



**Gaelic Athletic Association**

**OFFICIAL GUIDE  
2003**

**1**

**Croke Park, Dublin 3**

# **GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

**(Established 1884)**

## **Official Guide - Part 1**

Containing the Constitution and Rules of the G.A.A.,  
revised and corrected up to date, and published by  
authority of the Central Council.

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# Part 1

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## **THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

The Gaelic Athletic Association today is an organisation which reaches into every corner of the land and has its roots in every Irish parish. Throughout the Country, legions of voluntary workers willingly make sacrifices to promote its ideals and carry its daily burdens. Why does the Association receive this unselfish support?

Those who play its games, those who organise its activities and those who control its destinies see in the G.A.A. a means of consolidating our Irish identity. The games to them are more than games - they have a national significance - and the promotion of native pastimes becomes a part of the full national ideal, which envisages the speaking of our own language, music and dances. The primary purpose of the G.A.A. is the organisation of native pastimes and the promotion of athletic fitness as a means to create a disciplined, self-reliant, national-minded manhood. The overall result is the expression of a people's preference for native ways as opposed to imported ones.

Since she has no control over all the national territory, Ireland's claim to nationhood is impaired. It would be still more impaired if she were to lose her language, if she failed to provide a decent livelihood for her people at home, or if she were to forsake her own games and customs in favour of the games and customs of another nation. If pride in the attributes of nationhood dies, something good and distinctive in our race dies with it. Each national quality that is lost makes us so much poorer as a Nation. Today, the native games take on a new significance when it is realised that they have been a part, and still are a part, of the Nation's desire to live her own life, to govern her own affairs.

## GENERAL

### 1 Name

The name of the Association is:  
“**The Gaelic Athletic Association**”.

### 2 Basic Aim

The Association is a National organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32 County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes.

### 3 National Games

The Association shall promote and control the National games of Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders, and such other games, as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.

### 4 Additional Aims

- (a) The Association shall actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and other aspects of Irish culture. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland, and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs.
- (b) The Association shall support the promotion of Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football.
- (c) The Association shall support Irish Industry. All trophies and playing equipment shall be of Irish manufacture. Penalty for non-observance €200. Irish paper shall be used for all official documents and correspondence. Documents not complying shall be ruled out of order.

## **5 Dedication**

The Association and its resources shall be used for and dedicated solely to the above aims.

## **6 Units**

The Association is a democratic organisation comprised of the following affiliated units:

- (a) Clubs
- (b) County Committees
- (c) Provincial Councils
- (d) Central Councils
- (e) Annual Congress

## **7 Jurisdiction**

All members and units of the Association taking part in its activities shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Association in all matters that may arise.

## **8 Non-Party Political/Non-Sectarian**

- (a) The Association shall be non-party political. Party political questions shall not be discussed at its meetings, and no Committee, Club, Council or representative thereof shall take part, as such, in any party political movement. A penalty of up to twenty four weeks suspension may be imposed for infringement.
- (b) The Association shall be non-sectarian.

## **9 Rules**

The Rules of the Association shall be printed in Irish and in English, and in the event of conflict the Irish version shall prevail.

**10****(a) Child Protection (Under 18)**

The Central Council shall be entitled to adopt a Code of Conduct for the protection of children (under 18) and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provisions of that Code from time to time. All allegation shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the provisions of the Code and not under any other provision of these Rules or Club Constitution.

**(b) Code of Conduct.**

The Central Council shall adopt a Code of Conduct for Officers and Members of the Association defining appropriate behaviour and practices. The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code.

**(c) This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with such Codes.****11****Official Documents/Correspondence**

Official documents and correspondence shall have the following in Irish.

(a) The name of the Committee being represented (where a Committee is involved).

(b) The signature of the sender.

(c) The name and address of the addressee, where used, including on envelopes.

(d) Printing and signatures on official cheque books and cheques in payment of fees.

- (e) Full names of players and signature of Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or in the case of Under 15 and younger grade competitions, the authorised official in charge of the team as per Rule 94, on official list of players for games.

Correspondence and documents not complying shall be ruled out of order.

**Exception:** An opportunity is allowed in Rule 146(b) to have a non-compliant (with this Rule 11) Objection, Counter-Objection, or Appeal corrected. If not corrected, within the time allowed by the Council or Committee in Charge, the documents shall be ruled out of order.

## **12** Amateur Status

The Association is an Amateur Association. A player, team, official or member shall not accept payment in cash or in kind in conjunction with the playing of Gaelic Games. A player, team, official or member shall not contract himself/itself to any agent other than those officially approved by Central Council. Expenses paid to all officials, players, and members shall not exceed the standard rates laid down by the Central Council. Members of the Association may not participate in full-time training. This rule shall not prohibit the payment of salaries or wages to employees of the Association.

**Penalty:** Twenty four weeks suspension or expulsion.



### **13 Sponsorship**

- (a) The Central Council and its subsidiary Councils and Committees shall have authority to negotiate sponsorship which shall include the naming rights for stadia, stands and terraces in accordance with regulations drawn up from time to time by the Central Council.
- (b) The Management Committee shall have the power to negotiate and administer sponsorship and naming rights on behalf of the Central Council.
- (c) Any agreement entered into by the Central Council in respect of its units shall be binding upon all Association units.

**Penalty:** Any unit which breaches the rule shall be liable to disqualification and/or loss of expenses, and an individual to a suspension of not less than twenty four weeks.

### **14 Playing Gear**

The following regulations shall apply to playing gear, specifically jerseys, shorts, stockings, track-suits and kit-bags worn/used for games, training, interviews and photographs.

- (a) They shall be of Irish manufacture and shall be readily available through normal retail outlets. These requirements shall also apply to replica playing gear.
- (b) A sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo may be openly displayed on jerseys, track-suits and kit-bags. No one such imprint shall exceed 100 sq. cm. and in

total they shall not exceed 200 sq. cm. per specified article. The size of an individual letter shall not exceed 5 cm. in height and 5 cm. in width. The calculation of the size does not refer to the area covered by individual letters of a name or logo but to the total area, including any background highlighting. The standard size of an imprint shall be 10 cm. by 10 cm, or 20 cm. x 5 cm.

- (c) Other than in connection with an officially approved sponsorship agreement, a manufacturer or supplier's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logo may not be openly displayed, and no logo of any nature shall be displayed on stockings.
- (d) The provision of playing gear, subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, shall be acceptable, provided presentation is made to the officers of the appropriate unit of the Association and it conforms to the guidelines of the Central Council.
- (e) A unit, team, player or official shall not contract itself/himself to use particular forms of playing gear or accessories outside of (c) and (d) above.
- (f) Acceptance of payment or other material reward by an individual is strictly prohibited.

**Penalty:** Any unit which breaches the rule shall be liable to disqualification and/or loss of expenses and an individual(s) to a suspension of not less than twenty four weeks or to expulsion.

## **15** Drugs

- (a) The use of drugs or stimulants, as proscribed from time to time by the Central Council, is strictly forbidden.
- (b) All players shall, if directed in writing, submit to a drug test by a registered medical practitioner, organised by the Committee or Council in Charge of the game. The Committee or Council in Charge of games may delegate authority for implementing testing under this rule.
- (c) Central Council shall establish a Drugs' Disciplinary Committee and a Drugs' Appeals Committee, which shall deal with all cases arising from breaches of the Anti-Doping Code, set out in Appendix 3 of the Official Guide. The ordinary Disciplinary and Appeals procedures, as set out in the Official Guide, shall not apply in such cases.
- (d) In any hearing concerning: (1) a positive test result for a substance prohibited under this Code, or, (2) the use of a method prohibited under this Code through the administration of substances, the Disciplinary Committee shall have regard for reasonable therapeutic activities undertaken at the prescription and direction of a duly qualified medical practitioner.
- (e) A player shall be ineligible to play in any competition under the control of the Association from the date of the

notification to him of a positive test result of the “A” sample, until there is a finding in his favour

- (i) as a result of the analysis of the “B” sample;
- (ii) by the Disciplinary Committee, or;
- (iii) by the Appeals Committee

- (f) **Penalties:** Where a breach of the code involves (a) prohibited and anabolic agents (b) Peptide and Glycoprotein hormones and analogues, (c) a prohibited method, or (d) a refusal to provide a sample, the penalty shall be:
- (i) a maximum of forty eight weeks suspension for the first such breach of the Code; and
  - (ii) a maximum of ninety six weeks suspension for a second such breach of the Code.

In the case of any other breach of the Code the penalty is:

- (i) a caution; or,
- (ii) a maximum of forty eight weeks suspension for the first such breach; and,
- (iii) a maximum of ninety six weeks suspension for a second such breach.

## **16 National Flag**

The national flag should be displayed at all matches.

## **17 Penalties**

Where at the end of a rule the word “Penalty” appears, this denotes the minimum penalty for the breach, non-observance of, or non-compliance with the rule, as appropriate.

## MEMBERSHIP

### **18** Membership

Membership of the Association shall be granted only by a Club, and shall be governed by the following regulations: -

- (a) Full membership shall be open to all persons of eighteen years or over who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Gaelic Athletic Association, as stated in General Rules. Each player in the Under 21 age grade or over must be a registered full member. Only registered full members shall be entitled to vote at club meetings, including the Annual Meeting.
- (b) Youth membership shall be open to persons under eighteen years.
- (c) Honorary membership shall be confined to persons who have rendered exceptional service to the Club or to the games and/or activities of the Association.

### **19** Registration of Members and Adults Players

- (a) Each year, before 1st March, a Club Registrar shall submit to the County Secretary or other designated Officer, a list in the Irish Language (in triplicate) of full members (or appropriate attachment for the year in question) accompanied by a fee of €2 per registered member. This list (on appropriate computer compatible Registration Form) shall include full names and addresses of all players participating in adult grades, except Minors registered under Rule 27.

- (b) A copy of each registration received shall be duly signed by the County Secretary or other designated officer and returned to the club Registrar, and a copy furnished to the Divisional Secretary (where applicable).

Additional registrations may be made subsequently. A player must be registered at least three days before a game. The penalty for playing an unregistered player shall be loss of the match, on an objection.

- (c) Each year before 1st April, the County Secretary shall forward one copy of the list of full members of each affiliated Club (or the appropriate attachment for the year in question) to Central Council, accompanied by the fee of €2 per registered member. He shall also forward a copy of the Club's list of full registered members to the Divisional Secretary, where same exists.

**20**

### **Allegiance**

Clubs and Counties shall insist that the first allegiance of their members is to the Association and its games, and may impose disciplinary measures for breaches of this Rule.

**21**

### **Rules on Membership**

The Rules regarding applications for admission to membership, and suspension or expulsion from Club activities, shall be as set out in the Club Rules of the Official Club Constitution (See Appendix 2).

## **THE CLUB**

### **22 The Club**

The Club is the basic unit of the Association, and its object shall be the promotion at local level of the Association's aims, as stated in this Official Guide.

A Club shall be obliged to obtain a current copy of the Official Guide, and its members shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules and Regulations in it, and shall be bound by them. A Club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its members and known partisans.

### **23 Affiliation**

A Club shall affiliate annually with the County Committee on a standard affiliation form, which shall include the names of the Club Executive Committee, the Club colours and alternative colours.

Before a club may take part in any competition, an affiliation fee of €20 shall be paid for the year to the County Committee. Entry fee for Championships shall be €20 for each adult team and €8 for each under-age team, except where County Bye-Laws provide for a higher amount.

**24 Affiliation of a New Club**

A Football and/or Hurling Club must have at least fifteen playing members before it can be affiliated to the Association. Application(s) for affiliation must be made to the County Committee. On approval of the application(s) those listed and accepted by the County Committee shall be members of the new club.

**25 Club Name**

A Club shall not be named after a living person or after any existing political or semi-political organisation. It must bear a name in the Irish language, which must be used in all correspondence and official documents, otherwise these documents shall be ruled out of order.

**26 Club Constitution**

The Official Club Constitution, as approved by Congress, shall be adopted by the Club. The Rules concerning the business and affairs of the Club shall be as set out in the Club Constitution.

In the Club Constitution the masculine shall include the feminine gender. All Club bye-laws, and additions or alterations to rules made under the Club Constitution, shall receive the approval of the County Committee.



**27 Registration of Minor/Under-21 Players**

A Club Registrar shall submit to the County Secretary or other designated officer, a register, in the Irish language and in triplicate, of the Club's Under-21 and Minor players giving each player's name, address, date, and place of birth. This register shall remain in force while the player so registered is an Under-21 or Minor player of the Club, but amendments shall be registered annually by the club. This Registration also qualifies a Minor player to participate in adult grades. A copy of each registration received shall be duly signed by the County Secretary or other designated officer and returned to the Club Registrar, and a copy furnished to the Divisional Secretary (where applicable). Additional registrations may be made subsequently. A player must be registered at least three days before a game. The penalty for playing an unregistered player shall be loss of the match, on an objection. The register of Under-21 and Minor players shall be available for inspection upon demand.

**28 Loss of Rights**

A club which does not take part in a Junior, Intermediate or Senior Championship competition shall lose representation on County and other Committees, and shall not be entitled to make nominations, table motions, or participate at the Annual Convention.

**29****Expulsion**

If a Club is expelled from the Association, and there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the Association, to be disposed of as such County Committee shall direct.

**30****Winding up a Club**

A resolution to wind up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present and entitled to vote. If upon such winding up, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, officers or employees of the Club, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the Association, to be disposed of as such County Committee shall direct, but shall in no instance pay or distribute the property amongst the members, officers or employees.

## PLAYING ELIGIBILITY

**31**

### Definitions

#### Home County

Home County shall mean:

- (a) The County of Birth (the County in which a player's parents were permanently resident at the time of birth) *or*
- (b) The County in which he legally participated in officially recognised Club Competition (i.e. under 16 or over) for the first time.
- (c) Additionally, in the case of a player born in Co. Dublin (i.e. whose parents were permanently resident in Co. Dublin at the time of his birth):
  - (i) A County for which his father played, *or* had declared as his Home County under Rule 35, and if neither is applicable, a County for which his father was qualified under (a) or (b) above.
  - (ii) the County of birth of his mother (the County in which the mother's parents were permanently resident at the time of her birth)
    - providing the County being declared for is allowed by Central Council to avail of this Section, and the player's Declaration receives the sanction of the Dublin County Committee.

#### Own County

Own County shall mean:

The County in which a player's current Club (non-College) is based.

### **Home Club**

Home Club shall mean:

- (a) The Club in the player's native parish, or
- (b) The Club with which a player legally participated for the first time in officially recognised Club competition (i.e. under 16 or over), or
- (c) The Club (or its successor) of which he was a playing member immediately prior to leaving his Home County.
- (d) In the case of a player born in Co. Dublin (i.e. whose parents were permanently resident in Co. Dublin at the time of his birth):
  - (i) a Club for which his father played or had declared his Home Club under Rule 34, and if neither is applicable a Club for which his father was qualified under (a) above,
  - (ii) The Club of birth of his mother (i.e. the Club, in whose area his mother's parents were permanently resident at the time of her birth),  
- providing the Club being declared for is in a County allowed by Central Council to avail of the terms of this rule under the definition of Home County (c), and the declaration is sanctioned by Dublin County Committee.

A player must be over 18 on the 1st of January of the year in which he applies to qualify, and must supply requisite proof with his application.

- (e) A player who avails himself of this rule may not thereafter declare for a Club in another County.

### **Own Club**

Own Club shall mean:

The Club (non-College) of which an individual is currently a playing member.

## **Native Parish**

Native parish shall mean the parish, in which the player's parents were living at the time of birth.

## **32 Playing Eligibility**

A member shall not play for more than one Club except in the following cases: -

- (a) A member of an exclusively Hurling Club may play football with an exclusively Football club, and vice versa.
- (b) A member of a Club without a Minor/Under 21 team, subject to County Bye-Laws, may play with a Group Minor/Under 21 team, which shall not bear the name of an adult Club within the County.
- (c) A Minor may play for an exclusively Minor Club and a Club without a Minor team, except in a County where County Bye-Laws do not permit the affiliation of an exclusively Minor Club.
- (d) A University Student or a Student of a recognised Third Level College pursuing a full-time undergraduate or post-graduate course, or a graduate in the calendar year after his graduation, may
  - (i) Play with his College Club and with his Own Club, provided he obtains a Permit from the Provincial or Central Council, as appropriate.
  - (ii) Play with his College Club and his Own Club, where the latter is in the same County and of a lower grade, and he obtains a permit.

- (iii) Play with his College Club in adult competitions and with his Own Club in Under 21 and Minor competitions, where the latter Club is of Senior status within the same County as the College Club, provided that the player obtains a transfer to the College Club from the County Committee.
- (iv) Play with a College Club and with a club in Britain, provided he does not play with his Own Club, and obtains an Inter-County transfer from the County Committee of his Own Club.

Note: College Club for the purpose of this Rule shall mean a Club under the jurisdiction of a County Committee, and shall not mean a Club under the jurisdiction of the Higher Education Council.

- (e) A player who has received an Authorisation or Permit under Rule 41 (a) or (b), or a Sanction under Rule 41 (c).
- (f) Subject to his not playing with a second Club in a Championship or the same competition of a given year, except as provided above in this Rule, a player who has commenced to play for a Club in a particular competition may finish that competition and play for another Club, which he joins by declaration or transfer. The Provincial and All Ireland Senior Club Championship shall be considered as an extension of the County Senior Championships, and playing eligibility shall be in accordance with Rule 32.

(g) In a non-trophy game, provided he obtains the permission of the County Committee or higher authority.

**Penalty:** Player - twelve weeks suspension; Team - loss of game; Club Chairperson and Secretary - twelve weeks suspension.

**33** A player may not play a Championship in two different Counties in the same Championship Year, except as provided for at Rules 32(d) and 41.

**Penalty:** Player - 48 weeks suspension; Team - Loss of game; Club Chairperson and Secretary - 48 weeks suspension.

#### **34 Declaration for Home Club**

A player who permanently resides outside his Home County and wishes to play with his Home Club or the Home Club of his father or mother in accordance with Rule 31, must make a declaration for that Club and, if applicable, obtain a transfer. If he makes such a declaration, he may not, while the declaration is valid, play for a club in the County in which he resides, except in accordance with Rule 32 (f) or 41 (a), (b) or (c). In the absence of such a declaration he may play only for a Club in the County in which he resides. Such a declaration is not required of a player holding a permit under Rule 32(d). If a player, after 1st January, participates in a competition for the first time in the County of his residence, he may not, in that year, declare for his Home Club. When a player has legally declared for his Home Club, he may not, in the same year, be transferred back to the County of his residence.

A declaration shall be made through the County Secretary to the Provincial Secretary, if the Home County is in the Province in

which the player resides, and to the Director General in all other cases. It shall be valid from the date of receipt by the Provincial Secretary or Director General until revoked by the player. A player who avails himself of this Rule, may not, thereafter, declare for a Club in another County.

**Penalty:** Player - 48 weeks suspension; Team - loss of game; Chairperson and Secretary - 48 weeks suspension.

**35**

### **Declaration for Home County**

A player who resides and plays with a Club outside his Home County, or the Home County of his father or mother in accordance with Rule 31, may declare for his Home County for Inter-County and Inter-Provincial competitions. If he makes such a declaration, he may not while the declaration is valid, play for any County other than his Home County, except in accordance with Rule 39. In the absence of his declaration, the player shall play only for the County in which he resides. Such a declaration is not required of a player holding a permit under Rule 32(d), or an Authorisation, Permit or Sanction under Rule 41 (a), (b) or (c).

A declaration may be lodged or revoked on or before the last day of March in any year. A declaration, once made, shall remain in force until revoked. A player transferred outside his home County after the last day of March may, on such transfer, declare for his Home County. A player who declares Home County in pursuance of this Rule may not, thereafter, declare another County as such.

**Penalty:** Player - 48 weeks suspension; Team - loss of game; Chairperson and Secretary - 48 weeks suspension.



## TRANSFERS

### 36 Within County

A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another in the same County must apply to the County Committee for a transfer.

**Penalty:** for playing without transfer - 12 weeks suspension.

### 37 Inter-County

A player who wishes to play for a Club in another County must apply for a transfer to the Provincial or Central Council, as appropriate. Such application shall not be granted unless the player is in permanent residence in the new County, or is declaring for his Home Club under Rule 34.

**Penalty:** Player - 48 weeks suspension; Team - loss of game; Chairperson and Secretary - 48 weeks suspension.

38 A transfer becomes effective as soon as it is granted by the appropriate authority.

39 (a) A player who has commenced to play for a County in a particular competition may finish that competition, and play for another County, which he joins by declaration or transfer.

(b) A player shall not play for a second County in a competition of a given year

**Penalty** Player - 12 weeks suspension; Team - loss of game.

40 (a) A member or any unit of the Association shall not participate in games of Gaelic Football, Hurling or Handball promoted by a body not affiliated to Central Council, without the prior sanction of Central Council.

- (b) A Club or other unit shall only participate, as such, in games controlled by the Association and against a Club or other unit of the Association, unless the prior sanction of Central Council has been given.

**Penalty:** 48 weeks suspension.

**41**

**Playing in U.S.A.**

- (a) Subject to Rule 40(a) a weekend player intending to play in the New York Board area must have an official Authorisation form in duplicate signed by his Club and County Secretaries, and the Director General. This form must be lodged in Croke Park not later than 5.30 p.m. on the Wednesday before the date of the game.

The maximum number of Irish based players authorised to play with a New York Club on any one weekend shall be two in Football and three in Hurling. An Authorisation is valid for one weekend only, other than where there is a replay of the game for which the authorisation was originally issued.

- (b) **Long Term Stay**  
Players who are students or other bona fide persons, sanctioned as such by the Central Council, intending to play in the New York Board area on a long term basis, must obtain an official Permit form in duplicate, signed by the Club and the County Secretary, and the Director General. Such a Permit shall allow the players to play from 1 March to 30 September only, and shall not be granted later than 20 July in any year.
- (c) Players, who are students or other bona fide persons, sanctioned as such by the

Central Council, intending to play in the North American Board or Canadian Board areas, must obtain an official Sanction form in duplicate, signed by the Club and County Secretaries and the Director General. Such a Sanction shall allow the players to play from 1 March to 30 September only, and shall not be granted later than 1st July in any year for the North American Board area, or later than 20th July in any year for the Canadian Board area.

- (d) In the case of (a) or (b) or (c) above players may return to Ireland and play with their Own Club or County in their respective championships.
- (e) A Permit or Sanction, issued in accordance with (b) or (c) above, shall not be valid unless the player has remained in the area for which it was issued for a period of not less than sixty days.

A player who returns from the area of the North American Board or of New York before the expiration of the 60 days may not play with his Club in Ireland until the end of the 60 days.

- (f) A player who receives an Authorisation/Permit/Sanction to play in New York/North American Board/Canadian Board areas may not play in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.A. or Canada.
- (g) In the case of a player moving permanently to the area under the jurisdiction of the New York or North American or Canadian County Boards, a transfer shall be necessary.

A player shall be considered to have moved permanently after he has been a minimum of twelve weeks in the new jurisdiction.

**Penalty:** 24 weeks suspension.

## CONTROL OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

### **42** Uses of Property

- (a) All property including grounds, Club Houses, Halls, Dressing Rooms and Handball Alleys owned or controlled by units of the Association shall be used only for the purpose of or in connection with the playing of the Games controlled by the Association, and for such other purposes not in conflict with the Aims and Objects of the Association, that may be sanctioned from time to time by the Central Council.
- (b) Grounds controlled by Association units shall not be used or permitted to be used, for Horse Racing, Greyhound Racing, or for Field Games other than those sanctioned by Central Council.

### **43** Vesting

- (a) All property owned by units of the Association shall be vested in five members of the Association, as Trustees, who shall hold such property upon trust to use the same exclusively for the purpose of playing Gaelic Football, Hurling and Handball, and for such other purposes as may from time to time be sanctioned by the Central Council.
- (b) The power of appointing the Trustees shall be vested in the persons (hereinafter called "the Appointers") who for the time being hold the offices of Chairman respectively of the Club, County Board, and Provincial Council, and, if appropriate, the President of the Association. The Senior Appointer shall be the Chairperson of the Appointers,

with a casting vote, and the appointers may at any time, in their absolute discretion, having consulted their respective Committees, by writing under the hands of the majority of them, remove any Trustee from such office.

- (c) The Trustees shall be subject to the terms and conditions contained in a form of Declaration of Trust, as approved from time to time by the Central Council, and every Trustee shall sign such Declaration of Trust. In relation to Club property, three Trustees shall be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant Club, one Trustee shall be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant County Board, and one Trustee shall be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant Provincial Council.

**44**

### **Penalty**

In the event of any Club, County Committee, or Provincial Council acting contrary to Rules 42 or 43, that body shall be subject to automatic suspension, which can be removed only by the County Committee or higher Council concerned.

**45**

### **Powers**

Subject to the overall authority of the Central Council, the Association and its Clubs, County Committees, Provincial Councils and Central Council shall have the following powers:

- (a) To acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise, lands and hereditaments of any tenure, or any interest in the same.

- (b) To erect and construct, either by itself or through other parties, houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices, or works of every description on any land of the Association, or upon any other lands or hereditaments, and to pull down, rebuild, enlarge, alter, and improve existing houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices, or works thereon, and generally to deal with and improve the property of the Association.
- (c) To sell, lease, let, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of the lands, houses, buildings, hereditaments and other property of the Association.
- (d) To borrow or raise money for the advancement of the aims of the Association.

**46 Exclusion**

Bookmaking shall not be permitted within Association property. A member breaching or aiding the breach of this rule shall be suspended for 24 weeks.

## COUNTY CONVENTION

### 47 Convention

An Annual County Convention shall be held before 31st December. It shall consist of the Officers and Members of the outgoing Committee (voting rights as on the Committee) and two delegates from each Club which competed in a Junior or higher grade Championship of the current year. A newly elected Officer, unless a member of the outgoing County Committee or a delegate, shall not have the right to vote at any stage of the Convention.

### 48 Elections

Subject to the Exception hereunder:

- (a) The Annual County Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee, who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, if desired; Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer if desired; Development Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Youth Officer and Public Relations Officer.
- (b) The maximum period of office for any specific Officership shall be five years.

**Exception:** Where a County Committee, with the permission of Central Council, has appointed a Secretary for a term in excess of one year, that Officership shall not be subject to Annual Election or to the maximum period of office of five years.

The County Convention may also elect such other representatives of Clubs, District or other Committees, as it may from time to time decide. It shall further elect:-

Two representatives on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council, who shall hold office respectively for the term of the ensuing Provincial and Central Councils.

Should a vacancy arise in the officerships of the County Committee or in a County's representation on Central or Provincial Council, it shall be filled on the basis of (a) nominations by Clubs, (b) ballot vote of Clubs and Members of current County Committee.

#### **49 Delegates**

County Convention shall elect or authorise selection and/or election of:-

- a) Delegates to attend Annual Congress, who shall include Chairperson and County Secretary, when available. One fifth of the delegation (or one delegate if less than five) shall be under 21 years. In the year of a Youth Congress, this/these delegate(s) shall be elected/selected from those who officially represented the County at the Youth Congress, provided it is held prior to the Annual Congress.
- b) Delegates to attend the Provincial Convention.

#### **50 Nominations**

A candidate for any of the positions outlined in Rule 48 shall be nominated by a Club. Such nominations shall be submitted on the



nomination paper, which shall be sent to each Club at least six weeks prior to the County Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the County Secretary at least one month prior to the Convention.

#### **51 Motions**

Motions for consideration by the County Convention shall be submitted only by Clubs and the County Committee. Such motions shall be submitted on the motion paper, which shall be sent to the Club at least six weeks prior to the County Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the County Secretary at least one month prior to the Convention.

#### **52 Agenda and Notice**

The County Secretary shall send an agenda, which shall include his/her Report and the Audited Accounts for the year, with the nominations and motions, to each Club Secretary and to the Members of the outgoing County Committee, at least one week before the Convention.

A copy of these documents, and the County Grounds Accounts for the previous financial year, shall, at the same time, be forwarded to the Central and Provincial Councils. Failure to do so may involve suspension.

#### **53 Voting Procedure at County Convention**

Elections shall be decided by secret ballot, and successful candidates must have a majority of the votes of those qualified to vote and voting at the Convention.

In the event of an equality of votes in the election of an Officer or Representative, the following procedure shall apply:  
If an outgoing Officer or Representative is involved in the tie, he/she shall be deemed to be re-elected and, if not, the tie shall be decided by the casting vote of the Chairperson.

#### **54 Forwarding of Motions**

Except as provided in Rule 57(k), a County shall only send forward to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress motions which have appeared on the circulated agenda of the County Convention, and have received its approval. Where a motion is submitted originally by a Club, the Club name along with the County name shall appear on Congress documentation. A County Convention may submit an amended motion to Congress, provided such amendment does not alter the essential meaning of the original motion submitted.

#### **55 County Bye-Laws**

County Conventions may make Bye-Laws, which shall become operative, when sanctioned by the Management Committee on behalf of Central Council.  
A County Bye-Law shall not be contrary to a rule in the Official Guide. A County Bye-Law shall not place a restriction on when Club fixtures are played or govern postponement of fixtures, as such matters constitute powers of the County Committee.  
The Management Committee shall sanction or reject a proposed Bye-Law within one month from date of receipt.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE

### **56** Committee

- (a) 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 the County Bye-laws, the County Referees' Administrator and a representative of each of the following Committees: County Handball, County Primary Schools, County Secondary and County Vocational Schools.
- (b) The number of voting members of a County Committee shall be set out in the County Bye-Laws.
- (c) The County Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of the Provincial and Central Councils.
- (d) A member absent, without just cause, from three consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the Committee for that year. This shall also apply to all members of Sub-Committees.
- (e) Where Clubs are not represented on the County Committee, general meetings involving the Clubs shall be held at least twice a year.

Note: "County Secondary and County Vocational Schools" shall read "County Postprimary Schools", on a date to be determined by Central Council.

**Powers**

A County Committee shall be the governing and controlling body of all the affairs of the Association within the County, excepting those functions reserved to the Provincial Council and Central Council under this Official Guide. The following shall be the powers of the County Committee:-

- (a) To control Club affiliations.
- (b) To manage County hurling and football competitions.
- (c) To determine all matters relating to the management and selection of its Inter-County teams.
- (d) To suspend for up to six months a player who refused to travel or play for his County when selected.
- (e) To provide for the security and development of Association property within its jurisdiction.
- (f) To appoint an Administrator, whose employment contract and job specifications shall receive the approval of the Management Committee, on behalf of Central Council.
- (g) To draw up short-term (one-year) and long term (three/five year) plans for all activities within its jurisdiction, and to report on same to Provincial Convention.
- (h) To appoint a County Referees' Administrator.
- (i) To make the necessary appointments agreed in Central Council's policies and procedures for the protection of children.
- (j) To make the necessary appointments relevant to the implementation of the Anti-Doping Code.
- (k) To submit one motion to the Annual Congress.

**58**

The County Committee shall also have the following powers:

- (a) To confine membership of Clubs to the parish in which players reside or work. This shall not apply to cities or towns of more than one parish, but a County Committee shall have the option of applying it and determining its application in Minor Grade. It shall have the power to define and enforce suitable catchment areas in towns with a population of over 5,000 for clubs catering for players up to and including Minor Grade. A parish for the purpose of this rule shall be, subject to County boundaries, the district under the jurisdiction of a Parish Priest or Administrator.
- (b) To form Divisional Sub-Committees and other Subcommittees (e.g. Football, Hurling, Minor and Youth Sub-Committees), whose functions and powers shall be defined in County Bye-Laws.
- (c) To allow Junior and Intermediate players to play for Divisional or Group Senior teams, without losing their status.
- (d) To allow Minor and/or Under 21 players of Clubs unable to field Minor/or Under 21 teams to play on a separate group team.

**59**

### **County Subcommittees/Functions**

A County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees, membership of which shall be set out in County Bye-Laws:

- (i) **County Management Committee** - which shall be responsible, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the County Committee, for the management of the affairs of the Association, including finance, between meetings of the County Committee.

- (ii) **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 other suitable personnel, together with the County Referees' Administrator, who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees.

A County Committee may appoint a separate Disciplinary Subcommittee. The Membership of this Subcommittee shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel.

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.

- (iii) **County Planning and Physical Development Committee** - which shall be responsible for Grounds and Physical Development, Club Development, Grounds' Safety, and Planning.
- (iv) **County Coaching and Games Development Committee** - which shall be responsible for implementation of Coaching Programmes, Training and Monitoring of coaching personnel, and the implementation of Games Development activities at Club and Schools levels.

- (v) **County Cultural Committee** -which shall be responsible for (a) the Irish Language (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.
- (vi) **County Public Relations/Marketing Committee** -which shall be responsible for Publicity, Marketing and Publications.
- (vii) **County Youth Committee** - which co-ordination of all Youth Activities within the County.
- (viii) **County Referees' Administration Committee** -which shall be responsible for the Administration and Development of Refereeing in the County, including the recruitment, training, assessment and classification of referees.
- (ix) **County Finance Committee.**
- (x) **County Information Technology Committee.**
- (xi) **County Panels Finance Subcommittee.**

**60**

### **County Subcommittees - General**

- (i) The Chairperson of each Subcommittee shall be selected from the Officers or Members of the County Committee or from other personnel deemed qualified by the County Committee.
- (ii) The Chairperson of each Subcommittee shall present a Progress Report on the work of the Subcommittee at County Committee meetings.
- (iii) All County Subcommittees shall meet with corresponding Committees at (a) Provincial and (b) Club levels, at least once annually, with the higher Committee being the convener.

- (iv) The terms of reference of all Subcommittees, and job specifications of all Officers shall, upon appointment, be documented and distributed.
- (v) Each Subcommittee shall submit a written Report to County Convention, to be included on the Convention Agenda.

### **61 Forwarding of Affiliations**

Prior to 1st March of each year, a County Committee shall submit to Provincial Council a list of all affiliated clubs in the County with a fee of €2 per club. A County failing to comply shall forfeit representation on Provincial and Central Councils until the list and fees are furnished.

### **62 Loss of Rights**

A County failing to compete in either the Senior or Junior Inter-County Championships shall forfeit representation on Provincial and Central Councils, and shall not be entitled to make nominations, table motions, or participate in Provincial Convention or Annual Congress.

(Note: An Intermediate Hurling Championship will be organised up to and including 2004, and the above Rule will apply to it.)



## **PROVINCIAL CONVENTION**

**63**

### **Convention**

A Provincial Convention shall be held at least six weeks prior to Annual Congress. It shall consist of:

- (a) Members of the outgoing Provincial Council (voting rights as on the Council).
- (b) One representative for every ten affiliated Clubs, or a fraction of ten over five, which took part in the previous year's Championships, subject to a maximum of six representatives for any one County.

**64**

### **Functions**

The functions of the Provincial Convention shall be to consider audited accounts, motions, and general Provincial activities. Subject to the exception hereunder, it shall elect by secret ballot the following Officers; a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and P.R.O. who shall hold office until the Election of Officers at the next Annual Convention.

### **Exceptions**

- (a) Subject to the approval of Central Council, a Provincial Convention may appoint a full-time Secretary, who shall not be subject to annual election, and whose employment contract and job specifications shall receive the approval of the Management Committee.
- (b) A Provincial Officer, other than a full-time Secretary, shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years. Should a vacancy arise in the Officerships of the Provincial Council prior to 31st October in any year, it shall be filled on the basis of (a) nominations of the Counties (b) ballot vote of Counties, (based on Provincial Convention voting strength) and Members of current Provincial Council.

## **65 Nominations**

A candidate for election as a Provincial Officer, shall be nominated by a County Committee. Such nomination shall be made on the Nomination Paper, which shall be sent to the County Committees at least six weeks prior to the Provincial Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the Provincial Secretary at least one month prior to the Convention.

## **66 Motions and Bye-Laws**

- a) **Motions.** Only motions carried at a County Convention may be submitted by that County Committee for consideration by the Provincial Convention. Such motions shall be on the Motion Paper, which shall be sent to the County Committee at least six weeks prior to the Provincial Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the Provincial Secretary at least one month prior to the Convention.
- b) **Bye-Laws.** Provincial Convention may make Bye-Laws, which shall become operative, when sanctioned by the Management Committee, on behalf of Central Council. A Provincial Bye-Law shall not be contrary to a Rule in the Official Guide. The Management Committee, on behalf of the Central Council, shall sanction or reject a proposed Bye-Law within one month from date of receipt.

## **67 Agenda and Notice**

The Provincial Secretary shall send an Agenda, which shall include his Report and the audited Accounts for the year, with the Nominations and Motions, to each County Secretary and to the outgoing Provincial Council, at least two weeks before the Convention.

## PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### **68** Council

A Provincial Council shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, full-time Secretary (without voting rights), and two Representatives from each County. The immediate past Council Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member for the year following termination of office.

The Handball Regional Council, the Provincial Third Level Colleges' Council, the Provincial Colleges' Council, the Provincial Vocational Schools' Council, and the Provincial Primary Schools' Committee, shall each have one Representative, without voting rights, on a Council.

A Provincial Council shall meet not less than four times per year.

A member absent, without just cause, from three consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the Council for that year. This shall also apply to all members of Sub-Committees.

Note: "The Provincial Colleges' Council, the Provincial Vocational Schools' Council" to become "the Provincial Postprimary Schools' Council," on a date to be determined by Central Council.

### **69** Powers

Subject to the overall jurisdiction of the Central Council, a Provincial Council shall have within its Province the following powers:-

- (a) To manage the Provincial Hurling and Football Championships, excluding the appointment of Referees for, and matters of misconduct and breaches of Match

- Regulations arising from Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship games.
- (b) To determine all matters relating to the management and selections of its Inter-Provincial teams.
  - (c) To arrange for playing purposes the boundaries of the Counties.
  - (d) To control financial and all other affairs of the Association within the Province that are not under the jurisdiction of a County Committee.
  - (e) To carry out the duties of a County Committee suspended for breach of Rule.
  - (f) To appoint a Provincial Referees' Administrator who shall attend meetings only for the purpose of the appointment of referees for games, other than Provincial Inter-County Senior or Championship games, and shall be entitled to vote on same.
  - (g) To submit one motion to the Provincial Convention for forwarding to Congress, if passed by the Provincial Council.
  - (h) To monitor and supervise the performance of County Committees within its jurisdiction, in the areas of Games Development, Competitions, Fixtures Administration, adherence to Directives of Central Council, Financial performance, Marketing, Public Relations and investment in Physical Facilities.
  - (i) To carry out a Games Audit and examine the Fixtures Programme in each of the Counties under its jurisdiction, and to make recommendations or take any action deemed necessary in relation to same.

- (j) To publish an Annual Report on the state of the games and on Games' Development in the counties under its jurisdiction.
- (k) To approve physical developments by Clubs, and to recommend County Grounds Development to Central Council.

**70**

### **Committees**

- (a) A Provincial Council shall appoint the following sub-committees:
  - (i) **Provincial Management Committee** - which shall be responsible for the management of affairs within the Provincial jurisdiction, between Provincial Council meetings.
  - (ii) **Games Administration Committee** - which shall be responsible for Games' Administration, Disciplinary Matters and Referees, excluding appointment of Referees for, and matters of Misconduct and Breaches of Match Regulations arising from Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games.
  - (iii) **Planning and Physical Development Committee** - which shall be responsible for Grounds and Physical Development, Club Development, Club and County Administration, and Grounds' Safety.
  - (iv) **Referees Administration Committee** - which shall be responsible for the recruitment, training, classification and counselling of Referees under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council.

- (v) **Coaching and Games Development Committee** - which shall be responsible for Educational Sector Development, monitoring of Underage Activity/Progress/Developments, and the monitoring of County performance in Games Development.
  - (vi) **Cultural Committee** - which shall be responsible for (a) the Irish Language, (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.
  - (vii) **Public Relations/Marketing Committee** - which shall be responsible for Publicity, Marketing and Publications.
  - (viii) **Finance Committee**
- (b) (i) All Committees shall be appointed for a three-year term, coinciding with the election of the Provincial Chairperson.
- (ii) The number of voting members of the Provincial Council on each Committee shall be set out in the Provincial Council Bye-laws.
- (iii) The membership of the Games Administration Committee shall be drawn from the Officers and County Representatives of the Provincial Council, together with the Provincial Referees' Administrator, who shall be a member of the Committee in accordance with Rule 69 (f).

- (iv) Membership of the Referees' Administration Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Provincial Council, and the Referees' Administrators of the Counties in the Province.  
(The Secretary of this Committee may be one of the County Referees' Administrators or an additional person appointed by the Provincial Council).
- (v) The Chairpersons of the Management Committee and of the Games' Administration Committee shall respectively be an Officer of the Provincial Council. The Chairperson of each of the other Committees shall be selected from Officers or Members of the Provincial Council or other suitable personnel.
- (vi) A non-voting member of the Provincial Council, other than an Officer, shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms on the same Committee.
- (vii) The Chairperson of each Committee shall present a Progress Report on the work of the Committee at each Provincial Council meeting.
- (viii) All Provincial Council Committees shall meet with corresponding Committee at (a) National and (b) County levels, at least once annually, with the higher Committee to act as convenor.

- (ix) The Terms of Reference of all Committees shall, upon appointment of the Committee, be documented and distributed.

## **71** Submission of Records

- (a) A Provincial Council shall submit to Central Council before the 1st May of each year, a list of Clubs in each County under its jurisdiction, together with a fee of €1 per Club.
- (b) A Provincial Council shall present to Annual Congress:
  - (a) Secretary's Report
  - (b) Audited Accounts.
  - (c) An Assessment of the current state of the Association in the Counties.

Failure to furnish these accounts may involve suspension, and in such instance Central Council shall, on an interim basis, take control of the affairs of the Association within the Province.

## **72** Notice

A minimum of five days written notice shall be given by the Provincial Secretary to all Members of meetings, except in the case of an emergency, when he may, in consultation with the Chairman, summon a meeting with shorter written or verbal notice.

A special meeting may be convened by the Secretary on the written request of a majority of the members.



## CONGRESS

### **73** Congress

The Annual Congress shall be held prior to 1st May. The venue shall be selected by the Central Council, who shall give due consideration to all applications received by the Council. It shall consist of the outgoing Council (voting rights as on the Council), the past Presidents, and delegates from the Counties on the basis of one delegate from each ten affiliated clubs or fraction of ten over five, but the minimum representation from such Counties to be four delegates. Counties with fewer than five affiliations to have two representatives. The maximum representation for any one County shall be ten delegates. Provincial Secretaries shall be entitled to attend and speak, but shall not have voting rights.

### **74** Functions

The functions of Annual Congress shall be;

- (a) To consider Reports and Audited Accounts of the Central Council and its subsidiary Councils for the preceding year up to 31st December.
- (b) To consider Reports from Congress Workshops.
- (c) To elect by secret ballot a President and two Trustees.
- (d) To consider motions and to enact, amend, or rescind Rules.
- (e) To determine Association policy in broad outline.

## **75** **President/Trustees**

A candidate for the position of President or Trustee shall be nominated by a County Committee.

Such nomination shall be made on the Nomination Paper, which shall be sent to the County Committee at least eight weeks prior to the Annual Congress, and which shall be completed and returned to the Director General at least six weeks before Congress. Nominees shall declare to the Director General at least two weeks before Congress whether they are/are not standing for election.

The elections of a President and Trustees shall each be completed at Congress on the basis of one secret ballot vote on the Proportional Representation system, and the result of each count shall be announced at Congress.

A President or a Trustee shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

A President shall be elected one year prior to the commencement of his term of office and for that year shall be referred to as the President-elect. Should a vacancy arise among the Trustees prior to 30th November in any year, it shall be filled on the basis of (a) nominations by the Counties, (b) ballot vote of Counties (based on Congress voting strength) and Members of current Central Council. If vacancy occurs after 30th November, the position shall be left vacant until next Congress. In the case of death or permanent incapacity of the President, the Central Council shall have the authority to appoint from among the Vice-Presidents an acting President, who shall perform the duties of the Presidency until the next annual Congress.

**76 Special Congress**

In special circumstances, and with the support of a two-thirds majority of its members, the Central Council may summon a Special Congress. A Special Playing Rules' Congress may be called by Central Council to meet the provisions of Rule 80(d). In such circumstances Central Council shall be entitled to determine the representation.

**77 Youth Congress**

A National Conference of delegates under eighteen years shall be held every second year, to provide a forum for the exchange of views and to make representation on youth matters to the National Youth Committee.

**78 Motions Committee**

A Committee consisting of the President, the past Presidents, and the Director General, shall prior to Congress examine motions submitted and decide whether these are in order. The Committee may put a motion in order where there is a failure to quote the numbers of the rules affected, or where there are minor clerical errors. Counties shall be advised in writing, in advance of Congress, of the reason for a motion being deemed not in order. The President shall have the authority at Congress to rule a motion out of order.

## **79 Rule Drafting**

In the case of all motions passed at Congress, which involve an amendment or change of Rule, a Sub-Committee of the Management Committee shall have authority to examine such motions and, without derogating from their meaning, recommend any rephrasing or re-location considered necessary, before a new version of the Rule concerned is printed. Such recommendations shall require the sanction of the Central Council at its first meeting after Congress.

## **80 Motions**

(a) Motions for Congress may be submitted as follows:-

- i) Motions carried at a County Convention.
- ii) A maximum of one motion submitted directly by a County Committee.
- iii) A maximum of one motion from a Provincial Council, carried at a Provincial Convention.
- iv) A maximum of three motions from Central Council.
- v) Motions carried at the Annual General Meetings of the All Ireland Secondary Schools' Council and/or the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Council on any matters affecting the Association at their levels.

Note: The "All-Ireland Secondary Schools' Council" and the "All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Council" to become the "All-Ireland Postprimary Schools' Council" on a date to be determined by Central Council.

- (b) Such motions shall be made on the Motion Paper, which shall be sent to the County Committees at least eight weeks prior to Annual Congress, and which shall be completed and returned to the Director General at least six weeks prior to Congress.
- (c) Motions to enact new or amend existing Rules shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the numbers of any rules affected thereby.
- (d) Motions to revise Playing Rules may be tabled only in years divisible by five. In the year prior to the revision of Playing Rules, motions with proposed rule changes for experiment in non-championship competitions, as decided by Central Council, may be tabled. In a year in which Playing Rules are on a Congress Agenda, they shall take precedence in list of motions, or they may be debated at a Special Congress, if so decided by Central Council.  
(This section shall not apply again until 2010, except in the case of emergency motion(s) from Central Council).
- (e) Motions to remove or amend an existing Rule shall be carried by two-thirds of those entitled to vote and voting.
- (f) Congress may refer a motion for consideration to Central Council or a Sub-Committee of that body. The ensuing recommendations, if they propose to alter an existing rule, shall come in motion form to a subsequent Congress.

- (g) New and amended rules shall become operative one month from date of Annual Congress or Special Congress, and the text shall be circulated to County Secretaries within this period for distribution to Clubs.
- (h) A motion declared not to have received one-third of the votes at Congress may not be tabled on a Congress Agenda for the subsequent three years, unless the Management Committee allows it in exceptional circumstances.

### **81** **Agenda and Notice**

At least four weeks before Annual Congress each County, in accordance with representation, shall be issued with copies of the Director General's Report, Audited Accounts, the Agenda and Workshop Topics, and list of Nominations and Motions.

## CENTRAL COUNCIL

### 82 Council

- (a) The Central Council shall consist of the President, the Director General (without voting rights), President-elect, if in office; the immediate past President, for the year following his term as President, the Vice-Presidents, being the Chairmen of the Provincial Councils, two Trustees, and a representative with voting rights of each of the following - each county in Ireland; Britain; the London County Committee; the North American Board; the New York Board; the Irish Handball Council; the Higher Education Council; the All-Ireland Secondary Schools' Council; the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Council; the All-Ireland Primary Schools' Council and the Players' Committee.

Note: The "All-Ireland Secondary Schools' Council", the "All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Council" to become The "All-Ireland Post-primary Schools' Council," on a date to be determined by Central Council.

- (b) The President, Director General, President-elect, immediate past President, and Trustees, shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of the Council. A Provincial Chairman may be represented by another Officer of the Provincial Council.

A County Representative may be represented by a proxy, who shall be a member of the County Committee concerned.

- (c) Should a vacancy occur in representation, such vacancy shall be filled by the body concerned.

- (d) A member absent, without just cause, from three consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the Council for that year. This shall also apply to all members of Sub-Committees

### **83 Powers and Functions**

- (a) It is the Supreme Governing Body of the Association between Annual Congresses.
- (b) It is the final authority to interpret the Rules. It may also issue guidelines and directives to its units and members to assist with their compliance of Rule.
- (c) Its jurisdiction shall extend over the whole Association in all matters. It shall appoint Trustees to hold funds, investments, and property of the Association. Its prior approval shall be obtained for any action affecting the general policy of the Association and for capital expenditure.
- (d) Its decisions on all matters appertaining to the Association are final and binding on the members of the Association. No appeal from the decisions of the Central Council shall be made at law or otherwise.
- (e) It shall control the All-Ireland Championships, Inter-Provincial, and National League competitions.
- (f) It shall, at its first meeting each year, elect members to the Management Committee and the Games' Administration Committee.
- (g) It shall at every meeting consider a Report from the Management Committee on its activities.



(h) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed so as to admit to Central Council or its Sub-Committees authority to introduce, enact, amend or rescind rules, or in any way vary or derogate the power reserved to Congress by Rule 74. This Rule shall in all respects be subject to Rule 74 and in the event of conflict Rule 74 shall prevail.

**84 Director General**

The Central Council shall appoint a Director General, who shall be the Chief Executive of the Association.

**85 Notice**

A minimum of five days written notice shall be given by the Director General to all members for meetings, except in an emergency, when he may, in consultation with the President, summon a meeting with shorter notice. A Special Meeting may be convened by the Director General on the request of a majority of the members.

## COMMITTEES

86

### Management Committee

- (a) It shall consist of the President, the Director General (without voting rights), the President elect, if in office, the immediate Past President for the year after his term of office as President, the Chairmen of the Provincial Councils, the two Trustees elected by Congress, and one Central Council member from each of the four Provinces, elected by Central Council.
- (b) Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Central Council, it shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association, including its general activities, matters of discipline, finances, and implementation of policies determined by Congress. All other Sub-Committees of the Central Council shall report directly to the Management Committee.
- (c) It shall submit to the Central Council, for its consideration, its Budgetary proposals for the following year.
- (d) It shall have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Central Council.
- (e) It shall have authority to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with delegated matters/ activities.
- (f) It shall furnish a Report on its activities to each meeting of the Central Council.
- (g) It shall appoint a National Referees' Administrator.

**87****The Games Administration Committee**

- (a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Management Committee, one representative from each Provincial Council, elected from the Provincial Games Administration Committee, and one Central Council member from each of the four Provinces, elected by Central Council.
- (b) It shall be responsible for all arrangements (excluding appointment of referees), and control of games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council, and any matters arising from same, and for matters of misconduct and breaches of Match Regulations arising from Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship games.

**88****Central Referees' Appointments Committee**

- (a) It shall consist of the Chairperson of the Games Administration Committee (as Chairperson), the Chairperson of the National Referees' Committee, and a third member appointed by the Management Committee.
- (b) It shall be responsible for appointments of Referees and Linesmen (one of whom shall be the stand-by Referee nominated in advance) for all games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and for Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship games. It shall also appoint a Sideline Official for Senior Inter-County games.

**89 Terms of Office on Committee**

A member of any of the above Central Council Committees, other than the Director General or other Executive Officer, shall not hold office on that Committee, in the same capacity, for more than a total of six years, with not more than three of those years being served consecutively.

**90 Overseas Rule**

A County Committee or Higher Council of the Association outside Ireland may apply, in writing, to Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule. Such permission may be given where exceptional circumstances are deemed to warrant it.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **91 Elective Office**

Elective Offices referred to in the Official Guide shall be confined to full members of the Association.

### **92 Quorum**

The quorum for all meetings of Committees or Councils of the Association shall be one-quarter of the members entitled to attend, unless Bye-Laws provide otherwise.

### **93 Voting**

Except where otherwise provided in these Rules, all decisions at General Meetings and Committee Meetings shall be taken by a simple majority of those present entitled to vote and voting, and in the event of a tie, the presiding Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Any decision taken at a duly convened meeting of any Committee or Council of the Association, shall not be rescinded at a subsequent meeting, unless due notice of intention to propose rescindment has been previously conveyed to each member, and the consent of two thirds of those present entitled to vote and voting is obtained.

### **94 Correspondence**

- (a) All official correspondence to the Central and Provincial Councils in connection with County and Club matters, except as provided for in Rules 147 and 149 shall come through the Secretary of the County Committee, or if absent, the Assistant Secretary (who was elected at previous

County Convention). Likewise, all official club correspondence to County Committees or Divisional Committees must come through the Club Secretary, or if absent, the Assistant Secretary, provided that the absence has been officially notified in advance, in writing, to the County Secretary or Divisional Secretary, as appropriate.

In Under 15 and younger grades, official lists of players shall be signed by the Secretary or, if absent, the Assistant Secretary, or the official in charge of the team, whose name must be officially notified in advance to the Committee in charge of the competition.

- (b) Facsimiles and Email may be used for official correspondence including communication of information to the Association's units. These shall be accepted forms of communication for notification of fixtures, notices of meetings, circulation of minutes of meetings and communication of disciplinary findings.

#### **95 Review of Fees and Fines**

At its first meeting after Congress, Central Council shall have the power to review the amount of fees and fines referred to in the Rules, and to increase or decrease same as considered necessary.

#### **96 Travel and Hotel Expenses**

The Central and Provincial Councils shall pay the authorised expenses of their Officers and Members.

- 97** Travel and hotel expenses and grants, which shall be reviewed annually, shall be paid to teams competing in All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals.

Expenses of all teams shall be withheld by Central Council or Provincial Council until completion of the Championships.

A Central or Provincial Council, as appropriate, may deem that a County fielding an illegal team in an Inter-County Championship shall forfeit travel and hotel expenses or grants.

**98** **Trophies**

At least eighteen trophies shall be awarded in all 15-a-side competitions.

A trophy shall not be named after a living person or after any existing political or semi-political organisation.

Trophies shall not be used for any commercial purposes.

**Penalty:** Twelve weeks suspension - individual or unit.

- 99** The Central Council shall award to All-Ireland winners 9 carat gold medals, depicting the design of the Association, of the following weights: Senior: 10 dwt; Senior B, Junior and Under 21, 8 dwt; and Minor 6 dwt.

As the design of the Championship medals is the registered property of the Association, the distribution of such trophies beyond the number officially awarded is not permitted.

Trophies shall be awarded to All-Ireland Championship runners-up in all grades. A miniature replica of the All-Ireland Cup shall be awarded to captains of teams winning All-Ireland Inter-County Senior Championships.

The number of medals/trophies to be awarded shall be: Senior - up to thirty; Senior B, Junior, Under 21 and Minor - twenty-four. (Note - Medals for All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship - being organised on an experimental basis up to and including 2004 - shall be 8 dwt in weight, twenty four in number, and conform to the above specification).

- 100** The Central Council shall award to Senior Inter-Provincial (Hurling and Football) winners up to thirty 9 carat gold medals, weighing 8 dwt. and depicting the crests of the four Provinces in enamel, with a gold centre.
- 101** Provincial Councils shall award up to thirty gold medals to the winners of the Senior Provincial Hurling and Football Championships, and twenty-four for all other Championship winners. County Committees shall have discretion as to the nature of the prizes to be awarded to County Championship winners.
- 102** All official medals and trophies shall be inscribed in Irish.
- 103** Tournament trophies, or their purchase price, shall be lodged with County Committees, Provincial Council, or Central Council, before tournament commences.  
Where the competition is for individual prizes or awards to players, no such single prize or award shall exceed €400 in value. Cash prizes are forbidden.



**Penalty:** 24 weeks suspension for the promoting unit and participating Club or players.

- 104** (a) It shall be the privilege of the captain of a winning team to accept the trophy on behalf of the team.
- (b) The safe custody of the trophy shall be the responsibility of the County Committee (Inter-County) or the Club Executive (Club Competition) of the successful team.
- (c) The Central Council trophies shall be returned to Central Council by the following dates:  
National Leagues, Inter-Provincial and Inter- Club - 1st February.  
Inter-County Championship - 1st July.  
**Penalty:** re. Section (c) - Fine of €1,000.

**105 After-match Presentation**

A player ordered off during a Final shall not participate in the after-match presentation ceremony.

**Penalty:** 4 weeks additional suspension.

## GAMES

### **106** Appointment of Match Officials

The Central Council, Provincial Council [subject to the provisions of Rules 70 (a) (ii) and 88 (b)] and County Committee shall have the absolute power to appoint the match officials for all games under their respective jurisdictions. The Council or Committee may delegate those powers to a Sub-Committee, or in the case of the appointment of Umpires and Linesmen to the Referee. The respective Referees' Administrator at County and Provincial levels shall be a member of the Committee responsible for the appointment of Referees at these levels. He shall not be entitled to discuss any other business or to vote on it, other than for the appointment of referees.

Where a Referee is unable to act, a substitute shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Committee in Charge, or in the case of a Referee who is unable to contact the Secretary, the Referee may appoint a substitute.

For Inter-County Senior Championship fixtures, the Committee responsible shall appoint neutral linesmen, and one of the linesmen shall be nominated in advance as the stand by Referee.

It shall also appoint a Sideline Official for all Inter-County Senior games.

### **107** Award of Game

A Referee cannot make an award of a game. The award rests with the Committee or Council concerned, acting on his Report.

**108 Objection to Dimensions/Markings**

No objection shall be made with regard to the markings of a pitch or the dimensions thereof unless an official protest is made to the Referee by the Captain of the team before the game.

**109 Rules of Specification and Control - Penalties**

Penalties for breaches of the above Rules shall be as follows:

- (a) A team failing to field fifteen players, inclusive of players ordered off or retired injured, by the start of the second half of a game.

**PENALTY - The game shall be awarded to opposing team.**

- (b) A team exceeding the number of substitutions permitted under Rules 2.4 (i) and (ii) Rules of Specification, Playing Rules.

**PENALTY - Forfeiture of game to opposing team.**

- (c) (i) Failure to provide a list of Players as specified in Rule.
- (ii) A Substitution (including a Temporary Substitution) being made of a player whose name is not supplied to the Referee or the Sideline Official, as appropriate, and as specified in Rule.
- (iii) In Inter-County games, a Substitution, (including a Temporary Substitution) being made of a player whose name is not on the list of Players supplied to the Referee.

**PENALTY:** Forfeiture of game or fine, depending on the circumstances.

(d) Late Fielding.

(i) A team taking the field late before game:-

**PENALTY - County or Provincial - Fine €100; Club - Fine €20 - for every five minutes or part thereof.**

**A team taking the field more than fifteen minutes after the appointed starting time shall be liable to forfeiture of game, in which case the game shall be awarded to the opposing team.**

(ii) (a) A team responsible for a half time interval being exceeded as specified in Rules 3.3 and 3.7

Rules of Specification:-

**PENALTY - County or Provincial - Fine €80 for every minute or part thereof; Club - Fine €10 for every minute or part thereof.**

(b) A team responsible for an interval period allowed being exceeded by more than five minutes.

**PENALTY - Forfeiture of game.**

(iii) A team(s) failing to field for obligatory extra time, within the specified minutes:

**PENALTY -Team(s) shall be ruled out of competition.**

(e) For unauthorised entry onto the field of play by the team official.

**PENALTY - 4 weeks suspension.**

- (f) Jerseys/Colours:-
- (i) A County team not wearing its registered distinctive colours in Inter-County competitions, or where there is a similarity of colours not wearing their registered alternative colours or other colours authorised or directed by the controlling Council:  
**PENALTY - Fine €500.**
  - (ii) A Club team not wearing its registered distinctive club colours in Inter-Club Competitions, or where there is a similarity of colours, not wearing alternative colours approved by the controlling Committee.  
**PENALTY - Clubs shall be liable to a minimum of €40 fine.**
  - (iii) The goalkeeper not wearing a jersey, which is distinctive from his own team's and the opposing team's colours.  
**PENALTY - Fine €80.**

### **110 Match Evidence**

Where a referee fails to submit his Report within a period of fourteen days after the game, the Committee in Charge has power to deal with the facts of the match on the evidence available from members at the match.

## **COMPETITIONS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (County and All-Ireland)**

### **111 Organisation (County)**

A County Committee shall organise its Championships on a Knock-out, League, or a combination of League and Knockout basis. A County may be divided into districts for these competitions.

A County Committee shall arrange its draws to permit byes in the first rounds only, unless prior approval for proposed divergence has been given by Central Council.

### **112 Notice**

Notice for Club Championship games shall be as follows: - Adult Championships, including Under 21 - five clear days.

Other grades of Championship - in accordance with Bye-Laws governing the Championships, but shall not be less than four clear days.

Replays and refixtures - four clear days.

Notice for original fixtures shall be in writing, but notice for replays/refixtures need not necessarily be in writing.

### **113 Disqualification**

The penalties for a Club failing to fulfil a Championship Game, shall be as follows: -

- (i) The Club shall be disqualified from the Championship.
- (ii) The Game shall be awarded to its opponents.

- (iii) The Club shall be compelled to pay all vouched reasonable expenses incurred, and failure to do so shall involve a suspension for 48 weeks.
- (iv) A Club failing to give two clear days notice in writing of its intention not to fulfil a Championship game shall be liable to a suspension of 24 weeks.

The procedures stated in Rule 142 O.G. shall be followed.

**114 Organisation (Provincial and All Ireland)**

A Provincial and All-Ireland Senior Club Championship shall be organised. Divisional or Group teams winning a Senior County Championship may not participate, and in such cases the County Committee concerned shall nominate a Senior Club to represent it. Nominations in any of other circumstances are not allowed. In the event of a County or Provincial Championship not being completed, the respective Provincial or All-Ireland Championship shall continue without a representative of the County or Province concerned.

## INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### **115 Organisation**

The All-Ireland Championships, other than the “B” 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.

In Senior Hurling, 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.

### **116 Provincial Championships**

(a) Senior Provincial Championships shall be decided during the months of April, May, June and July, and Provinces must send forward teams to compete in All-Ireland Championships on the dates required by the Central Council.

Minor Provincial Championships shall be decided during the months of April, May and July, and Provinces must send forward teams to compete in All-Ireland Minor Championships on the dates required by Central Council.

In exceptional circumstances, Provincial Finals may, by the sanction of the Games Administration Committee, be played on the first Sunday in August.



- (b) A County failing to fulfil a Championship fixture shall be disqualified, and suspended for 48 weeks from date of default.
- (c) A Province which has not completed its Championship shall, when required, nominate a team to compete in the All-Ireland Championship. Failure to do so shall involve disqualification of the Province from the competition.

**117**

### **Draw**

Provincial Councils may organise their respective Championships to take into account the relative current strengths of the Counties within the Province. In an Inter-County Championship, one draw shall be made to cover the entire Championship, but Provincial Councils, subject to regulations set down by Central Council, may organise a round-robin competition. In such cases, the winners shall enter the Championship at the lowest available round. A bye shall be given only in the first round of the knockout stage.

**118**

### **All-Ireland Finals**

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

(Note: During the Experimental Hurling/ Football period, the All-Ireland Senior Hurling and Football finals shall be played respectively on the second Sunday and on the fourth Sunday in September).

**119** **Numbering of Players**

In Inter-County Championship matches players shall be appropriately numbered from 1 to 24.

Penalty. Fine €500.

**Exception:** In Senior Inter-County games, the players shall be appropriately numbered from one to not more than thirty.

**120** **Team Party/Selections**

(a) A County team party shall consist of not more than twenty-four players and five officials of the County Committee.

**Exception:** A Senior Inter-County team party shall not have more than thirty players.

(b) In All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals the placing of teams must be given to the Director General at least six days prior to the game.

**Penalty** for (b): Fine €500.

**121** **County Colours**

Each County shall register annually with the Central Council its distinctive County Colours. Counties shall also register alternative colours or an alternative combination of their colours.

**Penalty:** Fine €500.

**122** **Inter-county Minor/Under 21 Registration**

(a) All Minor and Under 21 players shall provide the County Secretary with an authenticated Parochial Certificate of Age, on a standard form, or Civil Certificate of Birth. At least five days before a County's initial championship

game, the County Secretary shall forward to the Provincial Secretary a duplicate Register of players setting out, in Irish, each player's name, club, date and place of birth.

- (b) The Provincial Secretary shall forward the Register to the Central Council at least five days prior to the Province's involvement in the All-Ireland series.
- (c) Additions may be made to the Register for each subsequent game, in advance of the game.

**Penalty:** Fine €200 on the unit concerned.

**Note: A number of provisions of Rules 115, 116, 117, 118 and 120 are temporarily set aside or adjusted to provide for Experimental Inter-County Championship arrangements. See Appendix 1.**

## ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

### **123 Senior**

- (a) All players are eligible to participate in Inter-County and Inter-Club Senior grade.
- (b) Participation in the Provincial and/or All-Ireland Club Championships, other than as allowed in Rule 32 (d), grades a player as Senior Club status.

**Penalty:** Player- 12 weeks suspension;  
Team - loss of game.

### **124**

#### **(a) Inter-Club Intermediate**

All players are eligible to participate in Inter-Club Intermediate grade except:

- (a) Those who have played on a Club Senior Team other than: -
  - (i) A Divisional or Group team or
  - (ii) A College Club Team, as allowed in Rule 32 (d)in the current year's Championship, or, unless regraded, in the previous year's Championship.
- (b) Those who are excluded from Intermediate status by County Bye-law, consequent on their having played on the winning team in the previous year's County Senior or Intermediate Championship Final.

#### **(b) Inter-Club Junior**

All players are eligible to participate in Inter-Club Junior Grade except:

- (a) Those who have played on a Club Senior or Intermediate Team other than: -
  - (i) A Divisional or Group Senior Team or
  - (ii) A College Club Team, as allowed in Rule 32 (d)in the current year's Championship

or, unless regraded, in the previous year's Championship.

- (b) Those who are excluded from Junior status by County Bye-law, consequent on their having played on the winning team in the previous year's County Senior, Intermediate or Junior Championship Final.

**Penalty:** Player - 12 weeks suspension.  
Team - loss of game.

### **125 Junior Inter-County, excluding Britain**

All players are eligible to participate except:

- (a) Those, who have played in an Inter-County Senior Championship team in the current or preceding championship years, except the case of a County graded Junior by the Central Council, when the Senior players of that County, and Senior players declaring for that County shall be eligible to play in Inter-County Junior Championship.
- (b) Those who played on the winning team in the previous year's All-Ireland Junior Championship Final.
- (c) Those who have played on a Club Senior team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All-Ireland Championships except where a County is permitted by the Central Council to play its second-best team.

**Penalty:** Player - 12 weeks suspension;  
Team - loss of game.

### **126 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 in the Inter-County Senior Championship of the current year, (b) those who have played on a Club Senior team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All-Ireland

Championships, except where a County is permitted by the Central Council to play its second-best team.

**Penalty:** Player- 24 weeks suspension;  
Team - loss of game.

**127 (a) Under 21 Championships**

This grade shall be confined to players who are under twenty-one years of age on 1st January of the Championship year.

**(b) Minor Championships**

This grade shall be confined to players who are under eighteen years of age on 1st January of the Championship year.

**(c)** In the case of Minor or Under 21 teams found guilty of including a player over the age-limit, the Chairman and Secretary of the Club of which the player is a member shall be suspended for 96 weeks.

The person or persons in charge of a team found guilty of using overage players shall be suspended for 96 weeks and the illegal player or players shall be suspended for 48 weeks.

**(d)** A player who is eligible for the under 12 grade shall be ineligible to play in the under 16 or older grades, and a player who is eligible for the under 14 grade, shall be ineligible to play in the Minor or older grades.

**Penalty:** Team - Loss of game. Player - 4 weeks suspension.

**128 All-Ireland Senior "B" Hurling Championship**

This Championship shall be organised by the Central Council. The Games Administration Committee shall give permission to Counties

to participate. A County winning this Championship in the previous year, or a County competing in the Provincial Senior Hurling Championship, shall be ineligible to participate in the All-Ireland Senior B Hurling Championship.

**Note: A number of provisions of Rules 125, 126 and 128 are temporarily set aside or adjusted to provide for Experimental Inter-County Hurling Championship arrangements. See Appendix 1.**

## LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

### **129** Organisation

A League shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association. Prior to the start of the competition, the Committee in Charge shall draw up the regulations governing its organisation.

Playing Rule changes recommended by Central Council may be experimented with in National and County Leagues of the year prior to a Congress at which motions for revision of Playing Rules are tabled.

**130** Leagues may be organised on a single or double round basis. League results shall be credited as follows: two points for a win, and one for a draw. Teams finishing with equal points for qualification for the concluding stages, or for promotion or relegation, shall decide the issue on a knock-out system. If a team retires, or is disqualified during the course of a League, its played games shall stand, and unplayed games shall be awarded to the remaining teams. For each unfulfilled fixture the following minimum fines shall apply: County €400, Club €40.

### **131** Status

A player is graded by his Championship status. A player shall not play in a current year's League competition of a lower grade than his current Championship status.

**Penalty:** Player - 12 weeks suspension.

Team - loss of game.



**132** **Qualifications and Penalties**

A player participating in a League competition shall be subject to the same Club and County qualifications and penalties as for Championships.

**133** **National Leagues**

The regulations governing the composition, timing, promotion, relegation, play-offs and all other matters pertaining to the National Hurling and Football Leagues, shall be decided by the Central Council, on the advice of the Games Administration Committee.

## TOURNAMENT AND CHALLENGE GAMES

- 134** (a) All tournament and challenge games shall be sanctioned by the appropriate authority, which shall deal with any disciplinary matters arising.
- (b) An Inter-County tournament shall be limited to a maximum of four teams, except as otherwise permitted by the Provincial or Central Council. Sanction must be obtained from the Provincial Council where teams are from the one Province, and from the Central Council where teams are from more than one Province.
- (c) An Inter-Club tournament shall be confined to a maximum of eight teams, and sanction must be obtained as follows:
- From a County Committee where teams are from within the County.
  - From the various County Committees involved, where teams are from more than one County, and in such circumstances the sanction of the Provincial Council or Central Council, as appropriate, must also be obtained
- (d) All applications for the sanction of tournaments involving teams from outside a club's own County must come through and be recommended by the home County Committee.
- (e) A fee of €40 for an Inter-County tournament and €20 for an Inter-Club tournament shall be paid with the application.

**135** **Seven-a-Side Competitions**

Sanction may be granted by a County Committee, Provincial Council, or Central Council, as appropriate, for competitions involving teams of Seven-a-Side. These competitions shall be subject to the Rules of the Official Guide, and other relevant Rules drawn up by the Games Administration Committee. No alteration in Rules governing discipline shall be permitted.

**136** **Unauthorised Tournaments**

A Club organising an unauthorised tournament, or a player or team taking part in it, shall be liable to a minimum suspension of eight weeks.

## DISCIPLINE

### **137** Suspension - General

A suspension under General Rules or County Bye-laws of a member, other than a suspension imposed for a category (B), (C), or (D) playing offence under Rule 138, or the suspension of a Club, means suspension from all functions, privileges, and competitions under the Association's control, but not from membership of the Association.

The suspension of a member for a Category (B) Playing Offence, means a suspension from playing in all Games (including Tournaments and Challenge Games) and from acting as a Referee, Umpire, Linesman, or Sideline Official.

The suspension of a member for a Category (C) or (D) Playing Offence, means a suspension from playing in games (including Tournament and Challenge Games) at the Level at which the suspension was incurred i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Third Level, Schools etc., and from acting as a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official.

In the case of a Category (C) Playing Offence, the penalty shall include the next game in the Competition in which the suspension was incurred, even if the next game falls outside the suspension period.

### **Penalties**

**Member/Player:** for illegal participation while under suspension - 24 weeks additional suspension.

**Team:** for playing a suspended player - forfeiture of game.

## **138** Suspension - Misconduct on Field

### **(1) Categories of Offences**

- (A) Interference by player or official with a Referee, Umpire, Linesman, Sideline Official or opposing Team Official.
- (B) Striking with hurley, head, kicking, or stamping.
- (C) Other immediate 'Ordering Off' offences - not covered by (A) or (B) above.
- (D) Second Cautionable Foul.

### **(2) Players Ordered Off/Reported - Penalties**

- (i) A player ordered off the field for a Category (A) or (B) offence shall stand suspended and shall not play again until his case has been dealt with by the Council or Committee responsible for determining his suspension.
- (ii) A player ordered off the field for a Category (C) offence shall stand suspended for the minimum of four weeks at the Level at which the offence is committed i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Third Level, Schools etc., but the player shall have the right to have his suspension reviewed by the Committee in Charge, on written representations, or by seeking, in writing, an oral hearing. The penalty shall include the next game in the Competition in which the suspension was incurred, even if the next game falls outside the suspension period.  
A player ordered off for a Category (C) offence, for which more than the

minimum 4 weeks suspension may be applicable, shall not play again until his case has been dealt with by the Council or Committee responsible for determining the duration of suspensions over and above the minimum term of 4 weeks.

- (iii) A player ordered off for a Category (D) offence may not play for the duration of the remainder of that game, which shall include extra time, where played.
  - (iv) A player ordered off the field for a Category (D) offence for a subsequent time within 48 weeks at the same Level i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Third Level, Schools etc., shall stand suspended for 2 weeks at that Level.
  - (iv) A player reported by the Referee as having committed a Category (A), (B), or (C) offence after the conclusion of the game, shall likewise stand suspended as outlined above. The player shall be immediately notified in writing of the Report by the Committee in Charge.
- (3) **Minimum Suspensions**  
Category (A) offences:-
- (i) For abusive or threatening language or conduct - 8 weeks.
  - (ii) For any type of minor physical interference (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling) - 24 weeks.
  - (iii) For any type of assault - 48 weeks, and his team shall be liable to disqualification.

Category (B) offences - 12 weeks

Category (C) offences - 4 weeks.

(4) **Additional Suspension**

The above suspensions for Category (A), (B) and (C) offences are minimum penalties. The Committee in Charge shall have due regard for the gravity and repetition of offences in each case, and shall, where appropriate, impose a longer term of suspension.

A player repeating any specific offence in categories (A) or (B) within a forty eight weeks period, shall be suspended for not less than double the minimum applicable to that offence.

A player repeating any specific offence in Category (C), at the same level, i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Third Level, School etc., within forty eight weeks, shall be suspended at that level for not less than eight weeks.

This Section of Rule shall not apply to repeat Category (D) offences i.e. the maximum suspension for a Category (D) offence is two weeks.

(5) **Maximum Suspension/Expulsion**

No suspension shall exceed 96 weeks.

Players repeating offences which merit such suspension shall be debarred from playing. In serious cases, expulsion may be applied by County Committees and higher Councils.

(6) **Period December/January**

A suspension term, in whole or in part, of a player suspended under this Rule, 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.

(7) **Commencement of Term**

A term of suspension shall commence:-

- (i) In the case of a player - from the date of his last game played, except as provided in (6) above.
- (ii) In the case of other members - from the date of decision.

**139 Termination of Game**

In the event of a game being prematurely terminated by a Referee under the Rules of Play, the following procedures shall apply:-

- (a) If the players, officials or supporters of a team are responsible for the termination, the team shall be liable to disqualification (Procedures outlined in Rule 142 shall be followed).
- (b) If the game is prematurely terminated for any other reason it shall be refixed for the full period.

**Penalty.**

For a team or player leaving the field without the Referee's permission, or refusing to continue - 24 weeks suspension.



## **140** **Disciplinary Jurisdiction**

Central Council, including its Management and Games Administration Committees, Provincial Councils, and County Committees shall within their respective jurisdictions have the power to investigate irregularities and to suspend, warn, fine, disqualify or expel Councils, Committees, Clubs, Teams, and Members for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any Bye-Law made thereunder, for any breach of discipline, for conduct considered to have discredited the Association, or for breaches of the Association's Guidelines or Directives.

The minimum penalty for conduct considered to have discredited the Association shall be 8 weeks suspension.

When a Council or Committee deems that a Member or Unit from outside its area of jurisdiction has committed an offence within its area of jurisdiction, it shall report the matter for adjudication to the Provincial Council if the member or unit is within the same Province, or if otherwise, to the Central Council.

These powers, with the exception of the power to expel (which is a reserved power of County Committees and higher Councils) may be extended to Divisional Committees by County Bye-Law.

Any penalty imposed shall be operative throughout the Association.

## **141** **Juvenile Jurisdiction/Suspensions**

### (a) **Jurisdiction**

A Juvenile Committee, having under its jurisdiction persons under 16 years of age and having full powers to deal with them,

shall not suspend, disqualify or expel an adult full member of the Association, but shall have the right to charge and hear the member, and to recommend a penalty to the parent County or Divisional Committee, under whose direct jurisdiction the member is subject. The parent Committee, being satisfied that correct procedures have been followed, may impose a penalty without a further hearing.

(b) **Suspension for Match Offences**

The following suspensions shall apply to Juvenile (Under 16) players ordered off in Under 16 or younger age-group games.

- (i) For an offence other than a Category (D) offence, except as provided in (iii) below - minimum 1 week.
- (ii) For a subsequent category (D) offence within 48 weeks - 1 week.
- (iii) For an offence, other than a Category (D) offence, in a National Under-Age Festival Competition (for Under 16 or younger age group) played off in one day or over consecutive days - **minimum penalty** - suspension from playing in next round of the competition. If his team's involvement in the competition is terminated - minimum one week.

- (c) The other provisions of Rule 138 shall also apply.

**Exception:** Except as provided in (b), (iii) above, the penalty for a Category C offence shall not include the next game in the

Competition, if it falls outside the suspension period.

(d) **Suspensions for playing illegally**

The minimum suspension for a juvenile (under 16) player for playing over age or playing illegally with a Club in Under 16 or younger age group competitions shall be four weeks.

The Chairperson and Secretary of the Club, and the persons in charge of the team, shall

- (1) in the case of playing an overage player be suspended for 96 weeks and
- (2) in the case of playing an otherwise illegal player, be dealt with in accordance with the Rules as elsewhere stated in the Official Guide.

(e) **Club Suspension**

In all cases involving the suspension of a Club, such suspension shall not apply to the Juvenile (Under 16) Section, unless specifically stated.

**142** **Procedures**

- (a) Whenever the relevant Council or Committee proposes to adjudicate on any disciplinary matter (that may involve any penalty, other than those specified in Exceptions below) it shall give the Council, Committee, Club or Member alleged to have offended notice in writing of the alleged offence.

**Exceptions**

- (1) A Case in which a suspension of four

weeks or less applies to a player under Rule 138, Suspension - Misconduct on Field or Rule 141(b) - Suspensions of Juveniles for Match Offences.

- (2) The imposition of a statutory fine.
- (3) Loss of points for failure to fulfil a league fixture.
- (4) Application of penalties for breaches of competition regulations.
- (5) The penalty prescribed in Rule 44.

Notice may be sent on receipt of a Referee's Report and prior to the next meeting of the Council or Committee in Charge.

- (b) The body or member shall have three days from the date of receipt of the notice to make written representations or to seek, by writing, an oral hearing in relation to the alleged offence, which hearing shall be granted on request. Written representations shall, in the case of a Body, be made by the Secretary of that Body, and in the case of a member, by the individual personally.

At an oral hearing, a Body shall be represented by a maximum of two of its Full Members, and a member shall appear personally, and may be accompanied by a full member of his Club/Unit.

- (c) A Juvenile (under 16) player shall not be called before a disciplinary hearing unless he requests such a hearing, in which case he shall be accompanied by an adult

full member of his Club /Unit and, while giving evidence, be heard by not more than five members of the Committee.

- (d) The body or member alleged to have committed an offence shall not call match officials to give evidence or be cross-examined. The Committee in charge may hear the match officials privately. Any evidence of match officials shall subsequently be conveyed to the body/member in relation to the alleged offence.
- (e) If arising from any game, other than games under the jurisdiction of a Provincial Council or the Games Administration Committee of the Central Council, a player involved in an Inter-county team in a current Championship or National League is reported for a Category (A) or (B) offence, the Committee in Charge shall not have authority to exonerate the player or to mitigate the stipulated penalties, even where there is video or other authentic evidence that the offence was not committed by the player. In such circumstances, the Committee in Charge shall refer the case to the Provincial Council or the Games Administration Committee of the Central Council, as appropriate, for adjudication. The Provincial Council or the Games Administration Committee of the Central Council shall further have the power to direct the County Committee to forward such cases to it for adjudication.

- (f) All motions for disciplinary action shall be moved and seconded. In the event of a motion not being moved or not being in order, or when moved the voting is equal, the Chairman of the meeting shall impose an appropriate penalty. In no instance shall a term of suspension or other penalty be less than the minimum specified by Rule.
- (g) When a penalty is imposed, other than in cases covered by the Exceptions in (a) above, the Council, Committee, Club or Member shall be informed, in writing, of the decision and the Rule(s) under which the decision was taken.

### **143** Urgent Cases

In urgent cases between meetings, the following procedures shall apply:-

- (a) There shall, in the first instance, be an obligation on the player and on his club or County Committee, as appropriate, to request the Council or Committee responsible to clarify the position of a player.
- (b) The Council or Committee in Charge shall make emergency arrangements, on the receipt of such a request, to check and direct on the position of the player concerned, pending a meeting of the Council or Committees which shall decide on the appropriate penalty.

- (c) If it is clear from the Referee's Report that a four weeks suspension applies (or a lesser penalty in the case of a Juvenile), this penalty shall be declared between meetings, and the player concerned shall be entitled to play on the expiration of that penalty. The suspension shall be noted at the next meeting of the Council or Committee.

**144 Term of Suspension - Definition**

Where a definite term of suspension is imposed by a Council or Committee, reinstatement takes place automatically at midnight on the last full day of the term e.g. a suspension terminates at twelve midnight on a Saturday when the suspension period commenced on a Sunday.

A term of suspension shall be in consecutive weeks, except as provided in Rule 138 (6).

**145 Reinstatements Committee**

Central Council, on a quarterly year basis, commencing with its meeting prior to Congress, shall consider and adjudicate on the recommendations made by a Special Reinstatements' Committee appointed by it. The Reinstatements Committee may only consider cases which meet each of the following criteria:-

- (a) It is not a case of 'Misconduct on Field' offence, or an offence against a referee, umpire or linesman.

- (b) It is a case where strict application of the rules has resulted in a hardship.
- (c) It is a case that is recommended to it by the body which imposed the original penalty.



## OBJECTIONS, APPEALS, INVESTIGATIONS

### **146** Submission

(a) An objection, counter-objection, or appeal shall be in duplicate, and shall set forth the grounds of same and the rules alleged to have been infringed or misapplied. If an incorrect Rule number is given, but it is clear from the contents what Rule is involved, the Committee hearing the case may deem it in order.

(b) **Compliance with Rule 11 (Use of Irish in Official documents).**

In the case of an objection, counter-objection, or appeal, on being lodged, not complying with Rule 11, the Council or Committee in Charge shall afford the objector or appellant one opportunity to comply, in advance of the hearing.

The time allowed to have the documents corrected shall be at the discretion of the Council or Committee in Charge, subject to it not being in excess of three days from the time the objector or appellant is informed, not necessarily in writing, of the documents not complying.

Other than allowing for compliance with Rule 11, no other alterations shall be made to the document.

(c) **Irish Language** - In the Gaeltacht, or where County Bye-Laws stipulate, objections, counter-objections, or appeals shall be written, and where feasible discussed, in the Irish language.

**Penalty** - If not written in Irish language, it shall be ruled out of order.

**147** **Time Limits and Fees**

- (a) An objection shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Committee in Charge of the fixture within three days of the official starting time of the game, together with a fee of €40 in the case of a club or €200 in the case of a County or Provincial Council.
- (b) A counter-objection together with a fee as above, shall be lodged within three days of the date of receipt of the objection from the Secretary of the Committee in Charge of the fixture.
- (c) Over-Age - When an objection is made in the Under-Age grades, on the grounds that an Over-Age player has been played, the current cost of a Civil Certificate of Birth for each player so objected to shall be lodged with the objection fee.
- (d) An appeal shall be lodged with the Secretary of the next highest body within three days of the decision being made, or in a case where Rule requires that statutory notice of the decision be given in writing, within three days of the receipt of such notice.  
An appeal by a Club or individual shall be accompanied by a fee of €40, and €200 in the case of a County.
- (e) When a objection, counter-objection or appeal is upheld, the fee shall be refunded.

**148 Notice**

- (a) A copy of an objection, a counter-objection, or an appeal shall be sent by the Committee in Charge to the defending party, advisedly within three days (failure of the Committee in Charge to keep this advised time limit shall not invalidate the objection, counter-objection or appeal). The two parties shall be notified of the hearing by the Secretary of the Committee or Council in Charge. Each side shall be entitled to have two representatives (who shall be full members of the Club/Unit involved) present and be heard.
- (b) In the case of an objection, counter-objection or appeal sent by post, there is an obligation on the sender to take the necessary precautions regarding the date of posting to ensure delivery in compliance with rule time limits. If such precautions were taken, and there was a delay in postal delivery, the correspondence shall be considered as being lodged as required by Rule, provided there is satisfactory evidence of date of posting.

**149 Evidence**

- (a) In any objection, counter-objection, appeal, investigation or inquiry, evidence or information shall not be accepted or considered unless applicable to a period not longer than ninety six weeks prior to

the date of the first hearing. An exception to this provision shall be information in the possession of the Director General, Provincial or County Secretary, or the Committee in Charge. Such information shall be furnished, on direct application in writing, when the appeal is lodged, except in Underage competitions when it shall be made available prior to lodging.

- (b) Match officials shall not be called to give evidence by the parties to an objection, counter-objection or appeal.
- (c) The Committee or Council in Charge may have recourse to video evidence at its discretion, but it shall not be used in relation to the result of a game.
- (d) Any person giving false or forged evidence shall be suspended for not less than forty eight weeks.

**150** **Objection/Counter-Objection/Appeal - Non participation and Penalty**

- (a) Neither team concerned in an objection, counter-objection, or an appeal arising from an objection/counter-objection shall take further part in the same knock out competition until the issue(s) have been dealt with by the appropriate Committee.
- (b) A team proved illegal on an objection shall lose the game to its opponents.

## **151 Appeals Procedures**

- (a) County Committees in all cases shall have the right of appeal to the Central Council.
- (b) An aggrieved Club or individual shall have the right of one appeal against a decision on the point at issue as follows:
  - (i) if it is against the decision of a Divisional Committee, the appeal is to the County Committee
  - (ii) if it is against the decision of a County Committee, the appeal is to the Provincial Council
  - (iii) if it is against the decision of a Provincial Council or the Games Administration Committee, the appeal is to the Central Council.

**Exceptions:** There shall be no appeal against the decision of a County Committee with regard to transfers within the County, grading of Clubs and players, arrangements for the date and venue of a game (provided that required notice has been given), appointments of referees, and administration and control of County teams.

- (c) An appeal by a third party (not directly involved), is not allowed.
- (d) An appeal to the Central Council shall be heard by the Management Committee,

unless the appellant requests a hearing from the full Central Council at its next scheduled meeting.

- (e) In the case of an individual penalised or aggrieved, a Club or other unit may not make an Appeal on his behalf. The aggrieved individual shall sign the Appeal.
- (f) An appellant must appear at the hearing. A Club/Unit shall be represented by a maximum of two of its members. An individual appellant shall appear personally, and may be accompanied only by a member of his Club/Unit.
- (g) There shall be no appeal except as provided in these Rules, and in particular there shall be no appeal to any Court of Law or to any outside body, on any matter.
- (h) Points not made in the original case which are relevant may be considered, but only witnesses heard in the first instance may be called.
- (i) An appeal shall not be upheld unless there is clear infringement or misapplication of a rule.
- (j) It is at the discretion of a Committee in Charge to postpone a game on the basis that an Appeal, not arising from a decision on an Objection or Counter-Objection, is lodged with a higher Body by a unit involved in the game.

- (k) If a game involving an appellant unit is not played on the scheduled date/time, pending the hearing by a higher Body of an Appeal, (not arising from a decision on an objection or counter-objection), and the Appeal fails, the game shall be declared lost to the appellant unit.
- (l) In the event of a knock out competition proceeding, pending the hearing of an Appeal (not arising from a decision on an objection or counter-objection) by a unit, and if the appeal is successful, the following procedure shall apply:-
  - (i) The results of games played in the interim shall stand.
  - (ii) The successful appellant shall play the opposing team (unless the latter is disqualified by the Appeal decision) that was involved in the game not played pending the hearing of the appeal. If successful in this game, the appellant team shall progress to the stage that was reached in the Competition, with the Appeal outcome pending.

## **152 Investigation Procedures**

- (a) A motion to carry out an investigation into any matter must be proposed, seconded, and have the support of the majority of the relevant Committee present and voting.
- (b) The Committee in Charge shall decide the composition and terms of reference of the Investigation Committee.

- (c) The Investigation Committee shall decide the date, time, and venue of an initial hearing, and the names of those required to attend.
- (d) The Investigation Committee shall give at least three clear days notice in writing to all bodies or individuals summoned to the hearing.
- (e) The parties involved in an investigation shall be entitled to have in attendance two representatives, (who shall be full members of the Club/Unit involved), who may present their case and call relevant witnesses.
- (f) The evidence of match officials may be heard privately by the Investigation Committee, but such evidence shall subsequently be conveyed to the parties involved in the investigation.
- (g) While evidence is being given, witnesses, other than match officials already heard, shall remain at the hearing.
- (h) Where it is established that a prima facie case has been made that a Member or Unit has a charge to answer, the procedures outlined in Rule 142 (a) shall apply, or being present, the Member or Unit may waive his/its rights under this rule.
- (i) The Investigation Committee shall report its findings and recommended penalties, if any, to the parent Committee, unless Bye-Law provides otherwise.



- (j) Where a penalty is imposed, the Council, Committee, Club or Member shall be informed, in writing, of the decision and the Rule(s) under which the decision was taken.

### **153 Team Investigation**

The unit in charge of a team may request that the constitution of an opposing team that took part in a game be investigated. Such request, setting out the points for investigation, shall be furnished within three days after the game - this without prejudice to the rights of the Council or Committee in Charge of a game to investigate a team at any time.

If illegal constitution is proved, the prescribed penalties for the offence(s) shall be enforced. A team may be disqualified or suspended, but the opposing team shall not be awarded the game on the outcome of such investigation.

### **154 HANDBALL**

- (a) The Irish Handball Council shall, subject to the overall control of the Central Council, be responsible for the promotion of the National Game of Handball.
- (b) The affairs of the Irish Handball Council shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association and such Bye-laws as are sanctioned by the Management Committee.
- (c) All Handball Committees at National, Provincial and County level, shall be Sub-Committees of the respective G.A.A. Committee or Council, and shall be responsible to them in all matters.

## **155** EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Subject to the overall control of the Central Council, the following Councils shall be responsible for the organisation and control of all affairs at the Levels specified hereunder.

- The Higher Education Council in all Third Level Institutes and Colleges.
- The All-Ireland Secondary Schools' Council in Secondary Schools and other affiliated schools.
- The All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Council in Vocational and other affiliated schools.
- The All-Ireland Primary Schools' Council.

Other than where special sanction is granted by Central Council, the affairs of each Council shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association and such Bye-Laws as are sanctioned by the Management Committee, on behalf of Central Council.

Note: The paragraphs referring to the All Ireland Secondary and Vocational Schools and the affiliated Schools to become "The All Ireland Postprimary Schools' Council for all affiliated Schools at Second Level", on a date to be determined by Central Council.

**Experimental Inter County  
Championship Arrangements  
2001- 2004 inclusive**

**Senior Hurling Championship Format (2002-2004)**

The Championship shall be organised as follows:

**(a) Provincial Championships**

Provincial Championships shall be organised in Munster, Leinster and Ulster as follows:-

Counties that are graded “B” may participate in 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.

**(b)** 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-Finalists 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 are respectively drawn against the two Quarter-Final Winners

### **All-Ireland Final**

Other Regulations relating to the additional All-Ireland Qualifier Competition

- (1) **Scheduling** - The schedule of games shall avoid conflict with the Provincial Championships' schedule. The games up to and including Round 3 shall be played mainly on Saturdays.

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

There shall be a flexibility in the Scheduling of the All-Ireland Qualifier Fixtures to accommodate Provincial Championships Replays and/or the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football.

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

- (2) **Extra Time** - Extra time shall be played in all Drawn Games up to the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals.

(This regulation does not apply to Provincial Championship Finals).

- (3) Repeat Games - The Draw for any Round shall be adjusted to eliminate, where possible, a repeat meeting of Counties that have already met in the Provincial Championship.

### **Minor Hurling Championship Format**

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 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 will, by decision of Special Congress (October 1998), be determined on an Open Draw basis.

The Quarter-Final pairings can 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 will be in separate Semi-Finals.

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

Quarter-Finals Draws (1) and (2) and the consequent Semi-Final pairings are as provided for the Draw for the All-Ireland Series 1997 and 1998.

Quarter-Final Draw (3) is possible as a consequence of the decision of Special Congress (October 1998) to have an Open Draw for the Quarter-Finals. Only if the Quarter-Final Draw results in the meeting of the Leinster Runners Up and the Munster Runners Up, the pairings for the Semi-Finals will be determined on the outcome of this game, and based on the decision that two. Teams from the one Provincial cannot meet at the Semi-Final stage.

Therefore, based on the respective potential Quarter-Final Draws outlined above, the Semi-Final pairings will be as set out below -

### **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.

### **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.

### **Quarter Final Draw (3)**

If Draw (3) materialises for the Quarter-Finals, 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.

### **All-Ireland Senior “B” Hurling Championship**

This Championship shall be organised by the Central Council. The Championship shall be open to all Counties graded “B” by the Central Council.

#### **Exceptions**

- (i) A County winning this Championship in the previous year shall be ineligible.
- (ii) A County in Munster or Leinster that qualifies as one of the five teams remaining in the concluding stages of its Provincial Championship, shall be ineligible.
- (iii) Subject to Exception (i) above, the Counties that do not reach the Ulster Senior Hurling Championship Final shall be eligible. Ulster Counties shall declare their intentions by the 1st January each year.

### **All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship Format**

This 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 Series shall be determined by Central Council.

### **All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship Format**

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

This 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.

The All-Ireland Semi-Final pairings shall be the Leinster and Connacht Champions shall respectively play the Ulster and Britain Champions in alternate years.

## **Eligibility for Inter-County Intermediate and Junior Hurling Championships**

### **(1) Inter-County Intermediate Hurling**

#### **Championship -**

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

- (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 Central Council to play its second best Team.

- (c) Those who have played on the winning team in the preceding year’s All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final.

Penalty - Player - 12 weeks suspension.

Team - Loss of game.

**(2) Inter-County Junior 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 a Club Senior team in the County, Provincial or All-Ireland Championships, or 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 the 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

(3) **Inter-County Junior Hurling Championship - 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 year.
- (b) Those who have in the preceding year played on a Club Senior Team in the County, Provincial or All-Ireland Championships, or 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 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.

## **County Participation Restriction**

Subject to Central Council gradings, Counties may participate in Senior and Intermediate or Senior “B” and Junior All-Ireland Hurling 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.

## **Exception to Rule governing Draws**

A County that is graded by the Central Council as “B” in Hurling and which participates in its Provincial Senior Hurling Championship, shall be included in the Preliminary Rounds of that Championship.

## **Senior Football Championship Format 2001-2004**

The Championship shall be organised as follows: -

- (a) **Provincial Championships** - these Championships shall be played on a knock out basis. A Round Robin Competition may not be organised. The Winners of the Provincial Championship shall qualify for separate All-Ireland Championship Quarter-Finals.
- (b) 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 team to 16 - these teams shall participate in an Open Draw.

**Round 2** - Each of the 8 teams defeated in the Provincial Semi-Finals shall play against one of the 8 winners from Round 1. A Draw shall be made to determine the 8 pairings.

**Round 3** - This Round shall involve the 8 winners of Round 2. A Draw shall be made to determine the 4 pairings.

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

**All-Ireland Quarter-Finals** - Each of the 4 Provincial Champions shall play one of the 4 winners from Round 4. A Draw shall be made to determine the 4 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** - The Provincial Rota (current in 2000) is retained. 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 decisions related to the additional All-Ireland Qualifier Competition**

- (1) **Scheduling** - The schedule of games shall avoid conflict with the Provincial Championships; schedules. The games up to and including Round 3 shall be played mainly on Saturdays. 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 and/or the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football.

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

(2) **Extra Time**

Extra time shall be played in all drawn games up to the All Ireland Quarter-Finals. (This decision does not apply to Provincial Championship Games).

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

**All-Ireland Minor Football Championship  
2002 - 2004 inclusive**

This 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 Draw basis, but shall not meet the team they defeated in their own Provincial Final, at this stage.

## All-Ireland Semi-Finals

Provincial Rota (current in 2000) is retained. 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

### Rota for Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals

#### 2002 Quarter-Finals -

|                  |   |                     |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| Connacht Winners | v | Leinster Runners Up |
| Munster Winners  | v | Ulster Runners Up   |
| Leinster Winners | v | Connacht Runners Up |
| Ulster Winners   | v | Munster Runners Up  |

#### Semi-Finals -

|          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| Connacht | v | Munster |
| Leinster | v | Ulster  |

#### 2003 Quarter-Finals

|                  |   |                     |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| Munster Winners  | v | Connacht Runner Up  |
| Ulster Winners   | v | Leinster Runners Up |
| Connacht Winners | v | Munster Runners Up  |
| Leinster Winners | v | Ulster Runners Up   |

#### Semi-Finals

|          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| Munster  | v | Ulster   |
| Connacht | v | Leinster |

#### 2004 Quarter-Finals

|                  |   |                     |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| Connacht Winners | v | Ulster Runners Up   |
| Ulster Winners   | v | Connacht Runners Up |
| Leinster Winners | v | Munster Runners Up  |
| Munster Winners  | v | Leinster Runners Up |

#### Semi-Finals

|          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| Connacht | v | Ulster  |
| Leinster | v | Munster |



# CLUB CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION.....

## TITLE, OBJECTS AND COLOURS

1. The Club shall be called .....

.....

and in English as .....

.....

hereinafter called “The Club”

2. The objects of the Club shall be the promotion of the aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, as outlined in its Charter and General Rules, and the membership and resources of the Club shall be utilised for and dedicated solely to those aims.

3. The colours of the Club shall be .....

.....Jersey and.....shorts.

## MEMBERSHIP

4. All classes of members of the Club shall be elected by the Executive Committee, and such classes shall consist of Full, Honorary, Temporary, and Youth.

5. Full (**Ordinary**) **Membership** of the club, which shall be for a period of not less than one year, shall be open to all persons of 18 years of age and over who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael; such Full Members shall be registered with the County Registrar.

6. **Honorary Membership** shall be open to all persons who have rendered exceptional service to

the Club or to the Games and/or Activities of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. They may be elected for life or for any defined period but, unless otherwise stated in the minute made on the occasion of their election, their membership shall terminate at the close of the current year but may be renewed by the Executive Committee from year to year. Honorary Members shall have all the privileges of Full Members except in the management or control of the club, and they shall not be obliged to pay the subscription as provided for in Club Constitution Rule 14.

7. **Temporary (Social) Membership** shall be open to all persons actively involved in such additional activities as may be promoted by the Club. They may be admitted for periods not exceeding forty eight weeks, after being duly elected. They shall not be entitled to vote or engage in the management or control of the Club.

8. **Youth Membership** shall be open to all persons under 18 years of age. They shall not be entitled to vote or engage in the management or control of the Club.

9. **Application for Membership** - The person seeking admission as a member of any class, other than honorary, shall complete and sign a prescribed application form, which must be returned to the Club Secretary. The application for membership must be proposed and seconded by two paid-up Registered Full Members.

10. The name and address of such person proposed as a member of the Club, together with the names of those proposing and seconding him/her, shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the club premises for at least two weeks before election.

11. The Executive shall inform the applicant of its decision. A new member on election shall, on payment of the membership subscription, be given a membership card.

12. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the foregoing procedure (Club Rules 9 to 11) need not apply in cases other than the election of Full Members.

13. (a) The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend from Club activities any member of the Club whose actions are, in the opinion of the Committee, prejudicial to the interests of the Club.
- (b) Such persons, if Registered Full Members, shall have the right to appeal to a Special General Meeting, as provided in these Club Rules.
- (c) Unless the offence is brought to the notice of the County Committee by the Club and that body, having considered the merits of the case and having regard to the rights of the player or member, imposes a suspension, the player or member continues to be a legal member of the Association and is merely suspended from club activities.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

14. The annual subscription of members other than Honorary members shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting; subscriptions are payable in advance on January 1st.

15. Any member, other than Honorary member, whose annual subscription is not paid prior to March 1st in any calendar year shall cease to be a member on that date, and shall not be eligible to participate in the games of any section of the Club or to partake in any of the privileges attached to membership.

16. The Executive Committee shall have power to grant Temporary (Social) membership, under such terms as it shall think fit, to any person whose membership shall have lapsed under Club Rule 15.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

17. The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of an Executive Committee, and it shall be the controlling body of the Club.

18. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the Registered Full Members present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting and nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be by any two such Registered Full Members.

19. The Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of one year or until the following Annual General Meeting, whichever is sooner.

20. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer,

Secretary, Registrar, one Players' Representative and at least five Registered Full Members.

21. The Executive Committee shall have the sole right to appoint sub-committees as required. It shall define the duties of such sub-committees, and retain control in all matters and activities which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Club, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such sub-committees.

22. The Executive Committee shall have power to nominate the Chairperson of such sub-committees.

23. The Club Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

24. The Executive Committee may prepare bye-laws for the proper control and management of the Club, which shall be submitted for ratification to an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Club. Alterations, deletions, or additions to such bye-laws may be made only at the following Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

25. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each quarter, and four shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

26. The Executive Committee shall administer the business affairs of the Club and the property under

its control in accordance with the aims and objects specified in the Constitution, and shall have all such administrative powers as may be necessary for properly carrying out the aims and objects of the Club.

27. Each member shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon any complaint or representation sent by him in writing to the Hon. Secretary.

28. A special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called

(a) by the Hon. Secretary, or

(b) by the Hon. Secretary within three days of the receipt by him of a requisition, duly signed by four members of the Executive Committee. Such notice shall set out the purpose for which the special meeting is required.

29. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent, the Committee may elect a member present to preside at the meeting.

30. Any member of the Executive Committee who shall have absented himself from three consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

31. Should any member of the Executive Committee resign, or his position otherwise lapse, the remaining

members of the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy by co-opting from the body of the Registered Full Membership. The service of any member on the Executive Committee chosen to fill a casual vacancy shall not be reckoned in calculating the seniority of such member, if subsequently elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

## **VOTING**

32. A Chairman of a General Meeting, Executive Committee, or any Sub-Committee shall, in the event of a tie, have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as a member.

33. All Registered Full Members who are over the age of eighteen on the 1st day of January preceding the Annual General Meeting, and whose subscriptions at the prescribed rate are not in arrears, shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting, and voting shall be by a show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of such Registered Full Members.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

34. Not less than five days final notice of all General Meetings, Annual or Special, shall be given by the Hon. Secretary to all Registered Full Members of the Club.

35. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held on or before 31st December, as arranged by the Executive Committee.

36. In the case of the Annual General Meeting, all motions and nominations must be in the hands of

the Hon. Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

37. The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

- (a) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Annual Report submitted by the Hon. Secretary.
- (c) Financial Statement submitted by Hon. Treasurer.
- (d) Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
- (e) Notice of Motion.
- (f) General Business.

38. A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called by the Hon. Secretary within fourteen days, if directed by the Executive Committee or demanded in writing by not less than twelve Registered Full Members, who in their requisition shall state the object of such meeting. No other business shall be transacted at that Special Meeting. A minimum fee of €13 shall accompany the requisition by members calling for such meeting, this fee shall be forfeited to the funds of the Club if the matter be considered frivolous by the majority of those present and voting.

39. Twelve Registered Full Members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a General or Special Meeting of the Club.

## **ASSETS AND TRUSTEES**

40.(a) The Club shall have power to acquire and hold and to sell, lease, mortgage or charge real and personal property. Real property



shall not be transferred, sold, leased, conveyed, mortgaged, or otherwise charged or dealt with without the consent of the Central Council, as set out in the Declaration of Trust.

- (b) The real property of the Club shall be vested in five members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael as Trustees, who shall hold same in accordance with the Charter, Constitution and Rules thereof, and subject to the covenants and conditions contained in the approved Declaration of Trust, and who shall sell, lease, mortgage or charge the said property when directed to do so and with the consent of the Central Council. The Executive Committee shall select the three Club Trustees who shall then be appointed by the Chairperson of the Club, and the remaining Trustees shall be appointed by the President of the Provincial Council and the Chairman of the County Committee, where appropriate.
- (c) The personal property of the Club shall vest in the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary for the time being of the Club, who shall hold same in trust for the Club. The said Trustees shall invest the funds of the Club in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee, of which an entry in the minute book of the Club shall be conclusive evidence.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall open a bank account on behalf of the Club, and all cheques drawn on the said account shall be signed by the Treasurer and by the Chairperson or Secretary.

- (e) Correct accounts and books shall be kept, showing the financial affairs and receipts and disbursements of the Club.
- (f) The said Trustees of the real property and of the personal property for the time being shall be as set out in the Schedules to these Club Rules.
- (g) The Club shall indemnify and save harmless a Trustee in respect of any loss or out of pocket expenses, bona fide incurred by him in or about the execution of his trust or powers.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF OFFICIAL GUIDE**

41. This Club Constitution and Rules shall be read in conjunction with the General Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael contained in the Official Guide, as amended from time to time.

## **ALTERATIONS OF RULES**

42. Alterations and additions to these Club Rules may be made at any Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, providing that the resolution proposing same is carried by a vote of two thirds of the members present and voting, and that same do not conflict with the Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

43. Members wishing to propose alterations or additions to these Club Rules must send notice of the proposed alterations or additions in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than fourteen days

before the Annual General Meeting, or may do so by calling a Special Meeting, as provided for in the Rules.

## **INTERPRETATION OF CLUB RULES**

44. The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these Club Rules (with the exception of Club Rule 13), and of any bye-laws and regulations made thereunder; and the decision of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these Club Rules or by the bye-laws and regulations made thereunder shall be final and binding on the members, subject to appeal to a General Meeting, and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any Court of Law.



The Gaelic Athletic Association

**ANTI-DOPING  
CODE**



**Cumann Lúthchleas Gael**

## **Preamble**

The GAA is dedicated to the ideals that in its Games the spirit of fair play prevails, the health of players is paramount, and that doping can have no place in Gaelic Games. The GAA is committed to cooperate with the Irish Sports Council (ISC) to advance these ideals.

The GAA also recognises that in enforcing this Anti-Doping Code the constitutional and legal rights of the individual must always be respected.

The GAA realises that any finding of a breach of the Code has the potential to damage the good name of the person involved. Therefore, where a doping infraction is alleged, the case must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. All practicable steps must be taken to avoid the identification of any person under investigation for any alleged infraction of the Code.

# Chapter I

## Article 1 Definitions

**‘Participant’** means any player, coach, trainer, official, advisor, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating players participating in or preparing for any Senior Intercounty Championship and National League games.

**‘Prohibited Substance’** and **‘Prohibited Method’** have the meanings set forth in **Appendix A** to this Code.

**‘I.O.C Classification’** means as set forth by the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code of the International Olympic Committee, as published from time to time.

**‘Positive Test Result’** means the result of a test on a sample provided by a player pursuant to this Code, which reveals the presence of a substance or use of a method prohibited under this Code.

**‘GAA Administrative Officer’** means the person appointed as such by the GAA to oversee the implementation of the Anti-Doping programme, and shall include anyone duly authorised by him to act in his place at any particular venue.

**‘DCO’** means the person appointed by ISC to act as Doping Control Officer.

**Reference to:**

- (a) the singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular; and,
- (b) one gender includes the other gender.

**Article 2**

This Code applies to all participants competing in or concerned with Senior Football and Hurling Intercounty Championship and National League Games.

**Article 3**

Notwithstanding the obligations of other participants to comply with the provisions of this Code, it is the personal responsibility of every player, subject to the provisions of this Code, to ensure that he does not use any prohibited substance or any prohibited method.

It shall be a defence for any player to show that a duly qualified medical practitioner had prescribed the substance in question to alleviate a particular ailment and not so as to enhance playing performance.

## Chapter II

### Article I

1. Doping is prohibited.
2. Recommending or proposing or authorising or condoning or facilitating the use of any prohibited substance or prohibited method is also prohibited.

### Article 2

Doping is:  
the use of an expedient (substance or method) which is potentially harmful to a player's health and/or capable of enhancing his performance, or the presence in the player's body of a prohibited substance, or evidence of the use thereof, or evidence of the use of a prohibited method as described in the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code (refer **Appendix A**).



## **Chapter III**

### **Article 1**

The GAA, in cooperation with the ISC, will facilitate the carrying out of tests at any of its venues agreed with the ISC.

### **Article 2**

The GAA Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee (set up under this Code) shall accept the result of any test carried out by a laboratory currently accredited and authorised by the ISC for testing. The onus of proof, on the balance of probabilities, is on the person who claims the GAA Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Committee, as the case may be, should not accept the result. Any certificate, notice or form of the laboratory carrying out the testing shall, until the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence of the contents thereof.

A certificate purporting to be signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the ISC that a particular laboratory is an accredited laboratory shall be accepted, until the contrary is shown, that it is so accredited.

## **TESTING FOR DOPING**

### **Article 1**

Sampling and testing of players must be conducted substantially in conformity with the procedures

described in **Appendix B**. Minor irregularities, which cannot reasonably be considered to have affected the results of otherwise valid tests, will not invalidate such results.

## **Article 2**

Testing will consist of sample collection, separation of the sample into two parts and analysis thereof. If the test on the first part of the sample (the 'A' sample) does not indicate the presence of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method, the second part of the sample (the 'B' sample) will be disposed of and no further action will be taken.

If analysis to the 'A' sample indicates the presence of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method, the GAA will then inform the person who was tested of the test result and that it believes that an infraction may have been committed. The player will be asked for an explanation.

## **Article 3**

The player may request that the 'B' sample be tested. If no request for a test on the 'B' sample is received by the GAA within 14 days of notification of the person, the person shall be deemed to have accepted the result of the 'A' sample analysis.

If an analysis of the 'B' sample is requested, the person who was tested and the representative of

his choice are entitled to be present when the 'B' sample analysis is carried out. A representative of the GAA may also be present. The 'B' sample analysis result will be notified to the GAA, who will then inform the person who was tested.

### **INELIGIBILITY PENDING DETERMINATION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

A player shall be ineligible to play in any GAA competition from the date of the notification to him of a positive test result of the 'A' sample until there is a finding in his favour:

- (i) as a result of the analysis of the 'B' sample;
- (ii) by the Disciplinary Committee, or;
- (iii) by the Appeal Committee.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Article 1**

#### **Disciplinary Committee**

A panel of individuals shall be maintained who, from time to time, may be invited to form a Disciplinary Committee, which will hear cases where the ISC has provided evidence that a doping infraction has taken place. The Committee, three in number, shall comprise persons who are expert in medical, legal, and pharmacological matters relevant to Anti-Doping issues.

### **Article 2**

#### **Disciplinary Process**

The Disciplinary Committee hearing shall normally be convened within fourteen days of notification to the player of a positive test result, unless the player indicates that he wants the 'B' sample tested. If the test result of the 'B' sample confirms the original positive test result, the Disciplinary hearing will be conducted as soon as possible thereafter. In order to allow time for the Player to prepare his case, the hearing may be adjourned to seek further information at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee will have the power to receive written submissions as well as any other relevant information from the Player, (and/or Player's representatives), and the GAA Administrative Officer.

Following the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee will notify the Committee's decision in writing to the Player and the GAA Administrative Officer. The Disciplinary Committee shall provide written reasons for reaching its decision.

## **SANCTIONS**

### **Article 1**

Any person found to have committed a breach of the Code will be:

- (1) suspended from all functions, privileges and competitions under the GAA's control;
- (2) suspended from holding office with any Unit of the GAA for the period determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

### **Article 2**

The penalty for a breach of the Code is:

- (1) where the breach of the Code involves:
  - (a) prohibited anabolic agents;
  - (b) peptide and glycoprotein hormones and analogues;
  - (c) a prohibited method; or
  - (d) a refusal to provide a sample;

then:

- (i) a maximum of 48 weeks suspension for the first such breach of the Code; and

- (ii) a maximum of 96 weeks suspension for a second such breach of the Code.

In the case of any other breach of the Code the penalty is:

- (i) a caution; or,
- (ii) a maximum of 48 weeks suspension for the first such breach; and,
- (iii) a maximum of 96 weeks suspension for a second such breach.

### **Article 3**

In any hearing concerning:

- (1) a Positive Test Result for a substance prohibited under this Code; or,
- (2) the use of a method prohibited under this Code through the administration of substances, the Disciplinary Committee shall have regard for reasonable therapeutic activities undertaken at the prescription and direction of a duly qualified medical practitioner.

### **Article 4**

#### **Appeal Committee**

An independent Appeal Committee, comprising three in number, will hear any appeal against the Disciplinary Committee's decision. The membership will be drawn from the panel of individuals who are expert in the medical, legal,

and pharmacological issues involved and were not concerned with the Disciplinary Committee proceedings.

A party wishing to dispute the findings of the Disciplinary Committee shall by written notice state the grounds of appeal to the Appeal Committee.

The appeal shall be by way of re-hearing of all relevant evidence and material.

Following the hearing, the Appeal Committee will notify the Committee's decision in writing to the Player and the GAA Administrative Officer. The Appeal Committee shall provide written reasons for reaching its decision.

The Appeal Committee may reverse any finding and reduce the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Committee, but may not increase it.

Hearings of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee shall be conducted in accordance with natural and constitutional justice.

## **Chapter V**

### **Article 1**

1. These rules shall come into force on and may be amended by resolution of the Annual GAA Congress or Special Congress.
2. These rules are governed by the laws of Ireland.



**OLYMPIC MOVEMENT ANTI-DOPING CODE**

**PROHIBITED CLASSES OF SUBSTANCES AND  
PROHIBITED METHODS**

**1st April 2000**

**I. PROHIBITED CLASSES OF SUBSTANCES**

**A. Stimulants**

Prohibited substances in class (A) include the following examples:

**amineptine, amiphenazole, amphetamines, bromantan, caffeine\*, carphedon, cocaine, ephedrines\*\*, fencamfamin, formetero\*\*\*, mesocarb, pentetrazol, pipradrol, salbutamol\*\*\*, salmeterol\*\*\*, terbutaline\*\*\*, . . . and related substances.**

\* For caffeine the definition of a positive is a concentration in urine greater than 12 micrograms per millilitre.

\*\* For cathine, the definition of a positive is a concentration in urine greater than 5 micrograms per millilitre. For ephedrine and methylephedrine, the definition of a positive is a concentration in urine greater than 10 micrograms per millilitre. For

phenylpropanolamine and pseudoephedrine, the definition of a positive is a concentration in urine greater than 25 micrograms per millilitre.

\*\*\* Permitted by inhaler only to prevent and/or treat asthma and exercise-induced asthma.

Written notification of asthma and/or exercise-induced asthma by a respiratory or team physician is necessary to the relevant medical authority prior to competition. At the Olympic Games, athletes who request permission to inhale a permitted beta agonist will be assessed by an independent medical panel.

NOTE: All imidazole preparations are acceptable for topical use. Vasoconstrictors may be administered with local anaesthetic agents. Topical preparations (e.g. nasal, ophthalmological, rectal) of adrenaline and phenylephrine are permitted.

## **B. Narcotics**

Prohibited substances in class (B) include the following examples:

**buprenorphine, dextromoramide, diamorphine (heroin), methadone, morphine, pentazocine, pethidine, ... and related substances.**

NOTE: codeine, dextromethorphan, dextro-propoxyphene, dihydrocodeine, diphenoxylate, ethylmorphine, pholcodine, propoxyphene and tramadol are permitted.

### **C. Anabolic agents**

Prohibited substances in class (C) include the following examples:

#### 1. Anabolic androgenic steroids

**a.**

**clostebol, fluoxymesterone, metandienone, metenolone, nandrolone, 19-norandrostenediol, 19-norandrostenedione, oxandrolone, stanozolol, ... and related substances.**

**b.**

**androstenediol, androstenedione, dehydro-epiandrosterone (DHEA), dihydrotestosterone, testosterone\*, ... and related substances.**

Evidence obtained from metabolic profiles and/or isotopic ratio measurements may be used to draw definitive conclusions.

\* The presence of a testosterone (T) to epitestosterone (E) ratio greater than six (6) to one (1) in the urine of a competitor constitutes an offence unless there is evidence that this ratio is due to a physiological or pathological condition, e.g. low epitestosterone excretion, androgen producing tumour, enzyme deficiencies.

In the case of T/E greater than 6, it is mandatory that the relevant medical authority conducts an investigation before the sample is declared

positive. A full report will be written and will include a review of previous tests, subsequent tests and any results of endocrine investigations. In the event that previous tests are not available, the athlete should be tested unannounced at least once per month for three months. The results of these investigations should be included in the report. Failure to co-operate in the investigations will result in declaring the sample positive.

## 2. Beta-2 agonists

**bambuterol, clenbuterol, fenoterol, formoterol\*, reproterol, salbutamol\*, salmeterol\*, terbutaline\*, ... and related substances.**

\*Authorized by inhalation as described in Article (I.A.).

For salbutamol the definition of a positive under the anabolic agent category is a concentration in urine greater than 1000 nanograms per millilitre.

## **D. Diuretics**

Prohibited substances in class (D) include the following examples:

**acetazolamide, bumetanide, chlortalidone, etacrynic acid, furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide, mannitol\*, mersalyl, spironolactone, triamterene, ... and related substances.**

\* Prohibited by intravenous injection.

## **E. Peptide hormones, mimetics and analogues**

Prohibited substances in class (E) include the following examples and their analogues and mimetics:

1. **Chorionic Gonadotrophin** (hCG) prohibited in males only;
2. **Pituitary and synthetic gonadotrophins** (LH) prohibited in males only;
3. **Corticotrophins** (ACTH, tetracosactide);
4. **Growth hormone** (hGH);
5. **Insulin-like Growth Factor** (IGF-1);

and all the respective releasing factors and their analogues;

6. **Erythropoietin** (EPO);
7. **Insulin;**

permitted only to treat athletes with certified insulin-dependent diabetes. Written certification of insulin-dependent diabetes must be obtained from an endocrinologist or team physician.

The presence of an abnormal concentration of an endogenous hormone in class (E) or its diagnostic marker(s) in the urine of a competitor constitutes an offence unless it has been proven to be due to a physiological or pathological condition.

## **II. PROHIBITED METHODS**

The following procedures are prohibited:

1. Blood doping means the administration of blood, red blood cells and/or related blood products to an athlete, which may be preceded by withdrawal of blood from the athlete, who continues to train in such a blood-depleted state;
2. Administering artificial oxygen carriers or plasma expanders;
3. Pharmacological, chemical, and physical manipulation.

## **III. CLASSES OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **A. Alcohol**

Where the rules of a responsible authority so provide, tests will be conducted for ethanol.

### **B. Cannabinoids**

Where the rules of a responsible authority so provide, tests will be conducted for cannabinoids (e.g. Marijuana, Hashish). At the Olympic Games, tests will be conducted for cannabinoids.

A concentration in urine of 11-nor- $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid (carboxy-THC) greater than 15 nanograms per millilitre constitutes doping.

### **C. Local anaesthetics**

Injectable local anaesthetics are permitted under the following conditions:

- a. bupivacaine, lidocaine, mepivacaine, procaine, and related substances, can be used but not cocaine. Vasoconstrictor agents may be used in conjunction with local anaesthetics;
- b. only local or intra-articular injections may be administered;
- c. only when medically justified.

Where the rules of a responsible authority so provide, notification of administration may be necessary.

#### **D. Glucocorticosteroids**

The systemic use of glucocorticosteroids is prohibited when administered orally, rectally, or by intravenous or intramuscular injection. When medically necessary, local and intra-articular injections of glucocorticosteroids are permitted.

Where the rules of a responsible medical authority so provide, notification of administration may be necessary.

#### **E. Beta-blockers**

Prohibited substances in class (E) include the following examples:

**acebutolol, alprenolol, atenolol, labetalol, metoprolol, nadolol, oxprenolol, propranolol, sotalol, and related substances.**

Where the rules of a responsible authority so provide, tests will be conducted for beta-blockers.

### **SUMMARY OF URINARY CONCENTRATIONS ABOVE WHICH IOC ACCREDITED LABORATORIES MUST REPORT FINDINGS FOR SPECIFIC SUBSTANCES**

caffeine > 12 micrograms/millilitre

carboxy-THC > 15 nanograms/millilitre

cathine > 5 micrograms / millilitre

ephedrine > 10 micrograms / millilitre

epitestosterone > 200 nanograms / millilitre

methylephedrine > 10 micrograms / millilitre

morphine > 1 microgram / millilitre

19-norandrosterone > 2 nanograms /millilitre in males

19-norandrosterone > 5 nanograms/millilitre in females

phenylpropanolamine > 25 micrograms / millilitre

pseudoephedrine > 25 micrograms / millilitre

salbutamol

(as stimulant) > 100 nanograms/millilitre

(as anabolic agent) >1000 nanograms/millilitre

T/E ratio > 6

### **IV. OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING**

Unless specifically requested by the responsible authority, out-of-competition testing is directed solely at prohibited substances in class I.C.

(Anabolic Agents), I.D. (Diuretics), I.E. (Peptide Hormones, Mimetics and Analogues), and II (Prohibited Methods).



## **LIST OF EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

**CAUTION:** This is not an exhaustive list of prohibited substances. Many substances that do not appear on this list are considered prohibited under the term 'and related substances'.

Athletes must ensure that any medicine, supplement, over-the-counter preparation or any other substance they use does not contain any Prohibited Substance.

### STIMULANTS:

**amineptine, amfepramone, amiphenazole, amphetamine, bambuterol, bromantan, bupropion, caffeine, carphedon, cathine, cocaine, cropropamide, crotethamide, ephedrine, etamivan, etilamphetamine, etilefrine, fencamfamin, fenetylline, fenfluramine, formoterol, heptaminol, mefenorex, mephentermine, mesocarb, methamphetamine, methoxyphenamine, methylenedioxyamphetamine, methylephedrine, methylphenidate, nikethamide, norfenfluramine, parahydroxyamphetamine, pemoline, pentetrazol, phendimetrazine, phentermine, phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine, pholedrine, pipradrol, prolintane, propylhexedrine, pseudoephedrine, reproterol, salbutamol, salmeterol, selegiline, strychnine, terbutaline,**

### NARCOTICS:

**buprenorphine, dextromoramide, diamorphine (heroin), hydrocodone, methadone, morphine, pentazocine, pethidine,**

### ANABOLIC AGENTS :

androstenediol, androstenedione, bambuterol, boldenone, clenbuterol, clostebol, danazol, dehydrochlormethyltestosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), dihydrotestosterone, drostanolone, fenoterol, fluoxymesterone, formebolone, formoterol, gestrinone, mesterolone, metandienone, metenolone, methandriol, methyltestosterone, mibolerone, nandrolone, 19-norandrostenediol, 19-norandrostenedione, norethandrolone, oxandrolone, oxymesterone, oxymetholone, reproterol, salbutamol, salmeterol, stanozolol, terbutaline, testosterone, trenbolone,

### DIURETICS

acetazolamide, bendroflumethiazide, bumetanide, canrenone, chlortalidone, ethacrynic acid, furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide, indapamide, mannitol (by intravenous injection), mersalyl, spironolactone, triamterene,

### MASKING AGENTS

bromantan, diuretics (see above), epitestosterone, probenecid,

### PEPTIDE HORMONES, MIMETICS AND ANALOGUES

ACTH, erythropoietin (EPO), hCG\*, hGH, insulin, LH\*, clomiphene\*, cyclofenil\*, tamoxifen\*, aromatase inhibitors.

\* prohibited in males only

## BETA BLOCKERS

acebutolol, alprenolol, atenolol, betaxolol,  
bisoprolol, bunolol, carteolol, celiprolol, esmolol,  
labetalol, levobunolol, metipranolol, metoprolol,  
nadolol, oxprenolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol,  
timolol.

### **SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

#### **1. Notification of Selection for Testing**

At any particular venue specified by the ISC, players will be notified in writing that they have been selected for testing by means of an official Sample Collection Form.

#### **2. Reporting for Testing**

The player must report to the Doping Control Station as quickly as possible. However, where a player is required

- (i) to receive medical attention;
- (ii) to attend a presentation ceremony;
- (iii) to fulfil media engagements; or,
- (iv) to perform a warm down;

he shall be allowed a reasonable time for any such eventuality, provided that he presents himself at the Doping Control Station not later than ninety minutes from the conclusion of the game. A player who fails to arrive at the Sampling Room within the specified period, or refuses to provide a sample shall be deemed to be in breach of the Anti-Doping Code.

A representative may accompany the player at the testing session.

Sealed drinks will be available at the Doping Control Station.

- 3. Selecting a Collection Vessel**

When the player is ready to provide a sample, the player will be asked to select a sealed sample collection vessel and go to the toilet area with the Doping Control Officer (DCO).
- 4. Providing a Sample**

The player must ensure that the collection vessel remains in the sight of the DCO while the sample is being provided. In order for the DCO to have an unobstructed view, the player will be required to be undressed from mid-waist to mid-thigh. When the required amount of urine has been provided (min. 75ml) the player must return to the Doping Control Station administration room with the DCO. Only the player should handle the sample.
- 5. Selecting a Sampling Kit**

The player will be asked to select a sampling kit, and ensure that the seal is intact.
- 6. Dividing the Sample**

Using the sampling kit, the player will divide his sample between the 'A' & 'B' sample bottles, putting a minimum of 30ml into the 'B' bottle and the remainder in the 'A' bottle. A few drops of urine should be left in the collection vessel, to allow the DCO to assess the suitability of the sample for testing.
- 7. Sealing the Sample**

The player will be invited to seal the two bottles, and ensure there is no leakage.

**8. Testing the Suitability of the Sample**

The PH and the Specific Gravity of the sample will be tested by the DCO. The reading is recorded on the Sample Collection Form. If the readings are below those recommended the player will be asked to provide another sample.

**9. Recording the Information**

The DCO records the 'A' & 'B' sample numbers on the Sample Collection Form. The player should check that this is correct and declare any medication they have taken during the past seven days. The player may also record any comments that he may have on the testing session.

**10. Certifying the Information**

The DCO will then ask the player and the player's representative (if any) to check the information on the form and sign it, if the player is satisfied that it is accurate. The DCO will also check and sign the form. The player will be given a copy of the form, and the player will then be free to leave the Doping Control Station.

**11. Selection of Players for Testing**

**11.1** The random draw for the selection of players to be tested shall be made no later than the start of the second half of the game.

- 11.2** The DCO shall provide a set of balls numbered one to the number corresponding to the total number of players and stand-by players participating. The balls shall be contained as to ensure that the numbers thereon are not visible to the person making the draw.
- 11.3** The first two numbered balls drawn shall determine the players from each team to be tested. The third numbered ball drawn will determine the stand-by player to be tested in the event of one of the selected players being injured.
- 11.4** An official of the GAA shall supervise the draw for the selection of players for testing. Whenever possible, an independent third party, for example, a match official, shall make the random selection, and one representative from any team involved may attend.

## **DR. CROKE'S LETTER**

At the founding of the Association the following letter was received from the Most Rev. T. W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly: -  
The Palace, Thurles,  
December 18th, 1884

My Dear Sir - I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication inviting me to become a patron of the Celtic Athletic Association, of which you are it appears, the Hon. Secretary. I accede to your request with the utmost pleasure.

One of the most painful, let me assure you, and at the same time, one of the most frequently recurring, reflections that, as an Irishman, I am compelled to make in connection with the present aspect of things in this country, is derived from the ugly and irritating fact, that we are daily importing from England, not only her manufactured goods, which we cannot help doing, since she has practically strangled our own manufacturing appliances, but, together with her fashions, her accents, her vicious literature, her music, her dances and her manifold mannerisms, her games also, and her pastimes, to the utter discredit of our own grand national sports, and to the sore humiliation, as I believe, of every genuine son and daughter of the old land.

Ball-playing, hurling, football-kicking according to Irish rules, 'casting,' leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top-pegging, leap-frog, rounders, tip-in-the hat, and all such favourite exercises and amusements amongst men and boys may now be said to be not only dead and buried, but in several



localities to be entirely forgotten and unknown. And what have we got in their stead? We have got such foreign and fantastic field sports as lawn tennis, polo, croquet, cricket, and the like - very excellent, I believe, and health-giving exercises in their way, still not racy of the soil, but rather alien, on the contrary, to it, as are indeed, for the most part, the men and women who first imported, and still continue to patronise them.

And, unfortunately, it is not our national sports alone that are held in dishonour and are dying out, but even our most suggestive national celebrations are being gradually effaced and extinguished, one after another as well. Who hears now of snap-apple night, pan-cake night, or bon-fire night? They are all things of the past, too vulgar to be spoken of except in ridicule by the degenerate dandies of the day. No doubt, there is something rather pleasing to the eye in the get-up of a modern man, who arrayed in light attire, with parti-coloured cap on and a racquet in hand, making his way, with or without a companion, to the tennis ground. But for my part, I should vastly prefer to behold, or think of, the youthful athletes whom I used to see in my early days at fair and pattern, bereft of shoes and coat, and thus prepared to play at handball, to fly over any number of horses, to throw the 'sledge', or 'winding-stone', and to test each other's metal and activity by the trying ordeal of 'three leaps', or a 'hop, step and jump'.

Indeed if we continue travelling for the next score years in the same direction that we have been going in for some time past, condemning the sports that were practised by our forefathers, effacing our national features as though we were ashamed of them, and

putting on, with England's stuffs and broadcloths, her masher habits and such other effeminate follies as she may recommend, we had better at once, and publicly, abjure our nationality, clap hands for joy at sight of the Union Jack, and place 'England's bloody red' exultantly above the green.

Deprecating as I do any such dire and disgraceful consummation, and seeing in your society of athletes something altogether opposing to it, I shall be happy to do all for it that I can, and authorise you now formally to place my name on the roll of your patrons.

In conclusion, I earnestly hope that our national journals will not disdain in future to give suitable notices of these Irish sports and pastimes which your Society means to patronise and promote, and that the masters and pupils of our Irish Colleges will not henceforth exclude from their athletic programmes such manly exercises as I have just referred to and commemorated.

I remain, my dear Sir,  
Your very faithful servant,  
T. W. CROKE,  
Archbishop of Cashel.

To: Mr. Michael Cusack.  
Hon. Sec. of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

**MICHAEL CUSACK: MAURICE DAVIN:  
ARCHBISHOP CROKE**

It is no injustice to the services rendered by many zealous and constructive persons connected with the establishment of the Gaelic Athletic Association to accord to Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin and Archbishop Croke the greater share of credit for the creation and character of this National Organisation. Each in his own person embodied and imparted to the movement a distinct principle, and the triple union of aims and impulses thus attained constituted a potent National Ideal.

MICHAEL CUSACK conceived in the Association a powerful bulwark against the inroads of alien influences and ideas of existence. He was the uncompromising champion of all distinctive Gaelic traditions, institutions and cultural possessions and fashioned the G.A.A. as a future army of resurgent Gaeldom. He was born in Carron, Burren, Co. Clare, on the 20th September, 1847, and died 27th November, 1906.

MAURICE DAVIN had the same pride in native customs that fostered manliness. His concern was to preserve the dignity and vindicate the prestige of native athleticism and rescue it from humiliating alien influences. As one of an outstanding family of athletes, he resented these, and no one was better fitted to lead the revolt against them. For this, and because of his personal prowess in the arena, Maurice Davin may justly be acknowledged as the "Father of Modern Irish Athletics". He was born in Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, 29th June, 1842, and died on 26th January, 1927.

DR. CROKE brought a third and immeasurably powerful element of strength into the Association when he became its first Patron. As Archbishop of Cashel, his approval was of the utmost importance. It was opportunely forthcoming, and until the day of his death his interest in the well-being and success of the G.A.A. never diminished. When it was threatened with disruption he brought the dissident parties together: when it was assailed he defended it: when it was in need of practical help, he gave it. A lover of all manly outdoor sports belonging to the people, Dr. Croke realised the immense moral benefits to be gained by organisation and discipline, and as an advocate of national independence, he saw in those self-disciplined ranks an invaluable force for the attainment of that long-sought goal. He was born in Mallow, Co. Cork, on 19th May, 1824, and died on 22nd July, 1902.

So long as the Gaelic Athletic Association exists and so long as our distinctive pastimes flourish in our midst, the memory and services of these three men, Pioneer, President and Patron, to the cause of a Free and Gaelic Ireland must be held in grateful respect.

**GENERAL SECRETARIES/DIRECTORS  
GENERAL OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Micheál Cíosóg (An Clár) . . . . .          | 1884-1885 |
| John McKay, Corcaigh . . . . .              | 1884-1885 |
| John Wyse-Power, Cill Dara . . . . .        | 1884-1887 |
| J. B. O'Reilly, Baile Átha Cliath . . . . . | 1885-1887 |
| Timothy O'Riordan, Corcaigh . . . . .       | 1885-1889 |
| James Moore, An Lú . . . . .                | 1887-1888 |
| William Prendergast, Tiobraid Árann . . .   | 1888-1889 |
| P. R. Cleary, Luimneach . . . . .           | 1889-1890 |
| Maurice Moynihan, Ciarraí . . . . .         | 1890-1892 |
| Patrick Tobin, Baile Átha Cliath . . . . .  | 1891-1894 |
| David Walsh, Corcaigh . . . . .             | 1894-1895 |
| Richard T. C. Blake, An Mhí . . . . .       | 1895-1898 |
| Frank B. Dineen, Luimneach . . . . .        | 1898-1901 |
| Luke J. O'Toole, Baile Átha Cliath . . . .  | 1901-1929 |
| Padraig S. Ó Caoimh, Corcaigh . . . . .     | 1929-1964 |
| Seán Ó Síocháin, Corcaigh . . . . .         | 1964-1979 |
| (Director General)                          |           |
| Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, An Longfort . . . .     | 1979-     |
| (Director General)                          |           |

**PRESIDENTS OF THE  
GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

- 1884 - Muiris Ó Daimhín (Tiobraid Árann)  
1887 - Eamonn Binéid (An Clár)  
1888 - Muiris Ó Daimhín (Tiobraid Árann)  
1889 - Peadar S. Ó Ceallaigh (Gaillimh)  
1895 - Proinsias B. Ó Duinnín (Luimneach)  
1898 - Micheál Díring (Corcaigh)  
1901 - Séamus Ó Nualláin (Cill Chainnigh)  
1921 - Dónal Mac Carthaigh (Baile Átha Cliath)  
1924 - Pádraig D. Ó Braoin (Loch Garman)  
1929 - Liam P. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)  
1928 - Seán Ó Riain (Baile Átha Cliath)  
1932 - Seán Mac Carthaigh (Corcaigh)  
1935 - Riobaird Ó Caoimh (Laois)  
1938 - Pádraig Mac Con Midhe (Aontroim)  
1943 - Séamus Gáirnéar (Tiobraid Árann)  
1946 - Dónal Ó Ruairc (Ros Comáin)  
1949 - Micheál Mac Eochaidh (Loch Garman)  
1952 - Micheál U. Ó Donochadha (Port Láirge)  
1955 - Séamus Mac Fearáin (Aontroim)  
1958 - An Dr. S. S. Stiobhairt (Baile Átha Cliath)  
1961 - Aodh Ó Bróin (Cill Mhantáin)  
1964 - Alf Ó Muirí (Ard Mhacha)  
1967 - Séamus Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann)  
1970 - Pádraig Ó Fainín (Port Láirge)  
1973 - An Dr. Dónal Ó Cianáin (Ros Comáin)  
1976 - Conchúr Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)  
1979 - Pádraig Mac Floinn (An Dún)  
1982 - Pádraig Ó Bogaigh (Cill Chainnigh)  
1985 - An Dr. Micheál Ó Lochlainn (Maigh Eo)  
1988 - Seán Ó Dubhlainn (Uibh Fhailí)  
1991 - Peadar Ó Cuinn (Fear Manach)  
1994 - Seán Boothman (Cill Mhantáin)  
1997 - Seosamh Mac Donncha (Gaillimh)  
2000 - Seán Mac Thaidhg (Muineacháin)  
2003 - Seán Ó Ceallaigh (Ciarraí)

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