiobraid Árann (1-14)	Ceatharlach (0-13)
2	Ros Comáin (2-09)	Liatroim (1-11)
2	Ard Mhacha (0-15)	Aontroim (0-12)
2	Uíbh Fhailí (1-12)	An Clár (1-08)
2	An Mhí (2-10)	Muineachán (0-12)
2	Dún na nGall (0-16)	Sligeach (0-11)
2	Baile Átha Cliath (3-09)	Doire (1-09)
2	Fear Manach (0-16)	An Cabhán (1-10)
3	Dún na nGall (2-19)	Tiobraid Árann (0-15)
3	Ard Mhacha (0-15)	Baile Átha Cliath (0-11)
3	Uíbh Fhailí (1-15)	Ros Comáin (1-20)
3	Fear Manach (1-12)	An Mhí (0-09)
4	Fear Manach (0-12)	Maigh Eo (1-08)
4	Ard Mhacha (4-10)	Luimneach (0-11)
4	Dún na nGall (3-15)	An Dún (2-10)
4	Ros Comáin (1-17)	Cill Dara (0-18)
Q/F	Tír Eoghain (1-21)	Fear Manach (0-05)
Q/F	Ard Mhacha (0-15)	Laois (0-13)
Q/F	Dún na nGall (0-14)	Gaillimh (1-11)
Q/F	Dún na nGall (0-14)	Gaillimh (0-11)
Q/F	Ciarraí (1-21)	Ros Comáin (3-10)
S/F	Tír Eoghain (0-13)	Ciarra (0-06)
S/F	Ard Mhacha (2-10)	Dún na nGall (1-09)
Final	Tír Eoghain (0-12)	Ard Mhacha (0-09)



Richie Power, Kilkenny
All Ireland Minor Hurling winning captain 2003

ARD-CHOMHAIRLE

Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Uachtarán

Seán Mac Thaidhg, Uachtarán
 Tomás Ó Móráin, Connacht
 Níoclás Ó Braonáin, Laighean
 Criostóir Ó Cuana, An Mhumhan
 Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Uladh
 Séamus Ó Treasaigh, Iontaobhaí
 Ruairí Ó Cadhla, Iontaobhaí
 Gearóid Ó Mathúna, Liatroim
 Seán Ó hUaine, An Longfort
 Tomás Ó Dubháin, An Clár
 Seosamh Ó Baoill, Aontroim
 Bearnard Ó Conchubhair, Gaillimh
 Alfonsus Ó Maolthuile, Roscomáin
 Ciarán Mac Diarmada, Sligeach
 Pádraig S. Ó Maoldúin, Muigheo
 Pádraig Ó Néill, An Mhí
 Pádraig Ó hAmaltúin, An Lú
 Micheál Ó hÁgáin, Cill Mhantáin
 Pádraig Ó Dunaighe, Cill Dara
 Gearóid Ó Brádaigh, Áth Cliath
 Seosamh Ó Seachnasaigh, Loch Garman
 Seán Ó hÉilí, Cill Chainnigh
 Liam Ó Máirtín, An Iarmhí
 Micheál De Spáinne, Uibh Fháilí
 Pádraig Ó Dúill, Ceatharlach
 Micheál Ó Cearbhaill, Laois
 Séamus Ó Briain, Port Láirge
 Pádraig S. Ó Riain, Luimneach
 Gearóid Mac Éanna, Ciarraí
 Conchúr Ó hÓgáin, Tiobraid Árann
 Roibeard Ó hUanacháin, Corcaigh
 Seán Ó hÉamhthaigh, Muineachán
 Dónal Mac Artáin, An Dún
 Seán Mac Giolla Rua, Fearmanach
 Daimhnaic Mac Eochaidh, Tír Eoghain
 Brian Mac Conduibh, Dún na nGall
 Pilib Mac Brádaigh, An Cabhán
 Eoin Ó Dufaigh, Ard Mhacha
 Anraí Ó Gribín, Doire
 Seán De Lása, Cathaoirleach Comhairle na Breataine
 Labhrás Ó Laoire, Londain
 Pádraig Mac Seáin, An Bhreatain
 Micheál Ó Fathaigh, Coláistí
 T.S. Mac Aogáin, Gairmscoileanna
 Tadhg Ó Meachair, Bunscoileanna
 Eoin Mac Cionnaithe, Ollscoileanna
 Conchúr Ó Mordha, Liathróid Láimhe
 Seán Mac Daibhead, Bord Meiriceá Thuaidh

Liam Mac Fheorais, Nua Eabhrach
 Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir.

Coiste Bainistí

Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Uachtarán – Toghadh 2003

Seán Mac Thaidhg, Iar-Uachtarán – Toghadh 1999
 Tomás Ó Móráin, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Chonnachta –
 Toghadh 2003
 Níoclás Ó Braonáin, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean –
 Toghadh 2002
 Criostóir Ó Cuana, Cathaoirleach Comhairle na Mumhan
 – Toghadh 2001
 Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Uladh –
 Toghadh 2001
 Séamus Ó Treasaigh, Iontaobhaí – Toghadh 2003
 Ruairí Ó Cadhla, Iontaobhaí – Toghadh 2003
 Gearóid Ó Mathúna, Liatroim – Ceapadh 2002
 Seán Ó hUaine, An Longfort – Ceapadh 2002
 Tomás Ó Dubháin, An Clár – Ceapadh 2001
 Seosamh Ó Baoill, Aontroim – Ceapadh 2002
 Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir.

Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí

Antóin Ó Caoimh (Ciarraí) Cathaoirleach
 Ciarán Mac Diarmada (Sligeach) Leas-Cathaoirleach
 Pádraig Ó Dúill (Ceatharlach)
 P.S. Ó Riain (Luimneach)
 Seán Ó hÉamhthaigh (Muineachán)
 Seosamh Ó Táth (Sligeach)
 Séamus De Róiste (Áth Cliath)
 Proinsias Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)
 Micheál Ó Grianáin (An Cabhán)
 Seán Ó Laoire (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Coiste Oiliúna agus Forbairt na gCluichí

Pádraig Ó Dufaigh (Muineachán) Cathaoirleach
 Seán Ó Fathaigh (Gaillimh)
 Bearnard Ó Duinn (An Lú)
 Séamus Ó Riain (Áth Cliath)
 Séamus Ó Raghallaigh (Corcaigh)
 Seán Ó Tóibín (Gaillimh)
 Brian Ó Maoláin (Áth Cliath)
 Seán De Londras (Luimneach)
 Art Mac Ruairí (Tír Eoghain)
 Seán Mac Aindréis (Cill Chainnigh)
 Nollaig Mac Giolla Chomhail (Dún na nGall)
 Seán Ó hUiginn (Muigheo)
 Seán Ó Fógartaigh (Tiobraid Árann)
 Séamus Ó Duinn (Cill Mhantáin)
 Pádraig Ó Dálaigh, Rúnaí (Páirc an Chrócaigh)



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Coiste Náisiúnta Riaracháin na Réiteoirí

Proinsias De Búrca (Gaillimh) Cathaoirleach
 An tAth. Séamus Gairnéir (Tiobraid Árann)
 Micheál De Spáinne (Uibh Fáilí)
 Tomás Mac Giolla Phádraig (An Clár & Áth Cliath)
 Seán Mac Eochaidh (Aontroim)
 Tomás Ó Cuinneagáin (Connacht/Gaillimh)
 Piaras De Fréine (Laignean/Cill Dara)
 Pádraig Ó Broin (Mumha/Luimneach)
 Pól Ó Dubhrósa (Uladh/Tír Eoghain)
 Seán Ó Laoire (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Bainisteoir na gCluichí
 Séamus Ó Dorchaidhe (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Coiste Bainistíochta Airgeadais

Séamus Ó Duinn (Cill Mhantáin) Cathaoirleach
 Éamonn Ó Tuathail (An Dún)
 Peadar Ó Muirí (Ard Mhacha)
 Pádraig Ó hÉalaithe (Ciarraí)
 Piaras Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)
 Roibeard Ó Céilleachair (Áth Cliath)
 Debbie Ní Chaomhánaigh (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
 Cáit Ní Shlataire (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Coiste Forbartha Iomána

Pádraig Ó Dunaighe (Cill Dara) Cathaoirleach
 Nioclás Inglis (Tiobraid Árann)
 Gearóid Ó Lachtnáin (An Clár)
 Coireal Ó Fearail (Gaillimh)
 P.S. Ó Gráda (Luimneach)
 Séamus Ó Raghallaigh (An Dún)
 Liam Ó Griffín (Loch Garman)
 Pádraig Ó Dálaigh (Páirc an Chrócaigh)
 Liam Ó Rinn (Corcaigh) Rúnaí.

Coiste Pleanála agus Forbairt na gClub

Pádraig Mac Gearailt (Luimneach) Cathaoirleach
 Liam Ó Néill (Laois)
 Micheál Mac Concharraige (Roscomáin)
 Éamonn Ó Súilleabháin (Ciarraí)
 Seán Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann)
 Naul Mac Giolla Chomhail (Dún na nGall)
 Máire Ní Sheac (Páirc an Chrócaigh)
 Máire Ní Cheallaigh (Áth Cliath) Rúnaí.

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORK GROUPS/TASK FORCES REPORTING TO AN COISTE BAINISTÍ

S.R.C. Implementation Committee

Conchúr Ó hÓgáin (Tiobraid Árann) Cathaoirleach
 Roibeard Ó hUanacháin (Corcaigh)
 An tAth. Mac Conmara (An Clár)

Pat Henderson (Cill Chainnigh)
 Bearnard Ó Conchubhair (Gaillimh)
 Liam Ó Máirtín (An Iarmhí)
 Pádraig Ó Maolchalann (Doire)
 Pádraig S. Ó Maoldúin (Muigheo)
 Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh (Tír Eoghain) Rúnaí.

I.T. & M.I.S. Committee

Dónal Ó Murchú (An Dún) Cathaoirleach
 Eoin Mac Cionnaith (Port Láirge)
 Risteard De Lása (Loch Garman)
 Éamonn Mac Mathúna (Aontroim)
 Pádraig Ó Tomhnair (An Lú)
 Gearóid Ó Brolcháin (Tír Eoghain)
 Micheál Ó Cathail (Páirc an Chrócaigh)
 Máire Ní Sheac (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Coiste na Gaeilge/Scór/Cultúr

Iarlaith Ó Broin (Ard Mhacha) Cathaoirleach
 Tomás Ó Cuilinn (Fearmanach)
 Cormac Mac a'Ghoill (Liatroim)
 Cathal Seoighe (An Mhí)
 Micheál Ó Riain (Luimneach)
 Peadar Mac Cárthaigh (Fearmanach)
 Labhrás Ó Cuinn (Sligeach)
 Séamus Ó Faoláin (An Iarmhí)
 Eilís Uí Mhurchú (Port Láirge)
 Máire Ní Ghraham (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Fo-Choiste Margaíochta

(Marketing Subcommittee)

Paul O'Sullivan (Cathaoirleach) Ciarraí
 Martin Larkin (Áth Cliath)
 Vincent Wall (Cill Dara)
 Proinsais Ó Loingsigh (Áth Cliath)
 Diarmuid Ó Murchú (Ciarraí)
 Linda McCoy (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
 Diarmuid Buitiméir (Corcaigh)
 Diarmuid De Paor (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Medical/Anti-Doping Subcommittee

Dr. Con Murphy (Corcaigh) Cathaoirleach
 Gearóid Ó Brádaigh (Áth Cliath)
 Dr. Micheál Ó Lochlainn (Muigheo)
 Dr. Pádraig Ó Neill (Áth Cliath)
 Dr. Beircheart Mag Lannchaidh (Doire)
 Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir
 Ciarán Ó Néill (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS



National Grounds and Safety Committee

Séamus Ó Aldrí (Cill Dara) Cathaoirleach
Michael Horgan (Corcaigh)
Seán Ó Pronntaigh (Rúnaí Chonnachta)
Micheál Ó Dubhshláine (Rúnaí Laighean)
Dónal Ó Nialláin (Rúnaí na Mumhan)
Dónal Ó Murchú (Rúnaí Uladh)
Tomás Ó Cearbhaill (Sligeach)
Dónal Ó Niallagáin (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí

Bye-Laws Subcommittee (Fo-Choiste na bhFo-Dhlithe)

Séamus Ó Treasaigh (Tír Eoghain) Cathaoirleach
Micheál Ó Freaghaile (Tiobraid Árann)
Pádraig Mac Artáin (Tír Eoghain)
Phonsie Ó Maolthuile (Roscomáin) Rúnaí

National Insurance Work Group (Grúpa Oibre Náisiúnta Árachais)

Breandán Ó Díomsaigh (An Mhí) Cathaoirleach
Pádraig Ó Maoldúin, Muigheo
Seán Ó Pronntaigh, Rúnaí Chonnachta
Micheál Ó Dubhshláine, Rúnaí Laighean
Dónal Ó Nialláin, Rúnaí na Mumhan
Dónal Ó Murchú, Rúnaí Uladh
Micheál Ó Donnchú (Ciarraí)
Seán Ó Cuirc (Loch Garman)
Ciarán Ó Néill (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

P.R. & Presentation Task Force

Diarmuid Ó Gruagáin (Áth Cliath) Cathaoirleach
Aogán Ó Fearail (An Cabhán)
Micheál Ó Cearbhaill (Laois)
Dónal Ó Cianáin (Roscomáin)
Pat Heneghan (Áth Cliath)
Peadar Mac Cionnaith (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Siobhán Ní Bhrádaigh (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Disputes Work Group (Fo-Choiste Aighneais)

P.S. Mac Craith (Muigheo) Cathaoirleach
Anraí Ó Gribín (Doire)
Seán Ó Rannacháin (Laois)
Seán Ó Báille (Áth Cliath)
Tomás Ó Baróid (Tiobraid Árann) Rúnaí.

Ladies Integration Work Group

Seán Ó Ceallaigh (Uachtarán) Cathaoirleach
Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir
Eibhlín Ní Ruairc (Cumann Peile Gael na mBan)
Gearóidín Ní Ghlaisne (Cumann Peile Gael na mBan)

Síle De Bhailís (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael)
Miriam Uí Cheallacháin (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael)
Máire Ní Sheac (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Social/Awards Work Group

Séamus Mac Firthisigh (Corcaigh) Cathaoirleach
Kathleen Colreavy (Áth Cliath)
Pádraig Ó Donnchú (Port Láirge)
Seán Ó Neachtain (Luimneach)
Eileen Dunne (Áth Cliath & R.T.E.)
Dónal Ó Loingsigh (Páirc an Chrócaigh)
Máirín Nic an Rí (Áth Cliath) Rúnaí.

Rule Book Task Force

Proinsias Ó Murchú (Corcaigh) Cathaoirleach
Micheál Ó Conaill (Ciarraí)
Liam Ó Catháin (An Mhí)
Declan Hallissey (Áth Cliath)
Hugh O'Flaherty (Áth Cliath)
Dónal Mac Artain (An Dún)
Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir (Rúnaí).

Subcommittees Review Task Force

Gearóid Ó Brádaigh (Áth Cliath) Cathaoirleach
Éamonn Ó Cuinn (Cill Chainnigh)
Breandán Mac a'Bhaird (Uibh Fháilí)
Pádraig Mac Gearailt (An Clár) Rúnaí.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force

Seosamh Ó Conghaile (Gaillimh) Cathaoirleach
DJ Carey (Cill Chainnigh)
Michael Whelan (Áth Cliath)
Tadhg Ó Meachair (Ciarraí & Áth Cliath)
John Lonergan (Tiobraid Árann & Áth Cliath)
Nóirín Uí Dhochartaigh (Dún na nGall)
Colm Jordan (Áth Cliath)
Diarmuid de Paor (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORK GROUPS/TASK FORCES REPORTING TO GAMES ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Coiste Náisiúnta Roghnaithe na Réiteoirí (Central Referees Appointments Committee)

Antóin Ó Caoimh (Cathaoirleach)
Proinsias De Búrca (Gaillimh)
Seán Mac Coisdealbha (Áth Cliath)
Seán Ó Laoire (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Social and Recreational Games Subcommittee

Antóin Ó Díomsaigh (Loch Garman) Cathaoirleach
 Micheál Ó Cíosáin (Áth Cliath)
 Dr. Micheál Ó Lochlainn (Muigheo)
 Seán Mac Giolla Rua (Fearmanach)
 Pádraig Mac Aogáin (Gaillimh)
 Seosamh Mac Craith (Corcaigh)
 Séamus Luibhéid (An Cabhán)
 Séamus Mac Gráinne (Port Láirge)
 Feargal Mac Giolla (Páirc an Chrócaigh)

Féile na nGael Subcommittee (Fo-Choiste Féile na nGael)

Séamus Ó Béara (Loch Garman) Cathaoirleach
 Séamus Elliot (Aontroim)
 Dónal Ó hIcheadha (Áth Cliath)
 Síle De Bhailís (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael)
 Jim Whelan (Coca Cola)
 Diarmuid Ó Conbhuí (Ciarraí) Rúnaí.

Féile na nÓg Subcommittee (Fo-Choiste Féile na nÓg)

Dónal Mac Giobúin (Luimneach) Cathaoirleach
 Caitlín Nic Póilín (Áth Cliath)
 Eibhlín Ní Ruairc (Cumann Peil Gael na mBan)
 Tomás Ó Néill (Ceatharlach)
 Jim Whelan (Coca Cola)
 Caithlín Nic Cathmhaoil (Dún na nGall) Rúnaí.

Weaker Counties Task Force

Stiofán Ó Beanacháin (Roscomáin) Cathaoirleach
 Éamonn Ó Broin (Ceatharlach)
 Pádraig Mac Mathúna (An Lú)
 Eugene McGee (An Longfort)
 Seán Ó hÉigearthaigh (Loch Garman)
 Proinsias Ó Griffin (An Clár)
 Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain (Sligeach) Rúnaí.

Club Fixtures Task Force

Albert Ó Fallúin (An Longfort) Cathaoirleach
 Déaglán Ó Flannagáin (Muineachán)
 Seán Breathnach (Ciarraí)
 Traolach Mac Neachtain (Aontroim)
 Tomás Mac Concharraige (Áth Cliath)
 Diarmuid Ó hArrachtáin (Áth Cliath)
 Aodhán Ó Braonáin (Roscomáin)
 Liam Hodnett (Corcaigh) Rúnaí.

Railway Cup Task Force

Nollaig Breathnach (An Clár) Cathaoirleach
 Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Uachtarán.
 Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir

Competitions Review Task Force

Pádraig Ó Dufaigh (Muineachán) Cathaoirleach Coiste
 Forabhartha na gCluichí
 Antóin Ó Caoimh (Ciarraí) Cathaoirleach Coiste
 Riaracháin na gCluichí
 Stiofán Ó Beanacháin (Roscomáin) Cathaoirleach
 Pádraig Ó Dunaighe (Cill Dara) Cathaoirleach Coiste
 Forabhartha Iomána
 Albert Ó Fallúin (An Longfort) Cathaoirleach, Club
 Fixtures Task Force
 Pádraig Ó Dálaigh (Ceannaire na gCluichí) Páirc an
 Chrócaigh
 Seán Ó Laoire (Bainisteoir na gCluichí) Páirc an Chrócaigh
 Treasa Ní Raghail (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí

COMHAIRLE ARDOIDEACHAIS

Máirtín Ó Meachair (Cathaoirleach) Ceatharlach
 Seán Ó Duibheannaigh, Aontroim
 Dónal Mac An Ailín, Tír Eoghain
 Eoghan Mac Cionnaoith, Port Láirge
 Breandán Mac Gadhra, Tír Eoghain
 Mícheál Ó Breasláin, Sligeach
 Séamus De Brún, Luimneach
 Nioclás Ó Braonáin (Coiste Bainistí), Cill Chainnigh
 Peadar Ó Maolmóna, An Bhreatain
 Gearalt Ó Donnchú, Loch Garman
 Séamus Ó Riain, Baile Átha Cliath
 Córa De Bealtúin, Páirc an Chrócaigh

ARD CHOMHAIRLE NA MEANSCOILEANNA

Bearnard Ó Duinn (Cathaoirleach) An Lú
 Aodh Ó Rodáin Uasal, Maigh Eo
 Seán Ó Seasnáin, An Clár
 Michael Ó Fathaigh, Ros Comáin
 Ciarán Ó Broin, Maigh Eo
 Seán Ó hÓráin, Baile Átha Cliath
 An Bráthair Labhrás Inis, Tír Eoghain
 Tadhg Ó Ceallacháin, Corcaigh
 Michéal Mac Raghnaill, Laois
 Michéal Ó Fuireastail, Tiobraid Árann
 Val Ó Cathain, An Dún
 Córa De Bealtúin, Páirc an Chrócaigh



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ARD CHOMHAIRLE NA nGAIRMSCOILEANNA

Seán Ó Fathaigh (Gaillimh) Cathaoirleach

Tomás Ó Loinseacháin, An Mhí
Máirtín Mac Philib, Loch Garman
T.S. Mac Aogáin, Tiobraid Árann
Pádraig Ó Pailméar, Corcaigh
Eamonn Ó Suilleabháin, Ciarraí
Michael Ó hAichir, Maigh Eo
Micheal Ó Fearail, Loch Garman
Antóin Mac Gafraidh, Fear Manach
Seamus Mac Gabhann, Ard Mhacha
Tomás Mac Ruari, Sligeach
Seán Ó Brosnacháin, Corcaigh
Seán Ó Cuana, Corcaigh
Seán Ó Proinntaigh, Maigh Eo
Michael Mac Raghnaill, Laois
Córa De Bealtúin, Páirc an Chrócaigh

WORK GROUPS/TASK FORCES REPORTING TO COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Overseas Work Group

Eoin Ó Dufaigh (Ard Mhacha) Cathaoirleach
Gearóidín Ní Ghlaisne (Cumann Peile Gael na mBan)
Miriam Uí Cheallacháin (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael)
Feargal Mac Eoin (Uibh Fháilí)
Peadar Ó Riain (Áth Cliath)
Tadhg Ó Míocháin (Comhairle na Breataine)
Áine Uí Ghibhne (Páirc an Chrócaigh) Rúnaí.

Schools Work Group

Pádraig Ó Braonáin (Roscomáin) Cathaoirleach
Ted Owens (Corcaigh)
Éamonn Ó Donnchú (Cill Dara)
Pól Ó Cinnsealaigh (Cill Chainnigh)
Adrian Mac Eochain (Tír Eoghain)
Antóin Ó Ríogáin (NUIG & Roscomáin)
Tomás Ó Domhnaill (DCU & Áth Cliath)
Seán Ó Fiannaí (Muigheo) Rúnaí.

Second Level Schools Amalgamation Task Force

Seoirse Mac Ceartraí (An Cabhán) Cathaoirleach
T.S. Mac Aogáin (Tiobraid Árann)
Micheál Ó Fathaigh (Roscomáin)
Micheál Mac Raghnaill (Laois & Laighean)
Tomás Mac Colaim (Tiobraid Árann & Mumha)
Pádraig Ó Coileáin (Loch Garman)
Seán Ó Brosnacháin (Corcaigh)
An Bráthar Inis (Ard Mhacha)
Antóin Mac Gafraidh (Fearmanach)
Seán Ó Pronntaigh (Muigheo & Connacht) Rúnaí.

Code of Ethics Work Group

Oilibhéar Ó Geallagáin (An Cabhán) Cathaoirleach
Micheál Ó hOsain (Aontroim)
Áine Uí Ghibhne, Páirc an Chrócaigh
Diarmuid Ó Huilín (Loch Garman) Rúnaí.

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann Ard Chomhairle

Antóin Ó hAodha, Uachtarán
Cionnaith Ó Conbhuí, Cisteoir
Conchubhar Ó Mórdha, Ard Chomhairle CLG
Seán Ó hUaine, Coiste Bainistí CLG
Donnacha Ó Faoláin, Connacht
Liam De Róiste, An Mhumhan
Cristóir Ó Fionnagáin, Uladh
Antóin Ó Braoin, Laighean
Néil Mac Diarmada, Connacht
Antóin Ó hÉalaithe, An Mhumhan
Pól Ó Brádaigh, Uladh
Eoin Ó Cinnéide, Laighean
Lorcán Ó Ruairc, Riarthóir Náisiúnta

An Coiste Bainistí

Antóin Ó hAodha, Uachtarán
Cionnaith Ó Conbhuí, Cisteoir
Seán Mac Lochlainn, Connacht
Peadar Ó Duinneacha, An Mhumhan
Roibeárd Maguidhir, Uladh
Tomás Ó Briain, Laighean
Lorcán Ó Ruairc, Riarthóir Náisiúnta



NA RÚIN - MOTIONS

Amendments of Official Guide

1. I (a) Amend Rule 4.2 (Rules of Specification – Rule 4 - Equipment) as follows:-
 - 4.2 (a) In all hurling games and training sessions it is mandatory for all players up to and including Minor Grade (Under 18) to wear a helmet with a facial guard. (It is strongly recommended that a helmet with a facial guard be worn by all players participating in hurling games above Minor Grade (Under 18) also).
 - 4.2 (b) The referee shall not allow a hurling helmet to be worn in a football game.
- I (b) Add to Rule 1.1 (Rules of Control – Rule 1 – Control of the Games Match Officials) – Powers of the Referee as follows:
 - (viii) (c) A player refusing to wear a helmet with a facial guard in any hurling game up to and including Minor Grade (Under 18).

Ard-Chomhairle

2. That the following change in the Playing Rules be made to give the referee the power to initially caution and if necessary order off a player who refuses to comply with an instruction to leave the field for attention after a blood injury.
 - (a) Add to Rule 1.1 (iv) (Rules of Control) after the word “attention” put in the sentence “A player who refuses to leave the field of play in such circumstance shall be cautioned, and if he continues to refuse, he shall be ordered off”.
 - (b) Add to Rule 1.5 (b), page 19 (Rules of Control) after the word “attention” put in the following sentence “A player who refuses to leave the field of play in such circumstance shall be cautioned and if he continues to refuse, he shall be ordered off”.

Rules affected – Rule 6 (pages 46 & 70) Playing Rules of Hurling and Gaelic Football T.O. 2003 Part 2.

Comhairle Chonnachta

3. Amend Rial 15 (Drugs) T.O. 2003 as follows:

- Section (a) – No change
- In section (b) first line delete the words – ‘if directed in writing’

- Delete the words – ‘by a registered medical practitioner’ from the second/third line.
- Section (c) No Change
- Section (d) No Change
- Section (e) No Change
- Section (f) No change

This Congress approves the introduction of Anti – Doping testing for Senior Intercounty Players who are engaged in formal training sessions and/ or challenge games. Failure to furnish details of a team’s training/ challenge match schedule shall constitute a breach of the Code.

That the Code as at 15 (c), line 5 (as included in pages 131 – 158 of the T.O. 2003) be replaced W. A. D. A. code as approved by Central Council, and that the revised Code be included in a revised edition of the Treorai Oifigiúil.

Comhdháil Bhliantúil Uladh

4. That the decisions made by Central Council at its meeting on 4 October 2003 to remove any inconsistencies in the Treoraí Oifigiúil – part 1 and part 2 – be approved by Congress 2004.

All references below are in relation to Official Guide 2001, and the amendments have been incorporated into the current Official Guide.

- (A)** (i) That Rule 19 be amended as follows:-
In Line 12, change the word “those” to “Minors”.
- (ii) That rule 27 be amended as follows:-
In Line 11, after word “a” (at the end of the Line) insert the word “Minor”.

(Explanation to Congress

Inconsistencies in Rules 18, 19 and 27 were brought to the attention of Coiste Bainisti and Ard Chomhairle.

Rule 18 Membership read (and continues to read) in part

“Each player in the Under 21 Grade or over **must be a Registered Full Member.”**

Rule 19 Registration of Members and Adult Players read in part

“This List shall include the full names and addresses of all players participating in Adult Grades, except those registered under Rule 27”)

Note As Rule 27 governs the Registration of Minor and under 21 Players, Rule 19 (as it existed) effectively stated that the Under 21 Players did not have to be included in the Registration of Members and Adult Players. This was in direct conflict with Rule 18.



NA RÚIN - MOTIONS

Rule 27 Registration of Minor and Under 21 Players stated in part -
"This Registration also qualifies a players to play in Adult Grades"

Note - Without Under 21 Players being Registered as Full Members, this was also in conflict with Rule 18)

(B) That proposed Rule 21 have a Title "**Rules on Membership**"

(Note to Congress -

The reason for this was that Rule 26 already had the Title "Club Constitution").

(C) That Rule 82 be amended to have the following Terms used

- (i) The Term "All-Ireland" be used in all references to Second Level Schools.
- (ii) That the Primary Schools Body be described as "The All-Ireland Primary Schools Council".
- (iii) That the Handball Body be termed "The Irish Handball Council"

The above terms to be used in all references in the Official Guide.

Other Rules affected - Rules 80, 154 and 155.

(D) That the word "Inter-County" be inserted into the following Rules as outlined
Rule 69(a) "..... arising from Provincial **Inter-County** Senior Championship Games".

Rule 70(a)(ii) "..... arising from provincial **Inter-County** Senior Championship Games."

(Note to Congress:-

The appointment of Referees and matters of Misconduct and Breaches of Match Regulations arising from Provincial Inter County Senior Championship Games are dealt with at National Level)

Rule 87(b) "..... Arising from Provincial **Inter-County** Senior Championship Games".

Rule 88(b) In the first paragraph "..... and for Provincial **Inter-County** Senior Championship Games".

Rule 99 "A miniature replica All Ireland **Inter County** Senior Championships"

(E) That the **Note** at the end of Rule 3.4 Rules of Specification be included in its own right, as Rule 3.7 Rules of Specification.

(Note to Congress

The reason for this is that this **Note** now governs Rules 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6.)

Rule 109(d)(ii)(a), Third Line should have the words "and 3.7" added to it.

(F) That Rule 3.6 Rules of Specification be amended as follows:-

In the **Exception**, insert the word "Championship" between the words "Minor" and "Finals".

(Note to Congress

This was the intention of the Special Congress that introduced the provision).

(G) That Rule 2 - Umpires, Rules of Control be altered as follows:-

That Section (ii) of the existing Powers of the Umpires be transferred to the Section "Duties of Umpires"

Note to Congress

Because of the use of the word "shall" (by decision of Special Congress) in the first Line of the Section, this makes the provision a Duty rather than a Power).

(H) That Rule 3 - Linesmen, Rules of Control be altered as follows:-

That the Section 'Powers of Linesmen' be transferred to the Section 'Duties of the Linesmen'.

(Note to Congress

The use of the word "shall" (by decision of Special Congress) in the first line of the provision, makes it a Duty rather than a Power).

(I) That Rule 4 - Sideline Official, Rules of Control be altered as follows:

That all the responsibilities be under the heading of "Duties" i.e. that the word "Powers" be dropped.

Delete all the present Rule 4(i) on Powers and include Rule 4(i) under Duties as Section (a), and all the other Sections be relettered accordingly.

(Notes to Congress

It was noted that there was a clear conflict between this Rule and then existing Rule 3.2 (iv) which gives the control of the substitution zone to the Linesman.



NA RÚIN - MOTIONS

The proposed amendment was to bring the Rule into conformity with what had (has) been happening.

That Rule 4(ii)(b) be deleted and the Duties relettered.

(Notes to Congress

Rule 4(ii)(b) was in direct conflict with the present procedures approved by Ard Chomhairle, as it is a Duty of the Linesman, and the substitute may now enter the field before the player being replaced leaves it.

Note that the procedure for replacing a player is now covered by Rule 1.6 Rules of Specification)

- (J) In relation to the offence 'Feigning a Foul or Injury' in Rules 5 of the Playing Rules of Hurling and Football, that the following be added to Rule 5.17 in Hurling and Rule 5.15 in Football

"Penalty for above fouls -

- (i) Caution offender; Order off for second cautionable foul.
- (ii) If play has been stopped for the foul, a free puck shall be awarded to the opposing team from where the play was stopped, except as provided under Exception 5 of Rule 2.2"

(Notes to Congress

It was noted that as passed at Congress, the intention was that by listing as 5.12 the penalty would be a free against the offender. As included in the O.G. there was a penalty of a throw in in both Hurling and Football.

In all of the above it was presumed that play would be stopped, but to stop the play in some cases could be a serious disadvantage to the non offending team.)

Maigh Mheán, Ciarraí

5. That Rial 48 T.O. 2001, as amended by Special Congress 2002, be amended to conclude by substitution of the following (in place of 2002 amendment) "The maximum period of Office for any specific Officership, other than Secretary and **Treasurer**, shall be five years".

Remainder of Rule to remain.

Naomh Cairtrionaigh, Corcaigh

6. Amend Rial 48 leathanach 31 of Treoraí Oifigiúil 2003 by inserting a new paragraph after Provincial

and Central Councils, (immediately below line 9). "The maximum period of office for Provincial Council representatives and Central Council representatives shall be five years".

Amend any other relevant rules that might apply.

Loch Garman

7. Amend Rial 48 T.O. 2001 to read:

Subject to the exception hereunder, the Annual County Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee: Chairperson, Two Vice-Chairpersons, if desired, Secretary (unless the County Committee, with the permission of Central Council, has appointed a Secretary for a term in excess of one year), two Assistant Secretaries, if desired; Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer if desired; Development Officer, Coaching Officer; Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Youth Officer and Public Relations Officer, who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention.

Uibh Fháilí

8. a) Amend T.O. Rule 56 (2001) to read Committee
A County Committee shall consist of the officers, the Central and Provincial Council representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), other representatives of District Committees or Clubs as set out in County Bye-Laws. The County Referees' Administrator, a County Safety Officer and a representative of each of the following Committees: County Handball, County Primary Schools, County Secondary, County Vocational Schools.
Remainder of Rule to remain unaltered.
- b) Amend T.O. Rule 57 (2001)
After sub section (h) page 35 insert new sub section (i) To appoint a County Safety Officer. Renummer following current sub sections (i), (j), (k) and (l) respectively.
Remainder of Rule to remain unaltered.

Cill Cleithe, An Dún

9. Delete Rial 59 (ii) and replace as follows: **County Games Administration Committee** - which shall be responsible for all arrangements, for control of, and any matters arising from Games under the jurisdiction of the County Committee. Membership of this Committee shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or



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other suitable personnel, together with the County Referee's Administrator:

A County Committee may delegate plenary powers to its Games Administration Committee and/or to its Disciplinary Subcommittee, and in such cases, appeals may be made only to the Provincial Council.

Rules affected or possibly affected 57 (h), 69 (f).

Coill Cam, An Iarmhí

10. That the function of the committee referred to in Rule 59, sub-section 4, T.O. 2003, be amended as follows:-

Insert an additional sentence:

"It will also be responsible for the training of Club officers".

An Iarmhí

11. That Rial 64 (b) T.O. 2001 be amended to read "That a Provincial Officer, other than a full time Secretary or **Treasurer** shall not hold Office for more than three consecutive years

Naomh Cairíonaigh, Corcaigh

12. That the function of the committee referred to in Rule 70, sub-section 5, T.O. 2003, be amended as follows:-

Insert an additional sentence:

"It will also be responsible for the training of County and Club officers".

Tiobraid Árann

13. That the bracketed section of Rule 80 (d) T.O. 2001 (i.e. – "This section shall not apply again until 2010, except in the case of emergency motion(s) from Central Council") be deleted.

Buireann, An Dún

14. Amend Rule 80 (d) by removal of last paragraph beginning "This section".

Deasúnaigh, Ciarraí

15. That the last paragraph of Rule 80(d) be amended as follows:

This section shall not apply again until 2010, except in the case of

- (i) Emergency motion(s) from Central Council
- (ii) Provincial Councils and Central Council may

table motions re. playing rules in 2005 as per section (a) (iii) and (a) (iv) of this rule.

Caisleán Riabhach, Roscomán

16. Amend Rule 83 T.O. 2003 as follows:-

Add a new section:

- (h) The Central Council shall appoint an Audit Committee

Existing section (h) to become section (i).

Rules affected or possibly affected:

General Rules; Rules 52, 56, 57, 59, 60, 67, 69, 70, 71, 74, 81 and 86.

Coiste Chontae Cill Chainnigh

17. That Congress directs Central Council to establish a Work Group to examine the functions and operating procedures, and the workload of the Games Administration Committee as constituted under Rial 87 T.O. (1) 2003.

This Work Group to bring forward recommendations to the Management Committee within three months, for subsequent consideration by Central Council.

Coiste Chontae Thír Eoghain

18. That Rule 80 T.O. 2003 be set aside to enable Congress to consider the amending of Rule 87 T.O. 2003 for one year as follows:-

In part (a) delete the word "and" at the end of the 5th line and add at the end of the sentence the words - "and two members nominated by the Management Committee".

Part (b) to remain as is in present rule.

Add new part (c) as follows:-

"The Committee shall be divided into two groups of an equal number of members at the first meeting each year – one group to have responsibility for the Fixtures and related elements of the brief and the other group to be responsible for Discipline and all matters arising from games".

Add to Rial 86 for one year a new Section (f) to read – "It shall nominate two members to the Games Administration Committee"

Present Section (f) becomes Section (g) and Section



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(g) becomes Section (h).

Other Rules affected. Rules 74, 83, 88, 89, 116, 128, 133, 135, 140, 141, 142, 151.

Chontae Lú

19. COMPETITIONS REVIEW

That Congress considers the Recommendations of the Competitions Review Task Force (excluding the Recommendations on Hurling Competitions from the Hurling Development Committee, which are the subject of a separate Motion), which require changes in the Rules, as set out below.

(A) That Rule 115 O.G. be deleted and replaced by the following:-

Rule 115 - Organisation

The Championships shall be organised as follows:-

(a) All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

(i) Provincial Championships –

These Championships shall be played on a Knock Out Format. A 'Round Robin' Competition may not be organised. The Winners of the Provincial Championships shall qualify for separate All Ireland Championship Quarter-Finals.

(ii) An additional All-Ireland Championship Qualifier shall be organised as set out hereunder:-

Round 1 - This Round shall include all the Counties that do not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals. A Preliminary Game(s), which may be on an arranged basis, shall be played to reduce the number of teams to sixteen. These teams shall participate in an Open Draw.

Round 2 - Each of the eight teams defeated in the Provincial Semi-Finals shall play against one of the eight winners from Round 1. A Draw shall be made to determine the eight pairings.

Round 3 - This Round shall involve

the eight winners of Round 2. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings.

Round 4 - Each of the four teams defeated in the Provincial Finals shall play against one of the four winners from Round 3. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings.

All-Ireland Quarter-Finals - Each of the four Provincial Champions shall play one of the four winners from Round 4. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings, and shall provide that the respective Provincial Champions do not meet the defeated Finalists from their own Province in this Round.

All Ireland Semi-Finals - A Provincial Rota system initially determined by Central Council, shall apply. If a Provincial Championship winning team is defeated in its Quarter-Final, the team that defeats it shall take its place in the Semi-Final.

All-Ireland Final

Other matters related to the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

(1) **Scheduling** - Qualifier Games shall be played on Saturdays/Sundays as deemed appropriate by the National Games Administration Committee, but the Schedule of Games shall avoid conflict with the Provincial Championships schedules.

A Round of the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition may be spread over more than one weekend, as teams become available from the Provincial Championships.

There shall be a flexibility in the Scheduling of the All-Ireland Qualifier Fixtures to accommodate Provincial Championships Replays.

Consideration shall be given to the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football, and, where feasible, avoid the same weekend.

Provincial Runners Up shall be allowed, where feasible, a thirteen day gap between their Provincial Final



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and their participation in the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

- (2) **Repeat Games** - The Draw for any Round shall be adjusted to eliminate, where feasible, a repeat meeting before the All Ireland Semi-Final stage of Counties that have already met in the Provincial Championships.

(3) **Venues**

The Counties designated as 'weak' by the National Games Administration Committee shall have Home Games in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that their Home Ground meets the criteria as set down by the National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

Home Venues shall be used in Rounds 3 and 4 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that the Home Ground of both Counties is deemed to meet the criteria as set down by the National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

(b) All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

The All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the winners, subject to the exception of Rule 116(c), going forward to the All Ireland series. Pairings for the All Ireland series shall be on a rota basis initially determined by the Central Council.

Munster and Leinster shall automatically qualify for the Semi-Finals. Connacht and Ulster, in alternate years, shall play London or any other unit permitted to enter, in a Quarter-Final, and the winners shall qualify for a Semi-Final against Munster or Leinster in alternative years.

On the direction of Congress, Central Council shall be authorised to make provision for the inclusion in Championships of teams from outside Ireland.

(Note: The above are the current Provisions in Rule regarding the Organisation of the Senior Hurling Championship. It is not proposed to change these at this time, as the Hurling Development Committee is proposing a further Experimental Format for a two year period.)

(c) All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

The All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis.

The Provincial Winners and the Munster and Leinster Runners Up (or the nominated Counties) shall go forward to the All-Ireland Series.

The All-Ireland Series shall be organised as follows:-

- a) The Connacht and Ulster Winners and the Munster and Leinster Runners Up shall qualify for the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Quarter-Finals, which shall be organised on an Open Draw basis.
- b) The Munster and Leinster Winners shall automatically qualify for separate Semi-Finals, and may not meet the defeated Finalists from their own Province at this stage.
- c) All Ireland Final.

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Draw Quarter Finals

The Quarter-Final pairings shall be determined on an Open Draw basis.

The Quarter-Final pairings may be any of three combinations as follows:-

- Draw (1)**
 - (a) Ulster Champions v Munster Runners Up
 - (b) Connacht Champions v Leinster Runners Up
- Draw (2)**
 - (a) Ulster Champions v Leinster Runners Up
 - (b) Connacht Champions v Munster Runners Up
- Draw (3)**
 - (a) Connacht Champions v Ulster Champions



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- (b) Leinster Runners Up v Munster Runners Up

Semi Finals

The Leinster Champions and the Munster Champions shall be in separate Semi-Finals.

In addition, two Counties from the one Province (Leinster or Munster) shall not meet each other in a Semi Final.

Based on the respective potential Quarter-Final Draws outlined above, the Semi-Final pairings shall be as set out below -

If Quarter Final Draw (1)

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Ulster Champions or Munster Runners Up.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Connacht Champions or Leinster Runners Up.

If Quarter Final Draw (2)

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Connacht Champions or Munster Runners Up.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Ulster Champions or Leinster Runners Up.

If Quarter Final Draw (3)

There will be two possible combinations of Semi-Final pairings, as follows:-

If the Leinster Runners Up beat the Munster Runners Up in the Quarter Final, the Semi-Final pairings will be as listed below -

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Connacht Champions or Ulster Champions.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Leinster Runners Up.

If Munster Runners Up beat Leinster Runners Up in Quarter-Final, the Semi-Finals will be as listed below -

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Munster Runners Up

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Connacht Champions or Ulster Champions.

The All Ireland Minor 'B' and 'C' Hurling Championships

shall be organised on the basis of the Recommendations of the National Games Administration Committee, as approved by Central Council.

(d) Other All Ireland Championships

The All Ireland Under 21 Hurling and Football and Minor Football Championships shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the winners, subject to the exception of Rule 116(c), going forward to the All Ireland Series.

Pairings for the All Ireland Series shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.

(e) County Participation Restriction

A County shall be restricted to entering one Inter-County Team at each All Ireland Level - Adult, Under 21 and Minor; in both Hurling and Football.

Rules Affected or possibly Affected

- Rules 69(a), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 109(d)(iii), 116, 117, 118, 120(b), 125, 126, 128 and O.G. 2003; Rules 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2.

(B) That Rule 117 O.G. - Draw be amended to read as follows:-

"In an Inter County Championship, one Draw shall be made to cover the entire Championship, except as provided in Rule 115. A Bye shall be given only in the First Round of the Knock Out Stage."

Rules Affected or possibly Affected – Rules 115, 116, 123, 125, 126, 127 and 128 O.G. 2003

(C) That Rule 118 O.G. - All Ireland Finals be amended to read as follows:-

"The All Ireland Senior Finals shall be played in Croke Park, Hurling on the second Sunday and Football on the fourth Sunday in September. In exceptional circumstances, the Central Council may make other arrangements."

Rule Affected or possibly Affected – Rule 115 O.G. 2003



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(D) That Rule 3.5 Rules of Specification

O.G. be amended, to take effect from 1st January 2005, as follows:-

Extra Time as prescribed above shall be played in the following Competitions:-

- The All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Tier 1) Qualifier Competition. (not including the Provincial Championships or the All Ireland Quarter Finals).

(Note to Congress: Applicable if this or similar system is approved by this Congress)

- The All Ireland Senior Football Championship Qualifier Competition (not including the Provincial Championships or the All Ireland Quarter Finals).

Where the Committee in Charge makes a decision prior to the start of a Competition, Extra Time shall be obligatory in the following Competitions - Inter County Championships in Under 21 Hurling and Football (excluding All Ireland Finals), Senior B Hurling, Intermediate Hurling, Junior Hurling and Football, the Knock-Out stages of the National Leagues, Inter Provincial Competitions, Inter County Competitions/Tournaments, the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups, and other games in Subsidiary Competitions.

(Note to Congress: Senior B Hurling, Intermediate Hurling, Junior Hurling and Football to be deleted from the above in the event of these Championships being discontinued.)

Rules Affected or possibly Affected:

Rules 69(a), 80(g), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 109(d)(iii), 115, 116, 117, 118, 120(b), 125, 126 and 128 O.G. 2003 Part 1; Rules 3.4 and 3.7 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2.

E) That Rule 114 O.G. - Organisation

(Provincial and All Ireland) be amended to read as follows:-

“Provincial and All Ireland Club Championships shall be organised in Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grades.

Divisional or Group teams winning a County Championship may not participate, and in such cases the County Committee shall nominate a Club of the appropriate Championship status to represent it.”

Remainder of Rule to remain unaltered.

(F) That the Exception stated in Rule 120(a)

O.G. be deleted, with effect from 1st January 2005.

Remainder of the Rule to be unaltered.

Rules Affected or possibly Affected:

Rules 80(g), 99, 100, 101, 109(c) O.G. 2003, Part 1; Rule 2.5(ii) (a) O.G. 2003 Part 2.

(G) All Ireland Senior Football Competition

That an additional All Ireland Senior Football Competition be organised for Counties designated as ‘weaker’, as follows:-

Counties Participating

The Competition shall consist of a maximum of sixteen Counties, designated as ‘weaker’(subject to Annual Review by the National Games Administration Committee) which do not progress beyond Round 2 of the All Ireland Senior Football Qualifier.

Knock Out Competition

The Competition shall be on a knock out basis, with the Final being played as a Curtain Raiser to a Game in the closing stages of the All Ireland Senior Football Championship.

Ard Chomhairle

20. That Congress **rescind** its decision taken at Congress 2003, on foot of Motion 8, that “a Congress in 2004 shall adopt in **Rule Form** formats for the All Ireland Championships in Hurling and Football”.

That Congress then temporarily set aside the provisions of Rule 80, with immediate effect, to enable Congress to consider the further setting aside of Rules 115, 116, 117, 118, 125, 126 and 128, in so far as these relate to All Ireland Inter County Adult Hurling Championships (not including Under 21), to allow a trial for a two year period of the Experimental Formats for these Championships as contained in the Competitions Task Force Report, on the Recommendations of the Hurling Development Committee, and as set out hereunder:-

(A) All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Tier 1)

The Championship shall be organised as follows:-

Counties Participating

Twelve Counties shall participate in the Championship (initially the Counties participating in Division 1 of the National Hurling League 2004).



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Additional provision shall be made for the Ulster Champions, if not already included.

Provincial Championships

Provincial Championships shall be organised in Munster, Leinster and Ulster on a 'Knock Out' format.

All Ireland Qualifier

An additional All Ireland Championship Qualifier shall be organised as set out hereunder:-

- **Entries** - (Eight Counties) -
The Counties participating shall be the First Round Losers in the Leinster and Munster Championships (two Teams), the Losing Semi-Finalists in the Leinster and Munster Championships (four Teams), Galway, and Antrim (in 2005).
In subsequent years, the Counties participating shall be all the teams eligible for Tier 1 except those that reach the Leinster and Munster Finals.
- **Groups** (2) -
Two Groups of four Teams shall be drawn, with a maximum of two Teams from Munster and Leinster in each Group.

Each County in a Group shall meet each other i.e. each Team shall play three games.

- **Equality of Points**
A County's finishing position shall be determined on the basis of points total. In the event of an equality of points, all finishing positions shall be determined firstly by Scoring Difference. In the event of there being further equality, the Highest Score For shall be used to determine position(s). In the event that teams are still equal, the Result of the Game which involved the two Counties shall be used.

Other matters related to the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

(1) Scheduling - Qualifier Games shall be played on Saturdays/Sundays as deemed appropriate by the National Games Administration Committee, but the Schedule of Games shall avoid conflict with the Provincial Championships schedules.

A Round of the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition may be spread over more than one weekend, as teams

become available from the Provincial Championships.

There shall be a flexibility in the Scheduling of the All-Ireland Qualifier Fixtures to accommodate Provincial Championships Replays.

Consideration shall be given to the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football and, where feasible, avoiding the same weekend.

Provincial Runners Up shall be allowed, where feasible, a thirteen day gap between their Provincial Final and their participation in the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

(2) Venues/Designated Counties

A County that is designated as 'weak' by the National Games Administration Committee shall have two Home Games in the Group Stage, provided that their Home Ground meets the criteria as set out by the National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

Provision for Ulster Champions

If the Ulster Championship Winners have not been included in the Qualifier Competition, that County shall have the following options:-

- (a) Playing in a Preliminary Game against the Leinster or Munster Championship Runners Up (on a rotation basis, if it becomes necessary over more than one year), with the Winners to qualify for an All Ireland Quarter-Final.

The Winners of the Preliminary Game to be placed in the appropriate Quarter-Final as listed below.

Or

- (b) Playing in the Tier 2 Championship.

The preferred option shall be indicated to the National Games Administration Committee at the



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completion of the Ordinary Rounds of the National League in March/April of each year.

All Ireland Quarter Finals (4)

The Pairings for the All Ireland Quarter-Finals shall be as follows:-

- (1) Leinster Champions v Second Placed Team in one Qualifier Group.
- (2) Munster Champions v Second Placed Team in the other Qualifier Group.
- (3) Leinster Championship Runners Up v First Placed Team in One Qualifier Group.
- (4) Munster Championship Runners Up v First Placed Team in the other Qualifier Group.

A Draw shall be made to determine who each of the 'First Placed' Teams and each of the 'Second Placed' Teams shall meet.

All Ireland Semi-Finals

The Leinster and Munster Provincial Champions, if still involved, shall be drawn against the other two Quarter Final Winners.

If the Leinster and/or Munster Provincial Champions are defeated in the Quarter Finals, the Team(s) that defeated them shall take their position(s) in the Draw.

All Ireland Final

Relegation and Promotion

The four Counties in the Qualifier Competition that do not qualify for the All Ireland Quarter-Finals shall play a series of Relegation Games as follows:-

- (1) The Third Placed Team in Group 1 v the Fourth Placed Team in Group 2
- (2) The Third Placed Team in Group 2 v the Fourth Placed Team in Group 1
- (3) The Losing Team in (1) and (2) above to play a Relegation Final.

The Losing Team in the Relegation Final shall be relegated to Tier 2, and the Tier 2 Champions shall be promoted to Tier 1.

(B) All Ireland Hurling Championship (Tier 2)

The Championship shall be organised as follows:-

Counties Participating

Ten Counties shall participate in the Championship (initially the Counties participating in Division 2 of the National Hurling League 2004).

Organisation

• Groups (2)

Two Groups of five Teams shall be drawn. Each Team in a Group to meet each other i.e. each Team to play four games.

• Equality of Points

A County's finishing position shall be determined on the basis of points total. In the event of an equality of points, all finishing positions shall be determined firstly by Scoring Difference. In the event of there being further equality, the Highest Score For shall be used to determine position(s). In the event that teams are still equal, the Result of the Game which involved the two Counties shall be used.

• Venues

The Games in the Group Stage shall be played on a Home or Away basis.

All Ireland Semi-Finals

The Top Two Teams in each Group shall Qualify for the All Ireland Semi-Finals. The Top Team in one Group shall play the second placed Team in the other Group and vice versa.

All Ireland Championship Final

The All Ireland Final shall be played as a Curtain Raiser to a game in the closing stages of the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Tier 1).

Promotion and Relegation

The Teams finishing in fourth and fifth position in each Group shall contest Relegation Play Offs. The Fourth Team in one Group shall play the Fifth Team in the other Group and vice versa.

The Two Losing teams shall contest a Relegation Final, with the eventual Losers being Relegated to Tier 3, and the Tier 3 Champions promoted to Tier 2.

(C) All Ireland Hurling Championship (Tier 3)

The Championship shall be organised as follows:-

Counties Participating

Eleven Counties shall participate in the Championship (initially the Counties participating in Division 3 of the National Hurling League 2004).

Organisation

- **Groups (3)**

Three Groups shall be drawn - two Groups of Four Counties and one Group of Three Counties on a geographical basis.

Each Team in a Group shall meet each other i.e. the Counties in the Groups of Four shall play three games and the Counties in the Group of Three shall play two games.

- **Equality of Points**

A County's finishing position shall be determined on the basis of points total. In the event of an equality of points, all finishing positions shall be determined firstly by Scoring Difference. In the event of there being further equality, the Highest Score For shall be used to determine position(s). In the event that teams are still equal, the Result of the Game which involved the two Counties shall be used.

- **Venues**

The Games shall be played on a Home or Away basis, up to an including the All Ireland Semi-Finals.

All Ireland Quarter Final

The Runners Up in each of the Groups of Four shall play an All Ireland Quarter Final, with the winners qualifying for an All Ireland Semi-Final.

All Ireland Semi-Finals

The Winners of each Group, together with the Winners of the All Ireland Quarter-Final between the Runners Up in the two Groups of Four shall qualify for the All Ireland Semi-Finals.

The Semi-Final pairings shall be determined on the basis of an Open Draw, with Counties from the same Group being kept apart.

All-Ireland Final

The Final shall be played at a time and venue as commensurate with its status as an All Ireland Final.

Rules Affected or possibly affected -

Rules 69(a), 74(d), 80(g), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 123, 125, 126 and 128 O.G. 2003 Part 1; Rules 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2.

Ard Chomhairle

21. That Congress adhere to its decision made at Congress 2003 that "a Congress in 2004 shall adopt, in **Rule Form**, formats for the All Ireland Championships in Hurling and Football."

To give effect to that Congress 2003 decision, that Congress adopt, in **Rule Form**, the formats for **all** Championships as experimented with in 2002 and 2003 (and operational again in 2004), as outlined below, with provision for the Scheduling/Venue changes in the All Ireland Senior Football and Senior Hurling Championships recommended by the Competitions Review Task Force.

(Note to Congress: This Motion seeks the adoption, in Rule Form, of the experimental formats operated in 2002/'03 (and to be operated in 2004) of the

- All Ireland Senior Football Championship
- All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship
- All Ireland Senior B Hurling Championship
- All Ireland Minor Hurling Championships
- All Ireland Minor Football Championship, including All Ireland Quarter-Finals.
- All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship.
- All Ireland Junior Hurling Championship

(A) That Rule 115 O.G. be deleted and replaced by the following:-

Rule 115 – Organisation

The All Ireland Championships, subject to the provisions of Rule 116(c), shall be organised as follows:-

(a) All Ireland Senior Football Championship

- (i) **Provincial Championships –**
These Championships shall be played on a



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Knock-Out Format basis. A 'Round Robin' Competition may not be organised. The Winners of the Provincial Championships shall qualify for separate All Ireland Championship Quarter-Finals.

- (ii) An additional **All-Ireland Championship Qualifier** shall be organised as set out hereunder:-

Round 1 - This Round shall include all the Counties that do not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals.

A Preliminary Game(s), which may be on an arranged basis, shall be played to reduce the number of teams to sixteen. These teams shall participate in an Open Draw.

Round 2 - Each of the eight teams defeated in the Provincial Semi-Finals shall play against one of the eight winners from Round 1. A Draw shall be made to determine the eight pairings.

Round 3 - This Round shall involve the eight winners of Round 2. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings.

Round 4 - Each of the four teams defeated in the Provincial Finals shall play against one of the four winners from Round 3. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings.

All-Ireland Quarter-Finals - Each of the four Provincial Champions shall play one of the four winners from Round 4. A Draw shall be made to determine the four pairings, and shall provide that the respective Provincial Champions do not meet the defeated Finalists from their own Province in this Round.

All-Ireland Semi-Finals - A Provincial Rota System, initially determined by Central Council, shall apply. If a Provincial Championship winning team is defeated in its Quarter-Final, the team that defeats it shall take its place in the Semi-Final.

All-Ireland Final

Other matters related to the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

- (1) **Scheduling** - Qualifier Games shall be played on Saturdays/Sundays as deemed appropriate by the National Games Administration Committee, but the Schedule of Games shall avoid conflict

with the Provincial Championships schedules.

A Round of the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition may be spread over more than one weekend, as teams become available from the Provincial Championships.

There shall be a flexibility in the Scheduling of the All-Ireland Qualifier Fixtures to accommodate Provincial Championships Replays.

Consideration shall be given to the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football, and, where feasible, avoid the same weekend.

Provincial Runners Up shall be allowed, where feasible, a thirteen day gap between their Provincial Final and their participation in the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

- (2) **Repeat Games** - The Draw for any Round shall be adjusted to eliminate, where feasible, a repeat meeting before the All Ireland Semi Finals stage, of Counties that have already met in the Provincial Championships.

- (3) **Venues**
The Counties designated as 'weak' by the National Games Administration Committee shall have Home Games in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that their Home Ground meets the criteria as set out by the National Safety Council, and the National Games Administration Committee.

Home Venues shall be used in Rounds 3 and 4 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that the Home Ground of both Counties is deemed to meet the criteria as set down by the National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

(b) All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

- (i) **Provincial Championships**
Provincial Championships shall be organised in Munster, Leinster and Ulster. Counties that are graded "B" may participate in



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these Championships, but shall be included in the Preliminary Rounds.
 A 'Round Robin' Competition may not be organised.
 The Munster and Leinster Championship Winners shall automatically qualify for separate All-Ireland Championship Semi-Finals, and may not meet the defeated Finalists from their own Province at this stage.
 The Ulster Championship Winners shall qualify for the All-Ireland Championship Quarter-Finals.

- (ii) An additional **All-Ireland Championship Qualifier** shall be organised as set out hereunder:-

Preliminary Round(s)

Preliminary Round(s) shall be played where Counties graded "B", other than those qualified for Round 1 via the Provincial Championships, are permitted by Central Council to participate. When reduced to one, that County shall, on an Open Draw basis, play one of the Counties – not Galway – that would otherwise have qualified for Round 1, and the Winners of that game shall qualify for Round 1.

Round 1

This Round shall include eight Counties, and there shall be an Open Draw.

Subject to the provision above for Preliminary Round(s), the following shall be the Qualifiers:-

Munster – Three Counties – the two defeated Semi-Finalists and one defeated Quarter-Finalist in the Provincial Championship.

Leinster – Three Counties – the two defeated Semi-Finalists and one defeated Quarter-Finalist in the Provincial Championship.

Ulster – One County – the defeated Provincial Finalists.

Connacht – Galway.

Round 2

This Round shall be necessary only if Galway are defeated in Round 1.

Galway shall play one of the Winners of Round 1, other than the Team that defeated them in Round 1. An Open Draw shall be made to determine their opponents.

Round 3

This Round shall include the four Winners from Round(s) 1/2, and the Provincial Runners Up of Munster and Leinster. An Open Draw shall be made to determine the three pairings.

All-Ireland Quarter Finals

This Round shall include the three Winners from Round 3, and the Ulster Provincial Champions. An Open Draw shall be made to determine the two pairings.

All-Ireland Semi-Finals

Munster and Leinster Provincial Champions shall be respectively drawn against the two Quarter-Final Winners.

All-Ireland Final

Other matters related to the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

- (1) **Scheduling** - Qualifier Games shall be played on Saturdays/Sundays as deemed appropriate by the National Games Administration Committee, but the Schedule of Games shall avoid conflict with the Provincial Championships schedules.

Round of the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition may be spread over more than one weekend, as teams become available from the Provincial Championships.

There shall be a flexibility in the Scheduling of the All-Ireland Qualifier Fixtures to accommodate Provincial Championships Replays.

Consideration shall be given to the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football, and, where feasible, avoid the same weekend.

Provincial Runners Up shall be allowed, where feasible, a thirteen day gap between their Provincial Final and their participation in the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.

- (2) **Repeat Games** - The Draw for any Round shall be adjusted to eliminate, where feasible, a repeat meeting before the All Ireland Semi-Final stage, of Counties that have already met in the Provincial Championships.



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(3) Venues

The Counties designated as 'weak' by the National Games Administration Committee shall have Home Games in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that their Home Ground meets the criteria as set down by the National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

(c) All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

The Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis. The Provincial Winners and Runners Up of each Province shall go forward to the All-Ireland Series.

All-Ireland Quarter Finals

Each of the four Provincial Winners shall meet one of the Provincial Runners Up. The pairings shall be determined on a Draw basis, but Provincial Winners shall not at this stage meet the team they defeated in their own Provincial Final.

All-Ireland Semi-Finals

A Provincial Rota system, initially determined by Central Council, shall apply. If a Provincial Championship winning team is defeated in its Quarter-Final, the team that defeats it shall take its place in the Semi-Final.

All Ireland Final

(d) All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

The All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis. The Provincial Winners and the Munster and Leinster Runners Up shall go forward to the All-Ireland Series.

The All-Ireland Series shall be organised as follows:-

- (a) The Connacht and Ulster Winners and the Munster and Leinster Runners Up shall qualify for the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Quarter-Finals, which shall be organised on an Open Draw basis.
- (b) The Munster and Leinster Winners shall automatically qualify for separate Semi-Finals, and may not meet the defeated

Finalists from their own Province at this stage.

- (c) All Ireland Final.

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Draw Quarter Finals

The Quarter-Final pairings shall be determined on an Open Draw basis.

The Quarter-Final pairings may be any of three combinations as follows:-

- Draw (1)**
- (a) Ulster Champions v Munster Runners Up
 - (b) Connacht Champions v Leinster Runners Up

- Draw (2)**
- (a) Ulster Champions v Leinster Runners Up
 - (b) Connacht Champions v Munster Runners Up

- Draw (3)**
- (a) Connacht Champions v Ulster Champions
 - (b) Leinster Runners Up v Munster Runners Up

Semi Finals

The Leinster Champions and the Munster Champions shall be in separate Semi-Finals.

In addition, two Counties from the one Province (Leinster or Munster) shall not meet each other in a Semi Final.

Based on the respective potential Quarter-Final Draws outlined above, the Semi-Final pairings shall be as set out below -

If Quarter Final Draw (1)

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Ulster Champions or Munster Runners Up.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Connacht Champions or Leinster Runners Up.

If Quarter Final Draw (2)

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Connacht Champions or Munster Runners Up.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Ulster Champions or Leinster Runners Up.

If Quarter Final Draw (3)

There will be two possible combinations of Semi-Final pairings, as follows:-

If the Leinster Runners Up beat the Munster Runners Up in the Quarter Final, the Semi-Final pairings will be as listed below -



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First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Connacht Champions or Ulster Champions.

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Leinster Runners Up.

If Munster Runners Up beat Leinster Runners Up in the Quarter-Final, the Semi-Final pairings will be as listed below -

First Semi-Final - Leinster Champions v Munster Runners Up

Second Semi-Final - Munster Champions v Connacht Champions or Ulster Champions.

The **All Ireland Minor 'B' and 'C' Hurling Championships** shall be organised on the basis of Recommendations of the National Games Administration Committee, as approved by Central Council.

(d) All Ireland Senior B Hurling Championship

The Championship shall be organised by the Central Council.

It shall be open to all Counties that are graded Senior B by the Central Council.

The Counties in Ulster that participate in the Provincial Senior Hurling Championship and do not qualify for the Provincial Final shall be eligible to enter the Senior B Championship. Ulster Counties must declare their intentions in this regard by January 1st of each year.

(e) All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship

The Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis, with the Provincial Winners qualifying for the All-Ireland Semi-Finals.

The Championship shall be confined to Counties that are graded Senior 'A' by Central Council.

Pairings for the All Ireland Semi-Finals shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.

(f) All Ireland Junior Hurling Championship

The Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis, with the Provincial Winners qualifying for the All-Ireland Semi-Finals.

The Championship shall be confined to Counties that are graded either Senior "B" or

Junior by Central Council. On this basis, if Kerry enter this Championship they shall participate in the Leinster Championship. In the All-Ireland Semi-Finals, the Leinster and Connacht Champions shall respectively play the Ulster and Britain Champions in alternate years.

(g) Other All Ireland Championships

The All Ireland Junior Football Championship, and the All Ireland Under 21 Football and Hurling Championships shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the Winners, going forward to the All Ireland Series.

The pairings for the All Ireland Series shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.

Rules affected or possibly affected -

Rules 69(a), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 109(d)(iii), 116, 117, 118, 120(b), 125, 126 and 128 O.G. 2003 Part 1; Rules 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2.

(B) That Rule 3.5 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2 be amended

by the inclusion of the following paragraph at the beginning of the Rule:-

"If a Game in the Rounds of the All Ireland Inter County Senior Football and Hurling Championships Qualifiers – not including the Provincial Championships or the All Ireland Quarter-Finals - ends in a draw, the teams shall play extra time as prescribed in Rule 3.4 above".

The existing paragraph "Where the Committeein subsidiary Competitions" to follow without amendment.

Rules affected or possibly affected –

Rules 69(a), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 109(d)(iii), 115, 116, 117, 118, 120(b), 125, 126 and 128 O.G. Part 1; Rules 3.4 and 3.7 Rules of Specification O.G. 2003 Part 2.

(C) That Rule 125 be amended to read as follows:-

Rule 125

(1) Inter-County Intermediate Hurling

All players are eligible to participate in the Inter-County Intermediate Hurling Championship except:-



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- (a) Those who have played on an Inter-County Senior Championship team in the current or preceding Championship years.
- (b) Those who have played on a Club Senior Team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All Ireland Championships.

Exception

This does not apply to a County that is permitted by the Central Council to play its second best Team.

Penalty – Player – 12 weeks suspension
Team - Loss of game.

(2) Inter County Junior Football, excluding Britain

All players are eligible to participate except:-

- (a) Those, who have played on an Inter County Senior Championship Team in the current or preceding Championship years.

Exception

In the case of a County graded Junior by the Central Council, the Senior players of that County, and Senior players declaring for that County, shall be eligible to play in the Inter County Junior Championship.

- (b) Those who have played on a Club Senior Team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All Ireland Championships

Exception

This does not apply to a County that is permitted by the Central Council to play its second best Team.

- (c) Those who have played on the winning Team in the preceding year's All Ireland Junior Championship Final.

Penalty – Player – 12 weeks suspension
Team – loss of game

(3) Inter County Junior Football – Britain

In the case of Counties in Britain, all players are eligible to participate in the All Ireland Junior Championships except:-

- (a) Those who have played on an Inter County Senior Championship in the current Championship year.
- (b) Those who have played on a Club Senior team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All Ireland Championships.

Exception

This does not apply to a County that is permitted by the Central Council to play its second best Team.

Penalty – Player – 24 weeks suspension
Team - Loss of game

(4) Inter County Junior Hurling, excluding Britain

All players are eligible to participate except –

- (a) Those who have played on an Inter County Senior or Intermediate Championship Team in the current or preceding Championship years.
- (b) Those who have in the preceding year played on either a Club Senior team in the County, Provincial or All Ireland Championships, or on a Club team in the County Intermediate Hurling Championship.
- (c) Those who played on the winning team in the preceding year's All Ireland Junior Championship Final.

Exceptions –

Exception (i) relative to (a) and (b) above.

If a County is graded Junior by the Central Council, the players of that County and the players declaring for that County, who have played Inter County Senior or Intermediate Championship, or Club Senior or Intermediate championship, in the preceding year, shall be eligible to play in the Inter County Junior Championship.

Exception ii) relative to (b) above

This does not apply to a County that is permitted by Central Council to play its second best team

Exception (iii) relative to (c) above

Central Council may in exceptional circumstances exempt a County graded Junior in Hurling from this provision.

Penalty – Player – 12 weeks suspension
Team – loss of game

(5) Inter County Junior Hurling – Britain

In the case of Counties in Britain all players are eligible to participate in the All Ireland Junior Hurling Championship except –

- (a) Those who have played on an Inter County Senior or Intermediate Championship Team in the current Championship year.



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- (b) Those who have in the preceding year played on either a Club Senior Team in the County, Provincial or All Ireland Championships, or on a Club team in the County Intermediate Hurling Championship.

Exceptions

Exception (i) relative to (b) above

If a County is graded Junior by the Central Council, the players of that County and the players declaring for that County who have played Senior or Intermediate Club Championship in the preceding year shall be eligible to play in the Inter County Junior Championship.

Exception (ii) relative to (b) above

This does not apply to a County that is permitted by the Central Council to play its second best team.

Penalty – Player – 12 weeks suspension
Team – Loss of game

Rules affected or possibly affected –

Rules 69(a), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 115, 116, 117, 120(b), 126 O.G. 2003.

(D) That the following new Rule be enacted:-

County Participation Restriction

Subject to Central Council gradings, a County, in Hurling, may participate in the Senior and the Intermediate or the Senior "B" and the Junior All Ireland Championships i.e. two of the four Championships in the combinations specified.

Exception

A County graded Senior "B" may also participate in its Provincial Senior Hurling Championship.

A County, in Football, may participate in both the Senior and Junior All Ireland Championships.

Rules affected or possibly affected –

69(a), 83(e), 87(b), 97, 99, 101, 115, 116, 117, 120(b), 125, 126 and 128 O.G. 2003

Coiste Chontae Chorcaí

22. Towards Inter-County Senior Panels being reduced from thirty to twenty-four players, that Riall 120(a) T.O. be amended by the Exception being deleted. Remainder of the Rule to remain unaltered.

Rules affected Rules 99, 100, 101, 109 (c), T.O. Part 1; Rule 2.5 (ii) (a) T.O. Part 2.

*Fánuithe an Ghleanna, Corcaigh/An Tiompó,
Fearmanach*

23. That the amendment to Riall 127 O.G., as determined by Rún 14 passed at the Special Congress in October 2002, and subsequently amended at Congress 2003, be further amended as follows:

A player who is eligible for the Under 12 Grade shall be eligible to play in any Grade up to and including Under 14 Grade only. A player who is eligible for the Under 14 Grade shall be eligible to play in any Grade up to and including Under 16 Grade only. A player who is eligible for the Under 16 Grade shall be eligible to play in any Grade, where the competitions are organised on age basis, up to and including Under 21 only.

Penalties: Team: Loss of Game. Player: 4 weeks suspension.

Suggested that the above Provisions be relocated as an addition to Riall 127 (Eligibility for Championship Section), rather than in Riall 122 (Inter-County Championship Section). As it is intended that the above Provisions apply to both Inter-County and Club Competitions.

Rules affected or possibly affected – Rules 32, 34, 58, 69, 83, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 131, 31, 132, 134, 135, 141, 142.

Coill Cam, An Iarmhí

24. That the minor age for football and hurling be raised from 18 to 19 years of age. Amend Riall 127 (b) T.O. 2003.

Ubhla, Luimneach

25. Amend T.O. Rule 138 (4) (2001) **Additional Suspensions** to read "The above suspension impose a longer term of suspension. A player repeating any specific offence in categories (A) and (B) or any offence in category (C) within a 48 week period, shall be suspended for not less than double the minimum applicable to that offence.

Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua, An Dún

26. That the following Rules relating to suspensions be rescinded and replaced by the Rules governing suspensions which are in operation prior to their introduction:-

Rule 138 (6) T.O. 2003

- Rule governing period December / January to be deleted.

Rule 138 (7) T.O. 2003

- Commencement of term – the words 'except as provided in 6 above' to be deleted.





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Any other Rules effected by this be amended or deleted accordingly.

Comhdháil Bhliantúil Laighean

27. Amend Rial 138 T.O. 2003 as follows:
Sections (1), (2) and (3) as printed
Section (4) **Additional Suspension**
The above suspensions for Category (A), (B) and (C) are minimum penalties. The Committee in Charge shall have due regard for the gravity, repetition and time of offences in each case, and shall, where appropriate, impose a longer term of suspension.
The remainder of the section as printed in T. O. 2003.

Section (5) as printed in T.O. 2003.

Delete section (6)

Section (7) to become section (6)

Rules affected or possibly affected – 137, 139, 141, 142 and 144 T. O. 2003

Ard Mhacha

28. That Rule 138 (6) T.O. 2001 be amended to read as follows:-

Period December/January

A suspension term, in whole or in part, of a player suspended under this rule, while playing in a match, shall not be served in the months of December and January.

The suspension, or the balance of the term (where the player has served a part prior to December), shall date from the following February 1st .

Rules affected or possibly affected: Rule 80 (d), 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143 and 144 T.O. 2001 (Part 1). Rules of control T.O. (Part 2) 2001: Rules 4, 5 and 6, Playing Rules Hurling and Football T.O. 2001 (Part 2).

Coill Cam, An Iarmhí

Games Development Overview

Pat Daly - Head of Games

Where Games Development is concerned, the big challenges currently facing the Association involve: (1) getting the best possible balance between Club and County competition (2) ensuring all County teams have good prospects of achieving success (3) establishing a Disciplinary system within which breaches of the Playing Rules are dealt with in a consistent manner and (4) ensuring that the level of statutory funding provided for Games Development is commensurate with the size of the organisation and reflects its contribution to the development of indigenous sporting culture and Community well being.

The Club/County Balance

If the Association is to achieve best possible balance between Club and County games, a greater emphasis will have to be placed on advance fixtures scheduling. Under ideal circumstances, it should be possible to take a set number of dates between April and September and to designate these for either Club or County Championship games.

The All Ireland Championship would be preceded by a warm up series and each County would also be provided with a predetermined number of games in this competition. Such a framework would eliminate the need for Secondary Competitions/Challenge Games and provide for a situation where the All Ireland Club Championships, the U.21 Football and Third Level competitions could be completed between the commencement of Senior inter county competitions.

Under the existing system, very little provision can be made for Clubs fixtures at the start of the year as practically all Counties are involved in Secondary Competitions/ National Leagues right up to the start of the Provincial Championships. Participation in the Provincial Championships and/or the Qualifier/s - all of which are currently organised on a knockout basis - allied to the provision that sometimes has to be made for replays, makes it impossible to plan an advance fixture schedule for Clubs, particularly when Counties qualify for the National Leagues Play-Offs and/or while they are still involved in the Provincial Championships or Qualifiers. (The fact that there is only a week between the National League Hurling Final and the first round of the Munster Hurling Championship in 2004 highlights the acute nature of this problem).

Needless to say, the potential for problems is most pronounced in Counties where there is dual involvement in terms of Hurling and Football. Matters are further compounded when County Team Managers – and not always necessarily those involved at Adult level – insist on the postponement/curtailment of Club fixtures.

Having regard for events at the Special Congress in 2002, which dealt with the Strategic Review Report, and the incremental manner in which change has evolved since the first substantive adjustment was made to the Hurling Championship structure in 1996, it would have been naïve of those involved with the Fixtures Work Group, or the Hurling Development Committee (HDC), to think that all of the steps required to achieve the optimum Club/County balance could have been taken in one fell swoop.

The proposals put forward by the HDC in the Fixtures Work Group Report will help to curb some of the existing problem areas and, more importantly, provide a template for the type of overall system that should apply at Senior Inter County level – in both Hurling and Football - in the years ahead. This system will provide what are regarded as Junior/Intermediate Counties with competitive fare right up to August and provide them with a long-awaited and much-needed platform for their finals. This is the least that these Counties deserve for their unstinting efforts to promote and develop our national game.

Meaningful Inter-County Competition

Ideally, all teams participating in a competition should play the same number and get an equal distribution of games. (The more teams compete against each other to determine qualification – as distinct from being drawn from different groups – the more meaningful the competition will be). Where competitive balance is concerned, an even greater degree of meaning can be achieved by ensuring that teams are graded on the basis of ability thereby ensuring that they all have reasonable prospects of success.

As this type of thinking has underpinned the successful organisation of Club competitions for years, it's difficult to understand why it is not reflected to anything like the same extent in the organisation of the All Ireland Championships. The HDC proposal that teams – depending on their ability – compete in the Tier 1, 2 or 3 Championship is as revolutionary as it is overdue and will achieve an even greater level of impact because of the fact that a programme of Promotion and Relegation will operate in tandem with it.



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While Galway's proposed participation in Leinster would have added a much needed competitive boost to the Senior Hurling Championship within the Province, it's hard to argue with Galway's contention that this would simply compound the underlying structural problem and ultimately require a more remedial intervention in years to come.

It's worth remembering that Galway fully supported the introduction of the All Ireland Hurling Quarter Finals in 1996 – even though they had a guaranteed Semi Final slot at the time – on the basis that it was in the best national interest of the game. By agreeing to the introduction of the All Ireland Qualifier in 2001 for the same reason, Galway forfeited their guaranteed Quarter Final slot, and have repeatedly emphasised the need for an All Ireland series, which would include, but not necessarily be based exclusively on the Provincial system.

With a little marketing ingenuity, it's easy to see how other elements could be built into the type of format, which Galway have consistently favoured e.g. (a) Western Challenge featuring Clare, Galway and Limerick (b) South Eastern Challenge featuring Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford and (c) Midlands Challenge featuring Dublin, Laois and Offaly.

Assuming that this type of system is adopted in the future, and additional incentives are built in for Counties to pre-sell their Home games – extensive use could be made of annual memberships/family tickets in this regard - the Association would be very well positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

If nothing else, this type of system would help to overcome the ever-increasing difficulties/hassle attaching to ticket distribution and free up key people who could then concentrate more on the formulation /implementation of policy. While the National Leagues provide the ideal vehicle for experimentation in this regard in terms of Counties being permitted to keep their home gates, it's regrettable that all efforts/overtures in this regard have, to date, fallen on barren soil.

Apart from the lopsided nature of Provincial Championships in terms of competitiveness and the uneven number of games – excluding any replays - provided for teams, the current Championship system also throws up a number of other anomalies. These include: (a) more difficult – if not impossible – to schedule Club games, if provision has to be made for a replay within the Qualifier (b) more difficult - if not impossible – for team managers to tailor training so that team will “peak” if they

don't know the number/distribution of games involved in the Qualifier series and what impact this/these will have on internal Club fixtures.

The Qualifier system proposed by the HDC will help to overcome these problems and also provide the opportunity to schedule some games on a midweek basis. The fact that designated counties will get two home games will give a significant boost by the promotion and development of the game in these counties. In addition, the introduction of four Hurling Quarter Finals will compensate in some measure for the unbalanced nature of the existing Provincial system and will also help to ensure that the eight best teams in the Country contest the All Ireland Hurling Quarter Finals.

The fact that all Hurling Quarter Finalists will get the same number, and a relatively equal distribution of games, has to be regarded as a major step in the right direction. The HDC proposals must be looked as an overall package and be seen as a work in progress, in terms of creating a more egalitarian Championship structure, as distinct from offering some sort of panacea in this regard.

Where Football is concerned, there is statistical evidence, which indicates that as many as twenty Counties have *no* realistic prospects of Championship success under the current system. While the proposal to introduce a Cup competition for sixteen of these will help to fill the existing void, the reality is that the underlying problems will continue - and probably become more deep rooted - unless or until all parties are prepared to look at the big picture and devise a system that's best for the game as distinct from looking after their own vested interests.

Some solace may be drawn from the fact that further change can be anticipated as the need – inevitable and inexorable - for increased promotion, improved marketing and a better financial return for Counties emerges and converges with the exigencies to adopt a more player-friendly approach. In this latter regard, it is important that players can plan their lives and feel secure in the knowledge that they will benefit from training programmes based on sound (scientifically acknowledged) principles of training.

From a promotional and marketing point of view, the acid test going forward will be to provide all Counties with a spread of games – played on a Home or Away basis – and to have a situation where each participating team is fully committed to winning every game. It's assumed that



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all teams will have realistic prospects of success and will be provided with sufficient incentives to win every game possible. Accommodating traditional/local rivalries should be seen as an additional bonus in this regard as distinct from being an end in itself.

With such a system, the days of Players not wanting to play for their Counties - because of the reduced likelihood of winning anything – would quickly end. In addition, the days of Counties feeling better off if they are beaten/knocked out of a National Competition – because of their reduced financial outlay and/or the competitive advantage (real or imaginary) that would/could accrue – would also vanish. It would also provide the basis for implementing a sustained and integrated media campaign.

The current practice of Counties training for five or six months and then being knocked out of the All Ireland Championship after one or two games in May/June is a contradiction where effective marketing of the games is concerned and in terms of providing Players/Counties with a level of involvement commensurate with their time/financial inputs. The fact that these games may have to be played within six or seven days of each other only serves to compound the underlying problem from a promotional perspective.

Meaningful Club Competition

If advance fixtures scheduling is important at County level, it is even more important that adequate provision is made for the completion of Adult Club Championships. Ideally, a system should be put in place whereby a minimum of six weekends would be set aside for this purpose between April and August, as distinct from the current practice of trying to juggle Club fixtures based on results in the Provincial/Qualifier series.

Too much energy is wasted each year squabbling over these matters and the ensuing fallout is doing little for either the image or workings of the Association. If Clubs are the bedrock of the Association – as indeed they are – it's difficult to expect them to survive, less alone thrive, if Fixtures scheduling at this level is reduced to an annual exercise in juggling and/or squabbling.

The Club Championship schedule can be complimented by the organisation of Leagues – played on a County or a Cross County/Provincial basis – on the understanding that County Players may not be available for selection. (The Munster Senior Hurling and Football Leagues and the Senior Football League, which has been established in Ulster in 2004 to cater for Counties Armagh, Cavan,

Fermanagh and Monaghan, are good examples of how Club needs can be catered for in this regard). Under these circumstances, it will be possible to speak in realistic terms about providing all Players with a minimum of 20 competitive games over a six to eight month period as distinct from the usual lip service, which is typically engaged upon in this context.

As floodlighting becomes more commonplace and artificial grass pitches are developed, it will be possible to look at other options and to make increased provision for further integration with the Camogie and Ladies Football Associations. (It's important that a Strategic approach is adopted where the installation of these facilities is concerned in order to ensure that: (a) proper standards are adhered to (b) economies of scale and a nationwide spread are achieved (c) overlap/duplication and/or units reinventing the wheel is avoided (d) partnerships are developed with statutory agencies e.g. Department of Sport/Irish Sports Council (e) best practice is guaranteed in terms of maintenance and design etc).

The increased emphasis on forward planning will also help to reduce the level of overlap between competitions – it will never be possible to eliminate this entirely because of the fact that the Association promotes Hurling and Football and caters for the needs of Underage and Adult Players at School/Club and County level – and minimise the potential for burnout among Players who have multiple levels of involvement. (Burnout is usually more a by-product of training than games). Once a good overall balance is achieved, it will also be possible to ensure that a greater number of ordinary Club Players are actively involved for longer periods and are less prone to *dropout*.

There is nothing more soul destroying – for Coaches – and more de-motivating – for Players - than having to attend endless training sessions and not know when the next competitive game will take place. It's also worth remembering in this context that while developmental initiatives will compliment good games programmes, they cannot compensate for their absence.

The increasing number of Team Affiliations – this is dealt with in greater detail in the Games Development section – is all the more commendable against the existing background. This reflects the enduring appeal of the Association and also bears testimony to the success of the national Games Development Programme (GDP), which is being implemented as part of the Association's Grassroots to National Policy (GNP). It dispels the commonly held



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belief that indigenous sports are living on borrowed time and that the future will be something of a cultural wasteland dominated by a small number of global brands.

The Director General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, said recently that *“in 1999, Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Education and Sport pledged their support to a policy of preserving and enhancing traditional sports based on the cultural heritage of regions and nations the world over. This matter has considerable significance in the modern world”*.

While only time will tell how this will convert into action in this Country, it would be prudent not to assume anything or take anything for granted. It's worth bearing in mind in this regard that future loyalty and respect will be more a product of doing things in an effective/efficient manner than anything else.

Making adequate provision for units to engage in forward planning is the key in this regard. The more this can be blended with a value system based on Community development, the more the Association will maintain its vibrant contribution to the overall health and well being of Irish society.

Disciplinary System - The Need for Change

Recurring problems with the disciplinary system are a major source of concern on the basis that the Association is continually being dragged into disrepute. High profile incidents, involving Eamon Corcoran (Tipperary) and Gavin Devlin (Tyrone) – each of these received twelve-week suspensions in 2003 – provide evidence of this, as do the rumblings of discontent, which continued for some time afterwards. The sense of grievance surfaced again at the end of the year when the Secretaries from the Counties concerned were critical of the manner in which these two Players had been treated, particularly where the lack of consistency was concerned.

While it's easy to point the finger at individuals – be they referees or members of disciplinary committees – ensuring that suspensions are imposed on a consistent basis will require intricate structural changes at a number of levels. (This bears out the old adage that for every complex problem there is always a simple solution, and it is usually wrong).

The substantive issues involved can be summarized as follows:

- The system currently used to classify playing offences is defective. The differences between the various categories of offence e.g. rough play; dangerous play

and striking/kicking etc. are so vague as to be practically non-existent. Any system under which players can receive stiffer penalties than opponents who commit more serious offences, requires detailed review.

- The fact that set penalties are imposed for specific offences e.g. rough play (caution/yellow card); dangerous play (four week suspension/next game in that competition) and striking/kicking (twelve week suspension) makes a bad situation even worse.

The imposition of sanctions for different categories of offence based on time only, which applies to all levels of competition or on the basis of time and the next game in that competition, which applies to specific levels only – with the December/January period being discounted unless the next game falls within that period – throws up some pretty interesting anomalies/inconsistencies.

For example, a Player who receives a twelve-week suspension in August could finish up missing no game at any level, while a Player who receives a four week suspension in August would miss the next game in that competition – assuming that he is still eligible if involved in Underage competition - even though it might not take place until the following April. If the Player concerned is a dual player – Hurler and Footballer - he could be further discriminated against during the four-week period in August if scheduled to play games in the other code at the level in which he is suspended. (This is a major impediment where the promotion of Hurling in non-traditional areas is concerned).

When stiffer penalties sometimes finish up having a less punitive impact, or when there is active discrimination against dual players, then, an even stronger case can be made for an overhaul of the system.

- The fact that Referees act as both judge and jury under this system – the offence cited by the Referee predetermines the sanction – means that the Player concerned can suffer a double injustice if the Referee errs in the first instance.
- The role of GAC has the potential to be extremely controversial in that it is expected play a part when



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there is video evidence to prove that the Playing Rules were incorrectly applied or not applied at all.

The role of GAC – or any other disciplinary body for that matter – should be to impose sanctions. It should not be expected to operate in a quasi-refereeing capacity i.e. trying to pick up the pieces for inconsistent/ineffective refereeing decisions. In like manner, the Referee's role should be to apply the Playing Rules and to report breaches that need to be addressed by the Committee in charge.

Referees should not be expected to operate in a quasi-disciplinary capacity i.e. where they or their report *predetermines* the sanction that will subsequently be imposed by the Committee in charge.

Under these circumstances, the Committee in charge could adopt the Referee's report and accept it as a factual account of what actually happened. It could also use video evidence and have regard for the Player's disciplinary record before coming to a decision on the sanction that should be imposed.

The importance of putting a structure in place to ensure that Players – from the youngest age – are conditioned to display proper respect for Match Officials and the spirit in which the game is meant to be played, cannot be underestimated. Having a Disciplinary system where breaches of the Playing Rules are dealt with in an even-handed and consistent fashion is central to this. The following proposals will facilitate the establishment of such a system.

Breaches of the Playing Rules are categorized on the basis of a more nuanced/graduated system, which primarily reflects *degree, intent and outcome* - see area striped in grey in Appendix 2.

- (1) Unsporting Behaviour** – *Where a Player acts in a manner, which is contrary to the spirit of fair play*
- (2) Rough Play/Irresponsible Behaviour** – *Where a Player displays inadequate regard for an opponent's safety and/or otherwise behaves with negligent or reckless indifference.*
- (3) Dangerous Play/Disorderly Behaviour** – *Where a Player uses disproportionate force/contact to bring about a deliberate outcome and/or otherwise behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute e.g. violent conduct.*

(4) Referees report on incidents involving breaches of the Playing Rules as set out above, and without prejudice to any penalty that might subsequently be applied by the Committee in charge (Tribunal).

(5) The Committee in charge (Tribunal) has regard for the Referee's report, video evidence and the offending Player's disciplinary record before deciding on the penalty to be imposed. This will involve a game/s in the competition in which the Player is sent off, with a time element being added for serious or repeat offences.

An even greater level of consistency can be achieved if: (a) a Sin Bin is introduced i.e. where a Player who is sent off for specific offences – see yellow striped area in Appendix I - can be substituted after five minutes and (b) a small group of *independent* people – chaired by a solicitor/barrister – is appointed and meets each Monday/Tuesday evening to deal with disciplinary issues arising from the weekend's Senior Inter County games. (This presupposes that extensive use is made of the most up-to-date information technology and communication resources).

An Investigation Work Group of 2/3 people could be appointed to deal with issues not reported by Referees, which might need to be investigated. These to be dealt with, and any issue arising by way of Appeal, within ten days of the date of the original game. At the moment, these can linger on for weeks and months with the result that the Association is being brought into even further disrepute.

The present disciplinary system, based on a flawed/rigid classification of offences, which is implemented by inconsistent Referees and overseen by a Committee, which is expected to impose set penalties for set offences as reported by the Referee – involving an impossible mix of time and games - as well as functioning as a quasi referee, is most unsatisfactory. The time has come to implement the proposed changes and thereby ensure that disciplinary sanctions are applied on a consistent basis and in an efficient manner. Players, the Association's greatest asset, don't expect anymore and deserve no less.

Advantages of Proposed New Disciplinary System

- I.** Greater consistency – the type of situation where some players are currently getting yellow cards while others receive one or three month suspensions for the same, or even lesser offences, will be eliminated.



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2. Greater transparency – the basis on which offences are categorized – and sanctions imposed - will become clear and will not be prone to outside influence.
3. Eliminate the need to monitor sanctions imposed on Players in different competitions and avoid the problem of previous offences being inadvertently and/or occasionally overlooked because of the difficulty involved with tracking multiple levels of involvement.
4. Eliminate the blurring between the different categories of offence that has crept in since “ticking” was introduced in 1999. Eliminate confusion with regard to yellow cards e.g. Players remaining on the field having received two yellow cards.
5. The introduction of the Sin Bin for specific offences will reduce the pressure on referees, which currently exists, not to send players off and/or balance the game when they are sent off.
6. The introduction of the Sin Bin will reduce the fouling threshold, provide less overall tolerance of foul play/dissent and eliminate the incentive for players/team managers to bend the Playing Rules. The deterrents will be such that they will have to take a greater degree of responsibility for their own individual/collective behaviour.
7. Eliminate anomalies with regard to extra time i.e. where a yellow card carries over from ordinary time, while a Player sent off in ordinary time can be replaced in extra time
8. Eliminate uncertainty around the imposition of sanctions in December and January – there is currently much confusion about this and no small amount of unease about the fact that Player/s who commit serious offences e.g. a Player who is suspended for forty eight weeks is eligible to play in some competitions – but not others – during December and January, even though the sanction may only have been imposed in November.

Keeping track of the time and game elements, as well as issues relating to repeat offences within a forty eight week period, is well nigh impossible, particularly if the Player is sent off again in either December or January. As things stand, a Player who has received a

forty eight week suspension in November could commit a repeat offence in the first week of December and still continue playing until the end of January.

By any disciplinary standards, this is a contradiction in terms and if, for no other reason, provides sufficient justification for the introduction of a system based on match suspensions where provision can also be made to include a time element in respect of serious/serial offences.

9. Eliminate the need to differentiate between the sanctions imposed on Juveniles – Players from U.16 downwards - and Adults. At the moment, an U.16 player could receive a different penalty for a playing offence committed at U.16 level than would apply if the same Player committed the same offence while playing at a higher age level.
10. Help to create a greater degree of harmonisation between sanctions imposed in competitions played on a blitz – type basis and mainstream competitions.

Consistency and The Playing Rules

If consistency is a key requirement in terms of the imposition of Disciplinary Sanctions, it is even more of an imperative where application of the Playing Rules is concerned. The following proposals merit serious consideration in this regard:

- Football – That players are permitted to Lift the ball directly off the ground provided they are not lying, kneeling, sitting on the ground i.e. are on their feet. *Reason: Reduce number of technical fouls and incidence of players playing for frees e.g. players “falling/diving” as they bend down to lift the ball and the emerging trend of players sliding into the ball before lifting it).*
- Football – That any player who is in possession of the ball is permitted to play the ball away with the hand by use of the Fist only. *Reason: Very difficult, on occasions, to decipher if a player is hand passing the ball - as set out within the Playing Rules - or if he is actually throwing it. The same difficulty is involved with trying to determine if a point is scored using the hand or the fist. (By rule, a Player in possession may only fist the ball over the crossbar to score a point).*



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- Hurling – That all Puck Outs are taken from the ground - as in striking a free – from within the small rectangle. *Reason: Will overcome problem of Goalkeepers stepping outside the small rectangle when taking the puck out. (Rules relating to the hurley dimension need to be enforced in this context, too. Many Goalkeepers are using hurleys, which are bigger than what is permitted by rule. In 2003, a number of outfield Players appeared to be in breach of the same rule. If this trend is allowed to continue, it's only a matter of time before a shinty stick is used to take sideline pucks. Rules apart, the hurleys used by the outfield players – because of their unusual design – will further reduce the diminishing level of ground play as these hurleys are totally unsuited to striking the ball in this fashion).*
- Hurling and Football – That play commences at the start of the game and the second half with a kick out or a puck out. *Reason: It is the fairest way of commencing play and eliminates accusations of bias against the match Referee. (In Hurling, the current practice of the Goalkeeper/Defenders changing hurleys for a puck out or when a penalty is awarded against them, should be outlawed in the interests of fair play, too).*
- Hurling and Football – That all Players are permitted to enter the Small Rectangle before the ball during play. Exception – when play recommences with a free. *Reason: Will eliminate the almost impossible job of trying to establish if a Player is inside the small rectangle before the ball when it is in play.*
- Hurling and Football – Teams to be permitted to use 5 Substitutes on an interchange basis. *Reason: Will eliminate the need to differentiate between blood and ordinary Substitutes and the need to stop play when Substitutions are being made.*
- Hurling and Football - No stoppages for the treatment of Injuries except when a Stretcher is brought onto the field to remove an injured Player. (In the event of a stretcher being brought onto the field, the Player concerned is not permitted to recommence play for 10 minutes irrespective of whether he does/does not leave on the stretcher). *Reason: Will eliminate gamesmanship, which teams are increasingly engaging upon.*
- Hurling and Football – Teams to appoint a Runner who is permitted to relay instructions to Players on the Playing Field after the ball goes wide or a score. (Provision to be made to withdraw Runner if on the field during play). Team Manager to be located in the Stand or Coach's Box and provided with a radio link to the Runner. *Reason: Will eliminate the ever-increasing number of fines being imposed on Team Managers.*
- Hurling and Football – Provide Radio Link between all Match Officials for Senior Inter County Championship games. *Reason: Will provide ongoing communication link between all Officials and eliminate the need for Referees to run considerable distances to communicate with other Officials.*
- Hurling and Football – Appoint an Official Timekeeper, other than the match Referee, and introduce a Match Clock in all County Grounds. (While the Clock should operate on a count up basis, it should change to count down mode with thirty seconds remaining in the game). *Reason: Will reduce pressure on Referees, ensure greater accuracy in recording the actual playing time and add a greater degree of excitement as the game draws to a close.*
- Hurling and Football – Appoint Video Referee to assist with adjudication on goals scored. *Reason: Will assist Match Referees to make conclusive decisions with regard to controversial incidents that can have a critical impact on the outcome of games. (Ideally, the Timekeeper would also be able to operate as Video Referee).*

Once these issues are addressed - and those pertaining to possession in Football –see next section – it would be possible to think in terms of having two Referees. Making such a change at the moment in Football – or giving increased powers to Linesmen – would only serve to exacerbate the existing problems. Two Referees could be accommodated in Hurling and, given the speed of the game, it's something that should be experimented with, even if it means having only one Umpire at each end.

Playing Trends

In recent years, Footballers have become increasingly reliant on the hand - pass as a means of playing the ball with the result that there has been a diminution in the more traditional aspects of the game e.g. catching and kicking, blocking down opponent's kick and/or shoulder charging an opponent when contesting possession etc.

Last year, issues relating to the use of blanket defence and the increasing incidence of Players deliberately conceding



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frees, were the subject of much debate and concern, too. While these developments may stem from an increased preoccupation with winning and reflect improved fitness levels, they can be traced back to the Playing Rules as much as anything else.

If these issues are to be addressed – and I believe they should be – then the provision in the Playing Rules for *unlimited solo running* will have to be reviewed as this is the mechanism, which effectively enables teams to “flood” parts of the field with Players. Awarding a free against a Player whom is caught in possession, having toe-taped or bounced the ball, might be the best long term solution to this problem, particularly if such a rule is introduced at Underage level to begin with. If nothing else, it will help to address the issue of Players holding onto possession and playing for frees.

The fact that Hurlers are only permitted to take the ball into their hand twice, while in possession, makes for a far more open and fluid game and largely explains why it is of such spectator appeal. It also helps to explain why Hurling Referees are subject to far less criticism where consistent application of the Playing Rules is concerned.

The problem with Players who deliberately concede frees must also be addressed. While this was once largely confined to what’s known as the “Professional Foul” i.e. conceding a free to prevent a score, fouling in strategic parts of the field is now becoming a more manifest part of the game plan used by an increasing number of teams on the basis it “pays to foul”.

Failure to address this issue could ultimately result in matters degenerating to the extent that the outcome of games – in Football in particular - could be determined more by fouling and gamesmanship e.g. playing the clock, playing for frees, trying to get opponents sent off etc., than skill. While this blind spot can be attributed to some residue or other of our colonial past, the reality is that by failing to address the problem, people are actually condoning it or, worse again, helping to perpetuate it. As the famous Irish poet Sean O Riordan once said: “*Ni sairse go daoirse*”.

While it’s not going to be easy to get consensus on the way forward in Football, doing nothing or waiting for these matters to resolve themselves are not realistic options. By the same token, it is unrealistic to expect that a body such as Congress – with 330/340 delegates in attendance - could adequately deal with technical issues of this nature.

In fact, a Congress decision in 2000 that no Playing Rules experimentation be permitted until 2009 further complicates matters.

The establishment of a Playing Rules Committee, as recommended by the Strategic Review Committee, provides the best way forward on the basis that matters such as these can be addressed as the need arises. As things stand, issues relating to the Playing Rules can only be addressed at a Playing Rules Congress, which take place every five years. (The next such Congress is scheduled for 2005).

In addition, this Committee could identify the core philosophy/principles, which underpin the Playing Rules of Gaelic Football e.g. (a) ensure that the game is played in a fair manner and in a spirit of true sportsmanship (b) reward players who make the ball the focal point of their attention when attempting to gain possession/control of the ball (c) promote kicking – from the hand/ground - overhead catching (d) make adequate provision for physical contact while minimising the potential for injury etc. (e) keep the number of Technical Offences to a minimum and (f) minimize the fouling threshold/tolerance of foul play and put effective deterrents in place to deal with gamesmanship/dissent.

Under the existing rules, provision is made for as many as sixty aggressive fouls in each game i.e. 30 ticking and 30 yellow card offences. The fact that Players can receive a tick and/or a yellow card in an unlimited number of games, and not be subject to sanction as these – ticks/yellow cards - do not carry over from game-to-game, means that there is far too much positive reinforcement for negative behaviour and far too big an incentive to try and capitalize on this by way of tactical fouling.

This generally reflects itself in teams only committing fouls in strategic parts of the field and/or players operating on some sort of systematic basis to commit such fouls in order to minimize the likelihood of a team member being sent off. This is compounded by players who feign injury to win a free/get an opponent cautioned/ ensure stoppage in play and/or by teams who make substitutions in order to run down the clock/waste time or disrupt the opposition’s momentum etc.

This Committee could ensure that these problems are addressed in the context of the principles set out above, as distinct from being addressed at five year intervals at Congress where decisions are most likely to be taken in isolation and without due regard for their overall impact.



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If it's not possible to establish a Playing Rules Committee in advance of 2005, it would, as an interim measure, be worth appointing a Work Group to examine issues around the unrestricted manner in which ticks/yellow cards can be accumulated and the impact, which unrestricted solo running is having on the game, with a view to bringing forward proposals to next year's Playing Rules Congress. There is no reason, going forward, why the Association cannot develop a world class system where sportsmanship becomes the norm and the outcome of games is determined by effort and honest endeavour.

International Rules

Since the International Rules series was reactivated in 1998, a considerable amount of time has been spent on refining and redrafting the Laws of the game with a view to ensuring that the core underlying principles are fully adhered to and that the Laws are easy to read, remember and apply.

One of the big challenges when drafting these Laws is to ensure that the terminology used means the same thing to the Australians and the Irish. For example, shepherding is a term, which is commonly used in both Countries, but which means different things. (The Australian understanding has more in common with what would be regarded as a third man tackle in Ireland).

This work has been largely undertaken by a small team of people who have substantial experience and who can call on expert knowledge in this area. It has paid dividends in that the application of the Laws in the Senior Test games in 2003 was probably the best ever, where consistent application was concerned. The fact that all Match Officials – Match Referees, Goal Umpires and Linesmen – were in radio communication with each other; and that these functioned as a team, was of further assistance in this regard. The post-match debriefings also helped to ensure that everyone was on the one wave length.

The Irish Referees have indicated that they find it much more fulfilling officiating in this game – compared to Gaelic football - primarily because (a) they are not under pressure to apply the advantage rule – and overlook fouls – in order to maintain continuity of play (b) better provision is made within the Laws to regulate and provide for physical contact (c) there are far less technical offences

(d) there is no culture of, and even less room for Players to feign fouls, play for frees or play down the clock (e) there are independent Timekeepers and Scorekeepers, which means that the burden of responsibility is much more manageable.

One of the less acceptable features of recent Test games in the International Rules series is the extent to which Australians have engaged in foul play, which has tended to involve either reckless or deliberate intent. It could well be the case that the existing deterrents are not effective enough and may need to be strengthened e.g. if a Player is carded (yellow) the opposition is reduced to 14 players for 5 minutes and, in the event of a red card, a penalty kick is also awarded to the opposition irrespective of where the offence occurs on the field.

Arising from an incident in the first test in Perth last year, a number of Irish Players chose not to attend the Tribunal as witnesses on the basis that it would interfere with their preparation for the second Test. (The Tribunal hearing took place five days after the first Test and only two days ahead of the second one). It's important that provision is made to take evidence from Players who may be called as witnesses, as distinct from those who are reported by the Referee, by telephone link – as normally happens with the Match Referees - and/or when the Tribunal is conducted by Conference Call.

The Irish Schoolboy team won its first ever series in 2003 under what can only be described as bizarre circumstances. Having won the first Test game in Galway, the Irish team was trailing significantly – by more than 40 points – in the second Test in Croke Park when it was discovered that the Australians had sixteen players on the field halfway through the third quarter.

Under rule, the Australian team forfeited their entire score in the game up to that point with the result the Irish team ran out comfortable winners. The Australians had a facile victory in the third Test game in Cork. While an offer was made to the Australians that the result of the second Test be overlooked i.e. that the Test game in Cork would determine the outcome of the series, they wouldn't hear of it on the basis that rules are rules and that they must be applied on a consistent basis.

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The superior kicking and catching skills of the Australians has been a significant feature of Test games, at this level, since they were first played in 1989. This bears out the belief that once the rigour of the technique is mastered – plenty of ball work from a young age in the key in this regard – that it (the technique) can then be easily adapted to accommodate the round ball.

The superior tactical prowess/team play displayed by the Australian Schoolboys i.e. knowing what option to take and when to take it, is the other most significant difference between the Players at this level. This, in my opinion, can be traced back to the fact that Gaelic Footballers, from the youngest age, are permitted to engage in unlimited solo running while in possession: this diminishes their ability to weigh up what's happening around them on the field and/or to link up with teammates in terms of capitalizing on the best available option.

Undertage Fixtures

The key challenge with Undertage fixtures is largely the same as at Adult level – providing all participants with a regular programme of games and ensuring that Players – dual Players and/or those who multiple levels of involvement – are not exposed to the type of training demands that will result in burnout/dropout. The rule introduced at the start of 2004, which precludes U.12's from playing at U.16 level and U.14's from playing at Minor level will be of assistance in this regard.

Games Development

If GNP (Gross National Product) is important in an economic context, it is even more so where the GAA is concerned in that it represents its over-arching Grassroots to National Policy. This involves using the existing GAA network – and boosting its capacity (human/financial/physical) where possible - to ensure that the Association's Games Development Programme (GDP) is implemented on a nationwide basis.

This Programme aims to: maximise participation, optimise playing standards and minimize dropout/burnout and, in a broader context, to enhance the level of involvement/pride in one's local Community. The two key strands involved in this process are as follows: providing all Players (Male and Female) with a regular programme of meaningful games - see Player Development Pathway (PDP) - figure 1 - and complimenting this with the implementation of a number of developmental initiatives

set out in the Core Underage Strategic Plan (CUSP) - see figure 2.

Fig. 1

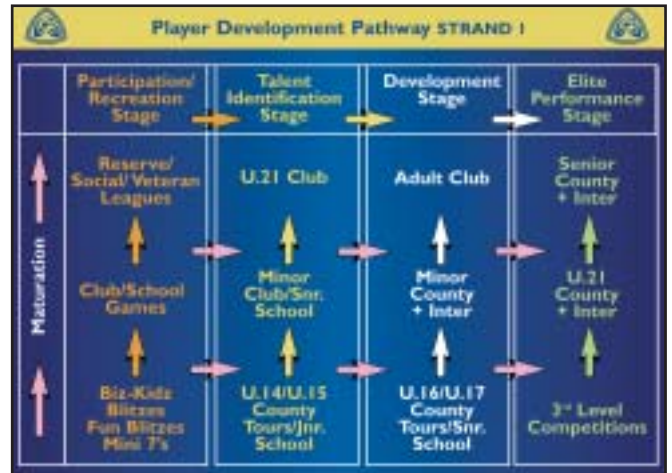
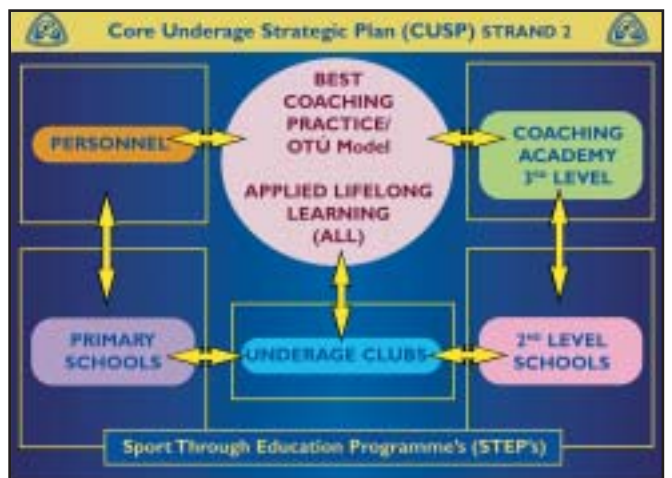


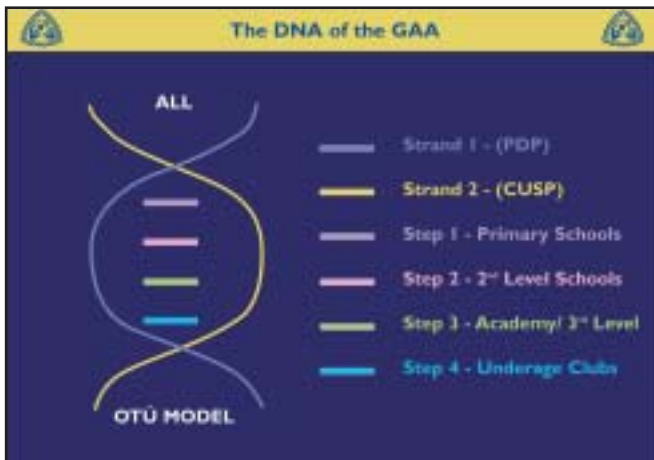
Fig. 2



These initiatives are known as Sport Through Education Programmes – STEPS – not least because of the continuum, ranging from Primary Schools to Third Level Colleges, which these span, their interface with Underage Clubs and the Principles of Best Coaching Practice as set out in the OTu Coaching Model and as provided for in the programme of Applied Lifelong Learning (ALL).

Figure 3 – the DNA of the GAA - is a better graphic representation of the two key strands involved in the Games Development Programme in that it reflects more accurately the inextricable nature of the link between them and highlights their centrality to the overall well being of the Association.

Fig. 3



The better the games/training programmes that are provided, and the more these can be *consolidated and integrated* with the delivery of the STEPS, the more sustainable this process will become and the greater the contribution it will make to the numbers actually playing and to the prevailing standard of play. From a functional effectiveness and efficiency point of view, the Association is happy that the overall impact of getting all Counties to implement the national Games Development Programme (GDP) is considerably greater than would otherwise be the case if units – County or otherwise – were left to adopt a project-by-project approach.

Good progress has been made since 1996 with the implementation of the Games Development Plan as reflected in the increased number of teams affiliated since then – up from 18,916 to 20,202. (The costs of the Players Injury Scheme alone for these teams in 2004 will amount to 7.3 million euro. This will provide cover for an estimated 15 million individual risk exposures. When the cost of public liability and property insurance are factored in the total cost of insurance for 2004 will amount to over 11 million euro). The progress, which has been made to-date is attributable in no small measure to the level of GAA investment in this area – average 6.5 million euro per annum – over the past four years. The deployment of GPO's/Games Managers – this involves in excess of 150 full time employees - and the provision of grant aid to Counties accounts for the bulk of this expenditure. The funding provided by the Irish Sports Council (ISC) since 2001 has been of significant assistance, as reflected in the following developments since then:

- Over 2,000 Primary Schools are actively in the organization of Games/Fun Blitzes. Almost 400 Clubs have developed a formal link with Primary School/s in

their locality and are actively involved in the organization of coaching activities and skill-based competitions.

- First and Second Year Blitzes are being organized in 2nd Level Schools across the Country and are providing competitive outlets for Players who might never otherwise get to represent their School.
- The Schools of Excellence (U.14/U.15) have taken root and increasing provision is being made for them within Bord na nOg schedules.
- Over 60,000 Boys and Girls participated in Summer Camps for the first time ever in 2003.
- The Designated Urban Areas Scheme is going from strength to strength – the number of areas involved has increased from six in 1999 to twelve in January 2004.
- The National Feile Competitions have also prospered and Mini Feiles are now being organized at Provincial Level to accommodate the smaller type of Club that will never make it to the National Feile.
- Cumann na mBunscol continues to do excellent work in the promotion and development of the games at that level as reflected in the fact that 20,231 games were organized for Boys and Girls in 2003.

Having regard for the GAA's financial commitments in respect of the redevelopment of Croke Park and insurance, the key challenge going forward will be to secure a level of Government grant aid for Games Development, which (a) reflects the size of the Association – its contribution at grassroots level has been widely acknowledged at Senior Government level – and its overall level of expenditure in the area of Games Development (b) has regard for the fact that it implements the Underage Development Programmes for four Codes – Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie and Ladies Football (c) reflects the costs involved in promoting Hurling/Camogie and their special cultural significance. These merit the same consideration and support as any of what are regarded as the more mainstream elements of the performing arts and (d) reflects the outstanding contribution – propelled by voluntary input and a strong ethos of self-sufficiency – which the GAA has made to the development of Community life in Ireland since the foundation of the State.

It's also important to recognize that in some areas – larger centers of population in particular – there is now a critical need to boost existing playing capacity in order to (a) cater for the numbers involved (b) ensure that a more substantial and sustained programme of games can be completed during the winter and (c) meet the increased



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demand on facilities as a result of the pilot integration with both Ladies Associations. (As full integration is rolled out this will become an even more critical requirement).

From a manpower perspective, the appointment of Games Managers in 2003 - Munster (Joey Carton and Pat O Shea) - and Ulster - (Terence Mc Williams) - will further consolidate the implementation of CUSP and ensure that the Association derives an even greater degree of added value in this core area of activity.

In 2004, provision will be made to provide a sum of 55,000 euro per *County to ensure the implementation of the Core Underage Strategic Plan becomes even more integrated with mainstream games activity. It is proposed that this funding will be used for the following project areas: GPO's/Primary Schools –10,000; Second Level Schools –10,000; Underage Clubs – 10,000; Schools of Excellence (U.14/15) – 10,000; Development Squads (U.16/17) 10,000 and Coach Education – 5,000.

*(The Connacht Council has finalized separate arrangements for Connacht Counties).

One of the more notable statistics from 2003 is the fact that the number attending Summer Camps exceeded 60,000 for the first time ever. This is significant in that it reflects a phenomenal growth rate over the past ten year period: this can be attributed in no small measure to the professional manner in which the Camps are organized and the excellent value for money, which they provide.

The overall number participating in Summer Camps is also significant in that it reflects the extent to which the Association, relative to the number of volunteers available, is now operating at near peak capacity. It is proposed to put a national marketing strategy in place in 2005, which will provide a further boost to the promotion and development of Summer Camps on the basis that additional manpower will be recruited between this and then.

The introduction of the Mc Donalds Catch and Kick Programme in 2003 also marks something of a watershed in a Games Development context because of the Club – Primary School link, which it encapsulates. The Catch and Kick Programme involves Club personnel assisting with (a) the provision of Coaching Inputs in their local Primary Schools (b) the organization of Fun Blitzes where the clear emphasis is on participation for all Players – as distinct from the elite where the emphasis is usually focused on winning - and (c) the Catch and Kick Challenge where

Boys and Girls are challenged, in their own time, to practice their Catching and Kicking skills.

This culminated in 2003 in the Catch and Kick Exhibitions, which took place in Croke Park. The Lift and Strike Programme will be launched in 2004 and the fact that 2,014 Primary Schools have signed up to take part provides the basis for promoting Hurling in areas, which are not currently associated with either playing or the development of the game.

In recognition of the fact that that 2004 marks the European Year of Education through Sport, it is proposed, as part of this, to develop a Fundamental Skills Development Programme for Children in Infant and 1st/2nd classes. This Programme will set out activities, which will assist Children to acquire the rudimentary hand /eye coordination and movement skills – agility/balance etc.- as a precursor to involvement to Catch and Kick and Lift and Strike Programmes. It is also proposed to look at the development of purpose built Nursery areas, which are an emerging feature of many Clubs, particularly in Urban areas.

At Post-Primary level, it is proposed to develop a Sports Leadership (Step - 2) Award, which will encapsulate core modules relating Coaching, Refereeing, basic Organisation and Administration. The Award will be geared to cater for students in Transition Year and/or those in 5th 6th years. Apart from the benefits that will accrue by way of personal and interpersonal development, this Award will help to provide trained assistants for Summer Camps and redress the diminishing level of Teacher involvement at this level.

National Coaching Forum

The 3rd National Coaching Forum took place in Dublin City University on Saturday November 22 with a capacity attendance of 450. (Space restrictions meant that it was not possible to accommodate another 350 approx.). The Conference theme – Best Practice for Best Performance – meant that a strong emphasis was placed on putting Theory into Practice. The feedback from participants indicated that this is what most appealed to them. The contributions by Brian Cody and Mickey Harte highlighted the importance, which they attach to Players training at match intensity while, at the same time, ensuring that they maintain their freshness and appetite for the game.

There is much to be learnt in this regard from the Tyrone approach of having two training sessions per week and a



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game at the weekend. Unfortunately far too many Coaches still subscribe to the dictum of “more means better” and continue to place an undue emphasis on physical fitness to the detriment of the technical, tactical and team play aspects of preparation.

They both highlighted how the Coach can play a key role in enabling Players to become competent, confident, composed, competitive and committed by assisting/challenging them to perform as a cohesive team unit and set out some of the strategies, which they use in this regard.

The importance of providing young Players with quality coaching inputs was emphasised, as was the importance of providing them with regular games. The Association owes Niall Moyna (Head of Physiology in Dublin City University) a great debt of gratitude for overseeing the organisation of the Forum and the members of the GAA Club within the College for their inputs.

Hurling/Shinty Series

The annual Hurling/Shinty series in 2003 marked something of a watershed in that the Irish teams – U.21 and Senior – were drawn from the “emerging/developing” Hurling Counties. This decision was taken by the Games Development Committee with a view to recognising the efforts made by Players in these Counties to promote and develop the game.

The Players responded with enthusiasm: this was reflected in the very big turnout for trials and training and in the fact that there were no late defections. Apart from winning both Test games, the Players acquitted themselves with distinction off the field and were credited as being among the best sporting ambassadors to have ever represented the Association at this level. The Coaches to these teams – Paudie Butler (Tipperary) and John Hardiman (Galway) – U.21 - and Paudie O Neill (Dublin) and Noel O Sullivan (Kildare) – Senior - played no small part in ensuring the success of the series.

The Sliotar

During the year, the match Sliotar was the subject of much comment and no small amount of controversy. The background to this is interesting in that when the pitch was laid in Croke Park in 2002, there was significant concern about the lack of bounce with the “new” surface. Having tried out a number of *unbranded* Sliotars, Players in that year’s Leinster Final identified the Sliotar, which they regarded as being most suitable. In 2003, the level of Sliotar bounce became more pronounced as the pitch

firmed up – due in some measure to the extremely dry summer – and changes in the sand base used its construction. It would appear that adjustments made to the core of the ball – without the supplier’s consent – contributed to this, too.

A programme of research and development is currently being conducted by Dublin City University with a view to regulating the degree of Sliotar bounce and developing a standardised core, which will perform in a consistent way on all playing surfaces. (The more that playing surfaces – whether sand or clay based – resemble each other, the more it will be possible to deliver on this objective).

It is proposed that those licensed to produce official match Sliotars will be obliged to use the standardised core in the years ahead. The fact that there will then be minimal difference between sliotars will help to eliminate the practice of teams attempting to use a particular ball, which they perceive, for one reason or another, to provide them with a competitive advantage.

APPENDIX 2

Appendix 2 - Disciplinary Rules: Classification of Playing Offences and Sanctions - P. Daly 24/2/04				
Category	Technical Fouls <i>(fouls on the ball or fouls, which result from incidental/accidental contact)</i>	Unsporting Behaviour <i>(where a player acts in a manner, which is contrary to the spirit of fair play)</i>	Rough Play/ Irresponsible Behaviour <i>(where a player displays inadequate regard for opponent's safety and/or otherwise behaves with negligent intent or reckless indifference)</i>	Dangerous Play/ Disorderly Behaviour <i>(where a player uses disproportionate force/contact to bring about a deliberate outcome and/or otherwise behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute e.g. violent conduct)</i>
Infringement	Fouls on the ball e.g. throwing, scooping the ball or lifting the ball off the ground. Foul on player who is attempting to gain possession or play the ball away, e.g. holding, pushing, knocking, etc.	Time wasting e.g. throwing ball away etc. Not returning ball on the full to opponent when awarded free Advancing ball Advancing beyond mark Pushing/showing opponent off the ball Feigning a foul Digging a divot Elevating a teammate Shaking the goalposts/ crossbar Signaling a score/ wide ball	Pulling carelessly with hurley e.g. hitting opponent on arm/elbow as he solo runs or jumping carelessly at an opponent Careless use of the head/knee/foot/hand/elbow /arm e.g. using foot to block opponent or attempting to strike/kick ball as it is lifted by opponent. Charge an opponent Holding/pulling opponent's jersey off the ball/wrestling with opponent "Digging" opponent in the ribs with hurley Tripping an opponent by hand or foot or pulling opponent to ground Third man into a melee/third man tackle Fouling opponent to deny him advantage while making no effort to play the ball e.g. professional foul Throwing/striking object - including ball - at opponent/crowd Feigning an injury Using insulting language to a match official Confronting/harassing/remonstrating with or challenging the authority of a match official Persistent unsporting behaviour i.e. x 2	Striking/pulling on opponent with hurley Kicking/striking an opponent with fist Late/high charge on opponent Short arm/coat-hanger tackle on opponent Standing on opponent Stamping on opponent Biting/gouging an opponent Head butting an opponent Spitting at an opponent Throwing/striking object - including ball - at match official Refuse to carry out instructions or threaten a match official. Physical interference with a match official Provoke brawl/free-for-all by inciting/taunting others Substitute/team official running onto the field of play to intimidate opponent/get involved in altercation Free and order player off if applicable - no substitution permitted - and report incident to the Tribunal Repeat category offence - minimum two match ban in that competition and time ban*
Penalty	Free	Free or advance ball or throw in ball depending on offence	Free and order player off for remainder of game. Permit substitution after five minutes and report incident to Tribunal	Repeat category offence - minimum two match ban in that competition and time ban*
Penalty on Repeat	Free	Free and order off for remainder of game. Permit substitution after five minutes and report incident to Tribunal	Repeat category offence - minimum one match ban in that competition	Repeat category offence - minimum two match ban in that competition and time ban*
Penalty Rationale	Tribunal to determine penalty - games ban in that competition - that will apply. *Time ban - covering all levels of competition - may also be imposed for serious/serial offences. Sanctions to be determined on the basis of the following criteria: Degree - Unnecessary (Avoidable) / Unreasonable / Severe Force, Late / High / Off-the-Ball Contact Intent - Accidental / Careless / Reckless / Deliberate / Violent Outcome - Compromise Safety / Endanger / Injure			
System Advantages	(1) More consistency - at the moment some players are getting yellow cards while others get 3 month suspensions for the same or even lesser offences.	(2) Greater transparency - the different categories of offence are easily recognised and there is no overlap between different competitions in terms of having to track offences.	(3) Less pressure on referees not to send players off and/or to balance games when players are sent off. Reduced fouling threshold and less overall tolerance of foul play. Increase emphasis on Players taking responsibility for their own - individual and collective - behaviour.	(4) Eliminate the anomalies with regard to (a) yellow cards during extra-time (b) county/dual players receiving stiffer sanctions for the same offences (c) suspensions in December/January (d) suspensions in underage (U16 down)/adult competitions and (e) suspensions in Blitz/Feile type competitions.



NOTES



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