

# **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/Jurisdiction**

The Association is a democratic organisation comprising the following units:

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

Members of the Association shall, by virtue of their membership, be subject to the jurisdiction of the Association's Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations, which shall govern the relationship between the various units, between members, and between members and units.

Members and units shall be bound to resolve any and all disputes that arise, within the framework of the existing procedures, the Appeals System, and the Dispute Resolution Provisions as set out in these Rules.

Members shall not resort to court proceedings in disregard of these procedures, the Appeal System and the Dispute Resolution provisions.

## **7 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.

## **8 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.

## **9 (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 allegations 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.

## **10** 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, subject to Rule 99(d).
- (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 16 and younger grade competitions, the authorised official in charge of the team as per Rule 98, 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 151(b) to have a non-compliant (with this Rule 10) 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.

## **11** 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.

## **12 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.

## **13 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.

## **14** Anti-Doping

The Association forbids the use of prohibited substances or methods, a Practice generally known as doping in sport. The Rules of the Association regarding doping are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as adopted by the Irish Sports Council and as amended from time to time. The Rules contained in the said Irish Anti-Doping Rules shall have effect and be construed as Rules of the Association.

Central Council shall establish a committee known as the Anti-Doping Hearings Committee.

Pursuant to an agreement made between Central Council and the Irish Sports Council, for the purposes of this Rule and the Irish Anti-Doping Rules, all references to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel in the Irish Anti-Doping Rules shall be construed as referring to the Anti-Doping Hearings Committee.

Central Council shall establish a Committee known as the Doping Control Committee and shall designate to it such functions of the Association in relation to the prevention of doping in the games of the Association as it deems suitable.



**15 National Flag**

The National Flag should be displayed at all matches. Where the National Anthem precedes a game, teams must stand to attention facing the Flag in a respectful manner.

**Penalty:** €500.

**16 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.

## **17 MEMBERSHIP**

### **Membership**

- (a) There shall be two types of Membership of the Association: -
  - (i) Full Membership, for persons who have reached the age of eighteen years.
  - (ii) Youth Membership, for persons who have not reached the age of eighteen years.
- (b) Membership of the Association shall be granted only by a Club, to persons who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Gaelic Athletic Association, as stated in the Official Guide.
- (c) A person becomes a Full or Youth Member of the Association when he is approved as a Full or Youth Member respectively of a Club. Once granted, Full Membership of the Association shall continue for life, and Youth Membership shall continue until the member's eighteenth birthday unless the member resigns in writing, or is expelled in accordance with the Official Guide.
- (d) The rights of a Member of the Association shall be conditional upon the member complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Association and Club, including payment of any Annual Membership Fees and Levies. Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with the Rules of the Association and Club.

Subject to the foregoing, only Registered Full Members shall be entitled to vote at Club Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) The Rules and Regulations governing application for Membership shall be set out in the Official Club Constitution.

## **18 Registration of Members**

- (a) Before the 1st March, a Club Registrar shall submit to the County Secretary or other designated Officer, a list in triplicate, in the Irish Language, of Full Members. This list shall include the full name and address of each Full Member. Before 1st April, the County Secretary shall forward one copy of the list of Full

Members of each affiliated Club to Central Council. A copy of a Club's Registration of Full Members shall be returned by the County Secretary or other designated Officer to the Club Registrar, and a copy shall be furnished to the Divisional Secretary, where applicable.

- (b) Before the 1st March, the Club Registrar shall submit to the County Secretary or other designated Officer, a list in triplicate, in the Irish Language, of Youth Members. This list shall include the full name, address, and date of birth, of each Youth Member. A copy of a Club's Registration of Youth Members shall be returned to the Club Registrar, and a copy furnished to the Divisional Secretary, where applicable.
- (c) Before 1st March in each year subsequent to the initial year, a Club shall submit amendments to the list of Full Members and Youth Members. Such amendments shall include additions or deletions from the list of the previous year.  
Procedures governing such amendments shall be as outlined in (a) and (b) above.
- (d) Clubs shall submit, through the County Secretary, an annual fee of €2 for every Full Member.
- (e) Each member shall be allocated a Registration Number by the Central Council.

## **19** Registration of Players

- (a) A Club Registrar shall submit annually to the County Secretary or other designated Officer, separate Registers in triplicate, in the Irish Language, of the Club's Adult, Under 21 and Minor players. A Player's Name, Address, and Registration Number shall be given in all cases, and in the case of an Under 21 and Minor Player, his Date and Place of Birth.  
Subject to Membership requirements being complied with, a player need only be included in one of the three Players Registers, as appropriate to his age - Adult, Under 21 or Minor.
- (b) A copy of a Club's Registration of Players 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.

- (c) Additional Registrations may be made subsequently. A player must be registered at least three days before a game.
- (d) A Register of Players shall be available for inspection to the Secretary of any Unit, upon demand in writing.

**Penalty:** The Penalty for playing a non registered player shall be:-

On a proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

## **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 set out in Appendix 2 to these Rules, shall govern the affairs of all Clubs. Each Club shall adopt the appropriate form of the Official Club Constitution.

Amendments or additions must be passed at a Club Annual General Meeting, and be submitted in writing to, and be approved by the County Committee.

**27 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.

**28 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.

Any decision to Wind Up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.

**29 Amalgamation of Clubs**

A resolution to amalgamate two or more Clubs shall be passed only at General Meetings of the Clubs concerned, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported at each of the respective meetings by not less

than three quarters of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

Upon such amalgamation, all property, assets and liabilities of the Clubs involved shall be transferred to and vested in the Amalgamated Club.

The players of the Clubs involved shall be deemed to be players of the Amalgamated Club.

Any decision to amalgamate clubs shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.

**30** **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.

## PLAYING ELIGIBILITY/TRANSFERS/DECLARATIONS

### **31** Transfers and Declarations - Association's Ethos

As the Gaelic Athletic Association is community centred, based on the allegiance of its members to their local Clubs and Counties, the Transfer and Declaration Rules in this Official Guide and in County Bye-Laws reflect that ethos. A player is considered to owe allegiance and loyalty to his Home Club and County, as defined in these Rules.

### **32** Playing Membership Requirements

- (a) A player must be a registered Full Member or Youth Member of the Association.
- (b) A player may not be a member of a Club for which he is ineligible to play.

### **33** 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 his birth) *or*
- (b) The County in which a player first legally participated in Club Competition (Under-12 Grade or over) organised by the County Committee or one of its Sub-Committees, subject to that participation being at an age not more than two years younger than the designated age level of the Competition *or*
- (c) 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 36, 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 (Within County)**

Home Club within the County shall mean the Club with which a player first legally participated in Club competition (under 12 or over), organised by the County Committee or one of its Sub-committees, subject to that participation being at an age not more than two years younger than the designated age level of the competition.

**Home Club (External)**

For a Player permanently residing outside his Home County, Home Club shall mean:

- (a) the Club with which a player first legally participated in Club competition (under 12 or over), organised by the County Committee or one of its Sub-committees, subject to that participation being at an age not more than two years younger than the designated age level of the competition.
- (b) The Club, (or its successor) of which he was a playing member immediately prior to leaving his Home County.
- (c) The Club in the player's native parish.
- (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 35, 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 his birth.

**34**

### **Playing Restrictions (Club)**

- (a) A Player may not play in any Championship with two Clubs in a given year's Championship, either within a County or in different Counties save as provided in Exceptions below and in Rule 43.
- (b) A Player may not play with two Clubs in the exact same Competition of a given year.

### **Exceptions**

- (1) A player of an exclusively Hurling Club may play football with an exclusively Football Club, and vice versa, within a County.
- (2) A player of a Club without a Minor/ Under 21 team, subject to County Bye-Laws, may play with an Independent Minor /Under 21 team, within the County which shall not bear the name of an adult Club within that County.
- (3) Subject to the Higher Education Council's Rules of Eligibility, a Student of a Higher Education College, pursuing a fulltime Undergraduate or Postgraduate Course, may from the Championship Year after his enrolment in the College up to and inclusive of the Championship Year of his Graduation-
  - (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.

- Notes:**
- (1) A “College Club” for the purpose of this Rule shall mean a Club Affiliated to, and under the jurisdiction of a County Committee (A “College Club” shall otherwise mean a Club Affiliated to, and under the jurisdiction of the Higher Education Council).
  - (2) A Student may avail of this Rule to play for only one College in any Championship Year. **(N.B.** Changes to Section (c) O.G. 2006, made at Congress 2006 and provided for in **Exception (3)** above, are not to come into effect until 1/1/’07)
  - (4) A player who has received an Authorisation under Rule 43 (a) or a Sanction under Rule 43 (b).
  - (5) A Player who Transfers to another Club within a County and who has already played in a Championship in that given year with his former Club, may play with his new Club in Non-Championship Competition(s), provided that he has not played with his former Club in the exact same Competition(s)
  - (6) A Player who Transfers to another Club in a different County, and has already played in a Championship in that given year with his former Club, may play with his new Club in Non-Championship Competition(s).
  - (7) A Player who Transfers to another Club or who Declares for his Home Club and who has already played for his former Club in a particular Competition, may finish that Competition and play for his new Club or Home Club, subject to provisions of Sections (5) and (6) above.

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

**Penalties:**

**Player-** Within a County - 12 weeks suspension; In two different Counties - 48 weeks suspension

**Team -** On a proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**Club Chairperson and Secretary –**

Within County - 12 weeks suspension;

Playing of a Player who has played in a Championship in another County in the same Championship Year - 48 weeks suspension.

**35 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 33, 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 34 (c) or 43 (a) or (b). 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 34, Exceptions (3). 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.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - 48 weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

- On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**Chairperson and Secretary** - 48 weeks Suspension.

**36 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 33, 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 41. In the absence of this 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 34 Exception (3) or an Authorisation or Sanction under Rule 43(a) or (b).

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.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - 48 weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

- On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**Chairperson and Secretary** - 48 weeks Suspension.

**37 Eligibility for Weaker Hurling Counties**

For Senior Inter County Hurling Competitions, a player, subject to the conditions hereunder, shall be entitled to -

- (a) Declare for the County of birth of a parent or
- (b) Play for the County of Residence, provided this County is a designated County as provided for in Condition (1) below, while continuing to be eligible to play with his Home Club.

The following Conditions shall apply -

- (1) The County availing of this Rule is not participating in the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Liam McCarthy Cup) or is otherwise permitted by Central Council to avail of this Rule.
- (2) A County availing of this Rule may have a maximum of five such players sanctioned in any Championship Year.
- (3) The permission of a Player's Home County must be obtained.
- (4) A Player may avail of this Rule for only one County, and may not declare for a Home County for Football.
- (5) If a clash of Championship Fixtures arises between that of a Player's Home Club and that of the County availing of this Rule, the player shall play with his Home Club.
- (6) Permission to avail of this Rule shall be for one Championship Year at a time, and application must be made annually for renewal of permission.  
The closing date of Applications each year shall be the 31st March.

**38 Transfers Within County**

- (a) A County shall have a Bye Law governing the transfer of players from one Club to another within the County.
- (b) A County Bye Law may confine membership of a Club to a Catchment Area, which may be a Parish. A Parish for the purpose of this Rule shall, subject to County boundaries, be the district under the jurisdiction of a Parish Priest or Administrator.  
A Catchment Area shall be fundamentally based on permanent residence of players, subject to a player being entitled to play with his Home Club.  
Permanent Residence shall be defined in County Bye

Law.

A County shall also have the option, within County Bye Law, to allow a player to play with a Club in the area in which he works.

- (c) A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another in the same County must apply to the County Committee for a transfer.
- (d) A County Committee has the right, acting within its Bye-Law, to grant or not to grant an application for Transfer.
- (e) A County Committee may delegate to a Sub-Committee the authority to deal with applications for Transfer, but a County Committee shall retain the right to make final adjudication on an application.

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

### **39 Inter-County Transfers**

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 35.

Residence in a County for the purpose of attending a Second Level School or a Higher Education College, shall not qualify as a permanent residence for the purposes of this Rule.

#### **Penalties:**

**Player** - 48 weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

- On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**Chairperson and Secretary** - 48 weeks Suspension.

### **40 Transfers General**

- (a) A Transfer becomes effective on being granted by the appropriate Committee, subject to Rule 19 being complied with.
- (b) In the case of an Inter County Transfer, an application shall be granted if there is no objection from the

County the player is leaving within ten days of the forwarding of the application to the County by the Central Council or Provincial Council, as appropriate.

The decision on the application shall, at the latest on the expiry of the ten days, be conveyed in writing to the relevant County Committee.

In the event of dispute, the applicant shall have the right to have his case determined by the Games Administration Committee of the Central Council or of the Provincial Council, as appropriate.

(c) A player who transfers from one County to another County, and subsequently within two years transfers back to the former County, shall rejoin the Club of which he was a member prior to the initial transfer.

**41**

(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

**Penalties:**

**Player** - 48 weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

- On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**42**

(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.



### **43** Playing in U.S.A./Canada/Australia

- (a) A weekend Authorisation is required by any player intending to assist a Club in a game under the jurisdiction of the New York Board. The Official Authorisation, in duplicate, requires the signature of the player's home Club Secretary, the County Secretary and must be presented for signature by the Director General (or other designated person) in Croke Park before 4 p.m. on the Wednesday before the game.

An Authorisation is valid for one weekend only other than where there is a replay of the game for which the Authorisation was granted. The maximum number of authorised players to assist a Club in any weekend shall be two in Football and three in Hurling

- (b) (i) A player intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by one of the following Boards - the New York Board, the North American County Board, the Canadian Board or the Australian Board - must obtain an Official Sanction in duplicate, signed by his Club Secretary, the County Secretary and the Director General (or other designated person).

Such a Sanction shall entitle the player to play with a Club in one of these areas from the 1st March to the end of October in any one year. A Sanction shall not be granted after 20th July.

**Exceptions** - Congress 2006 decided that in the cases of the North American Board and Canadian Board areas a Sanction shall be from the 1st March to the 30th September, a Sanction to play in the North American Board area shall not be granted after June 1st in any year, and a Sanction to play in the Canadian Board area shall not be granted after the 20th June in any year.

- (ii) A player who has received a Sanction shall not be eligible to play again with his Club in Ireland for the 60 days after the date of approval of his Sanction in Croke Park.
- (iii) Other than in exceptional circumstances, to be

defined by Central Council, a Sanctioned player who returns to Ireland may not subsequently return to resume playing in America or Canada in the same year.

(iv) The number of Sanctioned Players permitted for any Club in the North American County Board or Canadian Board Areas shall be as follows: -

- A Club with one team - a maximum of ten
- A Club with a second team - a further eight
- A Club with a third team - a further six

In the case of New York, the maximum number of Sanctioned Players per team shall be six.

(v) All Sanctioned players shall have the same status regardless of when they travel.

(vi) A player who has received a Sanction may not, in the same year, transfer to a Club in Britain or Europe.

(vii) A player may receive only one Sanction in any Calendar Year

(c) (i) A player who remains in the North American County Board or Canadian Board areas shall require an Inter-County transfer to be eligible to play there in competitions of the following year(s).

(ii) In the case of a player moving permanently to the area under the jurisdiction of the New York Board, a transfer shall be necessary. A player shall be considered to have moved permanently after he has been a minimum of four weeks in the new jurisdiction.

**Penalty:** For infringement of this Rule - 24 weeks suspension.

## CONTROL OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

### 44 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.

(**Note:** Central Council shall have the power to authorise the use of Croke Park for games, other than those controlled by the Association, during a temporary period when Lansdowne Road Football Ground is closed for the proposed development.

Congress has approved that Rules 3, 4, 5, 44, 46, 47, 76(f) and 147(a) shall allow for this for a temporary period, at the end of which all these Rules stated shall revert to their pre-Congress 2005 position.)

### 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**

### **Vesting**

- (a) All property owned by units of the Association shall be vested in a number of Full Members 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 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) Property owned by a Club shall be vested in five Trustees three of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of the Club, one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant County Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant Provincial Council.
- (c) Property owned by a County Committee, or that owned by a combination of units under the control of a County Committee, shall be vested in three Trustees, one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of the County Committee, one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf the the relevant Provincial Council and one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of Central Council.
- (d) Property owned by a Provincial Council shall be vested in three Trustees, two of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of the Provincial Council and one of whom shall be appointed for and on behalf of Central Council.
- (e) Property owned by the Central Council shall be vested in three Trustees who shall be appointed for and on behalf of Central Council.
- (f) By way of acceptance of their appointment the Trustees of Real Property shall sign a Declaration of Trust, as approved by Central Council, which shall contain the provisions for appointment, removal and replacement of Trustees, as well as regulating the

conduct of the Trustees in performing their duties and exercising their powers under the Trust.

- (g) Each unit and the Association 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 powers or duties.

**47** **Penalty**

In the event of any Club, County Committee, or Provincial Council acting contrary to Rules 44 or 46, that body shall be subject to automatic suspension, which can be removed only by the County Committee or higher Council concerned.

**48** **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

### **49** 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.

### **50** 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\*.

(\***Note:** Applicable from County Conventions 2002 for Year 2003).

**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.

**51 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.

**52 Nominations**

A candidate for any of the positions outlined in Rule 50 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.

**53 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.

**54 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.

**55 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.

**56 Forwarding of Motions**

Except as provided in Rule 59(1), 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.

**57 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

### **58** 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 Post-Primary 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.

### **59** 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. This shall include the power to approve or disapprove the Winding-up of a Club or the Amalgamation of Clubs.
- (b) To manage County hurling and football competitions, subject to the provisions in Rule 71 (j)
- (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 appoint a County Safety Officer.
- (j) To make the necessary appointments agreed in Central Council's policies and procedures for the protection of children.
- (k) To make the necessary appointments relevant to the implementation of the Anti-Doping Code.
- (l) To submit one motion to the Annual Congress.

#### **60 Additional Powers**

The County Committee shall also have the following powers:

- (a) 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.
- (b) To allow Junior and Intermediate players to play for Divisional or Group Senior teams, without losing their status.
- (c) To allow Minor and/or Under 21 players of Clubs unable to field Minor/or Under 21 teams to play on an Independent Team.

#### **61 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.  
It shall also, in conjunction with the Provincial Council, be responsible for the training of Club Officers.
- (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.**

## **62 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 Sub-committees, 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.

## **63 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.

## **64 Loss of Rights**

A County failing to compete in either the Senior, Intermediate 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.

## **PROVINCIAL CONVENTION**

### **65 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.

### **66 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.

### **67 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.

**68** **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.

**69** **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

### **70 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 Higher Education Council, the Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council, and the Provincial Primary Schools' Committee, shall each have one Representative, without voting rights, on a Council. A Representative on the Council shall not hold office for more than five consecutive years.\*

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 - Applicable from Provincial Conventions 2005)

### **71 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.  
This shall include consideration of Regrading Applications for participation in the Provincial Intermediate and Junior Club Championships.
- (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 consider applications by Counties for the regrading of more than one Club to Intermediate or to Junior status in any Championship year. Prior approval of the Provincial Council must be obtained for any such regradings in excess of one Club in each grade.
- (j) 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.
- (k) To publish an Annual Report on the state of the Games and on Games Development in the counties under its jurisdiction.
- (l) To approve physical developments by Clubs, and to recommend County Grounds Development to Central Council.

## 72

### 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.  
It shall also be responsible for the training of County and Club Officers.
  - (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 71 (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.

**73**

#### **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.

**74**

#### **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

### **75** 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.

### **76** 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 Representatives of Congress.
- (d) To consider motions and to enact, amend, or rescind Rules.
- (e) To approve or disapprove any Interpretation of Rule given by Central by Decemeber 31st prior to Congress, in accordance with Rule 85(b), in considering its inclusion in Rule
- (f) To determine Association policy in broad outline.
- (g) To appoint the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority on the nomination of the Central Council, or in the event of a vacancy occurring between Congresses, to ratify at the following Congress any such appointments made by the Central Council.

### **77** President/Representatives of Congress

A candidate for the position of President or Representative of Congress 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 Representative of Congress 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 Representative of Congress 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.

**78**

### **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 82(d). In such circumstances Central Council shall be entitled to determine the representation.

**79**

### **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.

#### **80** **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. In the case of Motions submitted by the Counties being not in order, Counties shall be advised in writing of the reason for a motion being not in order, and subject to a time-limit determined by Central Council, shall be afforded an opportunity to resubmit an appropriately corrected motion for the consideration of the Motions Committee. The President shall have the authority at Congress to rule a motion out of order.

#### **81** **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.

#### **82** **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) Central Council shall be entitled to submit Motions on
    - (1) Any Interpretations of Rule given by the Central Council in the previous Calendar Year

- (2) Any relevant matter relating to Rule arising from a D.R.A. Tribunal decision in the previous Calendar Year.
  - (3) Any Motions consequent upon a Central Council Sub-Committee Report.
  - (4) Emergency matters relating to the Playing Rules.
  - (5) A maximum of three Motions other than those listed in the Categories listed above.
- v) Motions carried at the Annual General Meetings of the All Ireland Postprimary Schools' Council on any matters affecting the Association at their level.
  - vi) Motions carried at the Annual Convention of the Higher Education Council on any matters affecting the Association at its level.
- (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.  
Exception: Central Council may table Emergency Motion(s) on the Playing Rules at any Congress.
  - (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.

**83**

### **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

### **84** 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 Representatives of Congress, 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 Post-Primary Schools' Council; the All-Ireland Primary Schools' Council and the Players' Committee. A Representative on the Council shall not hold office, for more than five consecutive years.\*  
(\*Note - Applicable from Congress 2005).
- (b) The President, Director General, President-elect, immediate past President, and Representatives of Congress, 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

### **85** 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, subject to Rule 76(e). It shall consider and adjudicate on recommendations made by the Management Committee on requests for Interpretation of Rule



received in writing by the Director-General.  
Any such Interpretations shall have the force of Rule until the Congress held in the Calendar Year after the Interpretation being given, and which Congress shall, on a Motion submitted by Central Council, approve or disapprove the Interpretation being included in Rule.

It may also issue Guidelines and Directives to its Units and Members to assist with their compliance with 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.
- (e) It shall control the All-Ireland Championships, Inter-Provincial, and National League Competitions.
- (f) It shall, as required, at its first meeting each year
  - (i) elect members to the Management Committee
  - (ii) Appoint members to the Central Disciplinary Committee and Central Appeals Committee, on the recommendation of the Management Committee.
- (g) It shall appoint an Audit Committee, which shall consist of at least six members.
- (h) It shall at every meeting consider a Report from the Management Committee on its activities.
- (i) It shall nominate the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority for appointment by Congress. If a vacancy occurs between Congresses it shall fill the vacancy, and the appointment shall be submitted for ratification by the following Congress. It shall ratify the panel selected by the said Secretary in accordance with the Disputes Resolution Code.
- (j) 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 76. This Rule shall in all respects be subject to

Rule 76 and in the event of conflict Rule 76 shall prevail.

**86 Director General**

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

**87 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

### **88** 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 Representatives of Congress elected by Congress, one Central Council member from each of the four Provinces, elected by Central Council, and two Nominees of the President and Director General, who are members of the Association, subject to their approval 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 submit to the Central Council, for its consideration on requests for interpretation of rule received in writing by the Director General.
- (f) It shall, as required, appoint or recommend (as provided in Rules 89, 90 and 91) to Central Council the appointment of members to the Central Games Administration Committee, the Central Disciplinary Committee, and the Central Appeals Committee.
- (g) It shall have authority to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with delegated matters/ activities.
- (h) It shall furnish a Report on its activities to each meeting of the Central Council.
- (i) It shall appoint a National Referees' Administrator.

### **89** The Central Games Administration Committee

- (a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Management Committee, the Secretary of each Provincial Council, and one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Management Committee. The Committee shall have a three year term of office.

- (b) It shall be responsible for all the arrangements (excluding appointment of Referees) and control of games, under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and any matters, other than disciplinary, arising from same. Match regulations shall be prepared by the Central Games Administration Committee for submission for the approval of the Management Committee and Central Council.

**90 The Central Disciplinary Committee**

- (a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Management Committee, one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Management Committee, and one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Central Council on the recommendation of the Management Committee. Members shall have a three year term of office.
- (b) It shall be responsible for all disciplinary matters, including misconduct and breaches of Match Regulations, arising from games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and from the Provincial Intercounty Senior Championship Games.

**91 The Central Appeals Committee**

- (a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Management Committee, one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Management Committee, and one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Central Council on the recommendation of the Management Committee. Members shall have a three year term of office.
- (b) It shall hear all appeals made at Central Level.
- (c) Its decisions shall be final and binding, subject only to a case being taken to Arbitration under the Disputes Resolution Code, provided for in these Rules.

**92 The 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.

**93** **Terms of Office on Committees**

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.

**94** **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

### **95 Elective Office**

Elective Offices referred to in the Official Guide shall be confined to paid up Full Members of the Association.

### **96 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. This requirement shall not apply to a Club General Meeting.

### **97 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.

### **98 Correspondence**

All official correspondence to the Central and Provincial Councils in connection with County and Club matters, except as provided for in Rules 152 and 154 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 16 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.

**Methods**

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in any given case, all notices and other communications under the Rules of the Association (including Objections, Counter-Objections and Appeals) may be given:
- (i) to a Member, either:
    - (1) personally, or
    - (2) by post or hand delivery to a Member's usual address, or
    - (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the Member to the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge, or
    - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the Member to the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge; or
    - (5) by hand delivery, post, facsimile or email to the appropriate Secretary having regard to the level at which it is alleged a breach of Rule took place (e.g. Secretary of that Member's Club, County Committee, Provincial Council etc.). The Notice shall be personally addressed to the Member concerned.
  - (ii) and to a Unit, either:
    - (1) personally to its Secretary, or
    - (2) by post or hand delivery to the address of the Unit or the Secretary's usual address, or
    - (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or the Council or Committee in Charge, or
    - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or the Council or Committee in Charge.

**Time of Delivery**

- (b) Unless otherwise proved to the satisfaction of the appropriate Council or Committee in Charge (or Appellate Council or Committee as the case may be), such notice or other communication shall be deemed to have been received

- (i) Where sent by ordinary post, at 10 a.m. on the second working day after it was sent;
- (ii) Where sent by hand delivery, at the time of delivery.
- (iii) Where sent by email or facsimile, at the time of transmission. Exception: If the transmission is after 6 p.m. on any day or is on a weekend, and the recipient is affected by time limits in making a response the time of receipt shall be deemed to be 10 a.m. on the next working day.

### **Proof of Delivery**

- (c) Where a dispute arises as to the fact or time of service of any notice or other communication by email or facsimile, the sender shall be required to furnish such proof of transmission as the Council or Committee in Charge shall deem necessary in the circumstances.

### **Signatures**

- (d) Where a notice or other communication requires a signature, transmission of that notice or other communication by email shall be deemed duly signed if the sender's name (in Irish) is contained in it and the email message is sufficiently identifiable (by reference to the sender's email address or otherwise) as having emanated from the person purporting to have sent it.

### **Fees and other Enclosures**

- (e) Where any notice or other communication is to be accompanied by monies or any other enclosure, transmission of the notice or other communication by email or facsimile shall not be invalid if the relevant enclosure is actually received within two days of the email or facsimile transmission.
- (f) Where any notice or other communication, required by Rule to be submitted in duplicate, is sent by Email, a single transmission is sufficient compliance.

## **100 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.

## **101 Travel and Hotel Expenses**

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



- 102** 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.
- 103** **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.
- 104** 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, Intermediate, 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.
- 105** The Central Council shall award to Senior Inter-Provincial (Hurling and Football) winners up to twenty four 9 carat gold medals, weighing 8 dwt. and depicting the crests of the four Provinces in enamel, with a gold centre.
- 106** 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.

**107** All official medals and trophies shall be inscribed in Irish.

**108** 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.

- 109**
- (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.

**110** **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

### **111** Appointment of Match Officials

The Central Council, Provincial Council (subject to the provisions of Rules 72 (a) (ii) and 92 (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.

### **112** 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.

### **113** 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.

### **114** 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 - Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.**

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

**Penalties -**

On a proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team, **or** Replay, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forefeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, **or** Replay, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

- (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:** On an Inquiry by Committee in charge - Forefeiture of Game, without Award to the Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

- (d) Late Fielding.
- (i) A team taking the field late before game:-  
**Penalties - County or Provincial - Fine €100; Club Fine €20 - for every five minutes or part thereof up to 15 minutes, and thereafter for every minute or part thereof up to 30 minutes. For over 30 minutes after the appointed Starting Time, the Game shall be considered as conceded and shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.**
- (ii) (a) A team responsible for a half time interval being exceeded as specified in Rules 3.3 and 3.7 Rules of Specification:-  
**Penalties - 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 10 minutes.  
Penalty - Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.**
- (iii) A team(s) failing to field for obligatory extra time, within the specified minutes:  
**Penalty - Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.**
- (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.**

### **115 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)**

**116**

**County Championships**

- (1) A County Committee shall organise its Championships on a Knock-Out, League, or a Combination of League and Knock-Out basis.
- (2) A County may be divided into districts for these Competitions.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The Committee-in-Charge shall draw up and approve all other Regulations governing the Organisation of a Championship, in advance of its commencement. Any alteration shall be annually approved.
- (5) If a Championship is partly organised on a League basis, the following Regulations shall apply:
  - (a) League results shall be credited as follows: 2 points for a win, and one for a draw.
  - (b) If a Club is Disqualified or Retires during the course of the League Stage, its played Games shall stand and its unplayed Games shall be awarded to the Opposing Teams
  - (c) Where Teams finish with equal points for Qualification for the Concluding Stages, or for Promotion or Relegation, the tie shall be decided by the following means and in the order specified, subject to Clause (d) below -
    - (i) Scoring Difference (subtracting the total Scores Against from total Scores For)
    - (ii) Highest Total Score For.
    - (iii) Where two Teams only are involved - the outcome of the meeting of the two Teams in the previous game in the Competition.
    - (iv) Scoring Average (divide total Score Against into total Score For).

- (d) If Disqualifications, Retirements or Walk Overs materially affect the outcome of the Points Totals (Scores) in the League Stage of a Championship, there shall be Play Offs to determine Qualification for the Concluding Stages of the Championship, or for Promotion or Relegation, as appropriate.
- (e) A Disqualification shall only affect further participation in the current Championship involved and not the following year's Championship or Qualification for it. In any Promotion or Relegation Process, a Team shall retain the points it has won in a Stage of the Championship run on a League Basis.

**117 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.

**118 Disqualification**

The Penalties for a Club/Unit failing to fulfil a Championship Game shall be as follows:-

- (a) In a 'Knock-Out' Game - the Club shall be Disqualified from the Championship and the Game Awarded to the Opposing Team.
- (b) In a 'League Stage' of a Championship –
  - (i) For a First Failure - the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team, but without Disqualification, subject to the condition below.

If in the opinion of the Committee-in-Charge, the failure to field was for an ulterior purpose, affecting the position(s) of other Club(s), the defaulting Club may, at the discretion of the

Committee, be disqualified from the Championship.

- (ii) For a Second Failure – a Club shall be Disqualified from the Championship and the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team.
- (c) A Club/Unit shall be compelled to pay any Fine imposed for loss of revenue by the Committee-in-Charge and all vouched reasonable expenses incurred, and failure to do so shall involve a suspension of forty eight weeks.
- (d) The Procedures stated in Rule 147 O.G. shall be followed

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

Provincial and All Ireland Club Championships shall be organised in Senior, Intermediate and Junior grades. Divisional or Group teams winning a County Championship may not participate, and in such cases the County Committee concerned shall nominate a Club of the appropriate Championship status 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.

The County, Provincial and All-Ireland Stages of the respective Club Senior, Intermediate and Junior Football and Hurling Championships constitute the one Competition.



## **120 INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Organisation**

**The Championships shall be organised as follows: -**

**(A) All Ireland Senior Football Championship**

**(i) Provincial Championships -**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All Ireland Quarter-Finals** - Each of the four Provincial Champions shall play one of the four winners from Round 4. Subject to a Provincial Rota System initially determined by Central Council, and respective Provincial Champions not meeting the defeated Finalists from their own Province in this Round, a draw shall be made to determine the pairings.

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

**Other matters related to the All Ireland Qualifier Competition**

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

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

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

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

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

- (2) **Repeat Games** - The Draw for any Round shall be adjusted to eliminate, where feasible, a repeat meeting before the All Ireland Semi-Final stage of Counties that have already met in the Provincial Championships.
- (3) **Venues** - The Counties designated as 'weak' by the National Games Administration Committee shall have Home Games in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Qualifier Competition, provided that their Home Ground meets the criteria as set down by the

National Safety Council and the National Games Administration Committee.

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

**(B) All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship**

The All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the winners, subject to the Exception of Rule 121 (c), going forward to the All Ireland series. Pairings for the All Ireland series shall be on a rota basis initially determined by the Central Council.

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

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

**(C) All-Ireland Minor Football Championship**

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

**All Ireland Quarter-Finals**

Each of the four Provincial Winners shall meet one of the Provincial Runners Up. The pairings shall be determined on a Provincial Rota system initially determined by Central Council, but Provincial winners shall not at this stage meet the team they defeated in their own Provincial Final.

**All Ireland Semi-Finals**

A Provincial Rota system, initially determined by central Council, shall apply. If a Provincial Championship winning team is defeated in its

Quarter-Final, the team that defeats it shall take its place in the Semi-Final.

### **All Ireland Final**

#### **(D) All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship**

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

The All Ireland Series shall be organised as follows:-

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

#### **All Ireland Minor Hurling Draw Quarter Finals**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Semi-Finals**

The Leinster Champions and the Munster Champions 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.

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)**

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 or Ulster Champions.

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

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

**First Semi-Final** - Leinster Champions v Munster Runners Up

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

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

- (E) 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.
- (F) All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship**  
The championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis, with the Provincial Winners qualifying for the All Ireland Semi-Finals. The Championship shall be confined to Counties that are graded Senior ‘A’ by Central Council. Pairings for the All Ireland Semi-Finals shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.
- (G) All Ireland Junior Hurling Championship**  
The Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis, with the Provincial Winners qualifying for the All Ireland Semi-Finals. The Championship shall be confined to Counties that are graded wither Senior “B” or Junior by Central Council. On this basis, if Kerry enter this Championship they shall participate in the Leinster Championship. In the All Ireland Semi-Finals, the Leinster and Connacht Champions shall respectively play the Ulster and Britain Champions in alternate years.
- (H) Other All Ireland Championships**  
The All Ireland Junior Football Championships, and the All Ireland Under 21 Football and Hurling Championships shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the winners, going forward to the All Ireland Series. The pairings for the All Ireland Series shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.
- (I) An Inter-County Championship that is organised in different stages (e.g. Provincial, All-Ireland Qualifier, All-Ireland Series) constitutes the one Competition.**

(**Note:** Sections (B) and (E) are temporarily set aside to provide for Experimental Inter County Hurling Championships in 2004, 2005 and 2006 Championship Years. See Appendix 1).

## **121** 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.

## **122** 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.

### **Exception**

As provided in Rule 120, a 'Round Robin' competition shall not be organised in the Provincial Senior Football Championships.

(**Note** - A 'Round Robin' Competition shall not be

organised in the Provincial Senior Hurling Championships during the period of Experimental Inter-County Championship arrangements, up to and including the Championships of 2006).

**123 All-Ireland Finals**

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

**124 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.

**125 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.

**126 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.

**127 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 120 and 122 are temporarily set aside or adjusted to provide for Experimental Inter-County Championship arrangements. See Appendix 1.)**

## ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

### **128 Senior**

All players are eligible to participate in Inter-County and Inter-Club Senior grade.

### **129 (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 34, Exception (3) 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 34, Exception (3) 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.

### **Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**130 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.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.  
On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forefeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**131 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.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.  
On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forefeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**132 (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.

**133 County Participation Restriction**

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

**Exception:** A county graded Senior B may also participate in its Senior Provincial Championship.

(Note: In relation to the experimental Hurling Championships in 2005 and 2006, the same principle shall apply.)

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

### **134 Club Championship and League Status of Players**

A Player is graded by his Championship Status e.g. if a Player plays in a Senior Championship game he is graded Senior for the remainder of that Championship Year, and may not be subsequently regraded during that Championship Year.

Participation in the Provincial and/or All Ireland Club Championships, other than as allowed in Rule 34 Exception (3), grades a Player by the relevant status of that Championship.

A Player shall not thereafter play in a current year's Competition (Championship, Relegation Play-Off, League etc.) of a lower grade than that of his current Championship status.

A Player shall not lose his current Championship status by participating in a game or Competition the purpose of which is to determine Qualification/Relegation for the following year's Championship

#### **Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.  
On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances.

## **LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

### **135 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.

### **136**

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.

### **137 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.

### **138 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**

- 139** (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.

### **140 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.

### **141 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

### **142** 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 143, 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 i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Third Level, Schools etc., and in the Code i.e. Hurling or Gaelic Football at which the suspension was incurred 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 -

On a proven Objection - Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by Committee in Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, **or** Fine, depending on the circumstances..



## **143** 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 in both Hurling and Gaelic Football 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 i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Higher Education, Schools etc., and in the Code i.e. Hurling or Gaelic Football in which the offence was committed.

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 at the Level or in the Code in which the offence was committed 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 and in the same Code shall stand suspended for 2 weeks at that Level and in that Code in which the Offence was committed.

- (v) 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 Category (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 offence in Category (C), at the same Level, i.e. Inter-County, Club, Inter-Provincial, Higher Education, School etc., and in the same Code within forty eight weeks, shall be suspended at that Level and in that Code in which the repeat offence occurred 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) **Commencement of Term**

A term of Suspension shall commence

- (i) In the case of a player for a Category (A) or (B) offence from the date of his last game played.
- (ii) In the case of a player for a Category (C) or (D) offence from the date of his last game played at the relevant Level and in the relevant Code.
- (iii) In the case of other Members - from the date of decision.

**144 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 147 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.

**145 Disciplinary Jurisdiction**

Central Council, including its Management and Central Disciplinary Committee, 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.

## **146** **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. Suspensions for Category (B), (C) and (D) offences shall apply only to the Code i.e. Hurling or Gaelic Football in which the offence was committed. Suspensions for Category (A) offences shall apply to both Codes i.e. Hurling and Gaelic Football.

- (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 143 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.

## **147** 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 143, Suspension - Misconduct on Field **or** Rule 146(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 47.

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.

#### **148** 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.

**149** **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.

**150** **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

### **151** 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 10 (Use of Irish in Official documents).**

In the case of an objection, counter-objection, or appeal, on being lodged, not complying with Rule 10, 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 10, 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.

### **152** 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.

### **153** 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.

### **154** 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. The Register of Players shall be available for inspection to the Secretary of any unit, upon demand in writing.

- (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.

**155** **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.

**156** **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) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Points not made in the original case which are relevant may be considered, but only witnesses heard in the first instance may be called.
- (g) An appeal shall not be upheld unless there is clear infringement or misapplication of a rule.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (j) 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.

### **157 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 147 (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.

### **158 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.

### **159 Arbitration**

- (i) In the event of any dispute or difference between any member or unit of the Association with any other member or unit of the Association, as to the legality of any decision made or procedure used by any unit of the Association in pursuance of the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Association, which cannot be settled by amicable means within the Rules of the Association, such dispute may be referred by either party to Arbitration under the Disputes Resolution Code annexed to these Rules, (Appendix 3) as initially approved by Congress and from time to time amended by the Disputes Resolution Authority with the approval of the Central Council.
- (ii) Such Dispute Resolution shall be conducted in accordance with that Code and the Arbitration Acts

1954 and 1980 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof. The Rules of the Association and the Laws of Ireland shall govern such Dispute Resolution.

- (iii) No member or unit of the Association may issue proceedings relating to any such Dispute in any Court of Law in any jurisdiction.
- (iv) No member or unit of the Association shall refer such Dispute to Dispute Resolution until all available avenues of Appeal under the Rules of the Association have been exhausted.
- (v) Disputes arising from or concerning Doping Control under the Rules of the Association, any Rules of the Irish Sports Council, or under General Law shall not be the subject of any Arbitration under this Rule.

## **160 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.

## **161 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 Higher Education Colleges and Institutes.
- The All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools' Council for all affiliated schools at Second Level.
- 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.

**(A) Experimental Inter County Championship Arrangements 2004-2006**

**Senior Hurling Championship Format (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 and including the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals.

(This regulation 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.
- (4) **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.

### **All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship - Tiers 1, 2 and 3 (2005 - 2006)**

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

The Championship shall be organised as follows: -

#### **Counties Participating**

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

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

#### **Provincial Championships**

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

#### **All Ireland Qualifier**

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

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

- **Groups - (2)**  
Two Groups of four Teams shall be drawn, with a maximum of two Teams from Munster and Leinster in each Group. Each County in a Group shall meet each other i.e. each Team shall play three games.
- **Equality of points**  
A County's finishing position shall be determined on the basis of points total.  
In the event of an equality of points, all finishing positions shall be determined firstly by **Scoring Difference**. In the event of there being further equality, the **Highest Score For** shall be used to determine position(s). In the event that teams are still equal, the Result of the Game which involved the two Counties shall be used.

**Other matters related to the All-Ireland Qualifier Competition.**

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

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 Championship Replays.

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

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

- (2) **Venues/Designated Counties**

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

### **Provision for Ulster Champions**

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

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

**Or**

- (b) Playing in the Tier 2 Championship  
The preferred option shall be indicated to the National Games Administration Committee at the completion of the Ordinary Rounds of the National League in March/April of each year.

### **All Ireland Quarter Finals (4)**

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

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

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

### **All Ireland Semi-Finals**

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

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

## **All Ireland Final**

### **Relegation and Promotion**

The two Counties that finish fourth in their respective Groups in the Qualifier Competition shall participate in a Relegation Play Off. The losing Team in this Relegation Play-Off shall be relegated to Tier 2 and the Tier 2 Champions shall be promoted to Tier 1.

### **Extra Time: -**

Extra time shall be played if a Relegation Play Off ends in a Draw.

## **(B) All Ireland Hurling Championships (Tier 2)**

The Championship shall be organised as follows: -

### **Counties Participating**

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

### **Organisation**

- **Groups (2)**

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

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

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

### **All Ireland Semi-Finals**

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

### **All Ireland Championship Final**

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

### **Promotion and Relegation**

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

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

### **C) All Ireland Hurling Championships (Tier 3)**

The Championship shall be organised as follows: -

#### **Counties Participating**

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

#### **Organisation**

- **Groups (3)**

Three Groups shall be drawn - two Groups of Four Counties and one Group of Three Counties on a geographical basis. Each Team in a Group shall meet each other i.e. the Counties in the Groups of Four shall play three games and the Counties in the Group of Three shall play two games.

- **Equality of Points**

A County's finishing position shall be determined on the basis of points total.

In the event of an equality of points, all finishing positions shall be determined firstly by Scoring Difference. In the event of there being further equality, the **Highest Score For** shall be used to determine position(s). In the event that

teams are still equal, the Result of the Game which involved the two Counties shall be used.

- **Venues**

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

### **All Ireland Quarter Final**

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

### **All Ireland Semi-Final**

The Winners of each Group, together with the Winners of the All Ireland Quarter-Final between the Runners Up in the two Groups of Four shall qualify for the All Ireland Semi-Finals. The Semi-Final pairings shall be determined on the basis of an Open Draw, with Counties from the same Group being kept apart.

### **All Ireland Final**

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

### **All Ireland Senior “B” Hurling Championship (2004)**

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 Minor Football Draw/Rotas

### 2004

#### Quarter-Finals -

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

#### Semi-Finals -

Connacht	v	Ulster
Leinster	v	Munster

### 2005

#### 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	Munster
Leinster	v	Ulster

### 2006

#### Quarter-Finals

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

#### Semi-Finals

Connacht	v	Leinster
Munster	v	Ulster

### 2007

#### Quarter-Finals

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

#### Semi-Finals

Connacht	v	Ulster
Leinster	v	Munster

(Note - The Rota was changed for 2005, 2006, and 2007 to avoid the possibility in future of the Provincial Finalists from the one Province meeting again in an All Ireland Semi-Final, as occurred with the Quarter-Finals/Semi-Finals Pairings in 2004).



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

CLUB CONSTITUTION



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# **Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Gaelic Athletic Association**

## **Club Constitution and Rules**

**Format No. 1** - Applies to all Clubs - without Licensed Bars

Incorporating Rules 1 to 17 inclusive

**Format No. 2(A)** - Applies to all Clubs in the 26 Counties which own/operate Licensed Bars.

Incorporating Rules 1 to 17 inclusive, and additionally Rule 18 (as applicable to the 26 Counties)

**Format No. 2(B)** - Applicable to all Clubs in the 6 Counties which own/operate Licensed Bars.

Incorporating Rules 1 to 17 inclusive with additions to Rules 3 and 5 as specified, and additionally Rule 18 (as applicable to the 6 Counties).

# **CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

(Format No 1.)

1. In these Rules:-

“The G.A.A.” means the National Governing Organisation for the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes, known as the Gaelic Athletic Association.

“The Club” means the Club as set out in Rule 2 hereof.

“The Official Guide” means the Official Guide of the G.A.A.

“Executive Committee” means Officers and ordinary Committee Members together.

“Secretary” means the Secretary for the time being, or any person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Club.

“Real Property” means the property of the Club of an immovable nature, comprising any Playing Pitches, Grounds or Buildings, whether of Leasehold or Freehold tenure, with all Fixtures or Fittings attached thereto and used therewith.

“Personal Property” means the property of the Club of a movable nature, comprising all Playing or Sporting equipment of the Club, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets of the Club not already classified as fixtures or fittings on “Real Property”, as heretofore defined.

Words importing the singular number only, include the plural number and vice versa, and words importing the

masculine gender only, also include the feminine and vice versa.

### NAME

2. The official Name of the Club shall be  
AN CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL  
\_\_\_\_\_ the English version of which shall be  
\_\_\_\_\_ G.A.A. Club.

### OBJECTS

- 3.1 The Objects of the Club shall be the promotion of the aims of the G.A.A., as outlined in the Official Guide.
- 3.2 The Membership, Income and Property of the Club shall be dedicated to and applied solely towards the promotion of these objects.

### COLOURS

4. The Club Colours shall be \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 There shall be four types of Membership of the Club:-
- 5.1.1 **FULL MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who having reached the age of eighteen years, subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Club and the G.A.A.
- 5.1.2 **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, not having reached the age of eighteen years, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Club and the G.A.A.
- 5.1.3 **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, have rendered exceptional service to the Club or the games or activities of the G.A.A. An Honorary Member shall have the rights of a Full Member, but shall be exempt from paying the Club's Annual Membership Fee.

- 5.1.4 **SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A., but who do not seek full voting rights and rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the G.A.A.
- 5.2 Full Members (including Honorary Members) and Youth Members of the Club will also become Members of the G.A.A.
- 5.3 Once granted, Full Membership of the Club and the G.A.A. shall continue for life, unless the member has been expelled or his resignation in writing has been accepted, in accordance with this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.
- 5.4 The rights of any member of the Club shall be conditional upon the member complying with the provisions of this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide, including payment of any annual membership fee and levies.
- 5.5 Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide.
- 5.6 Any person seeking admission as a Member of any Class of Membership, other than Honorary, shall complete and sign a prescribed Application Form, which must be returned to the Secretary together with the prescribed fee.
- 5.7 An Application for Full or Social Membership must be in the prescribed form signed by the Applicant and proposed by one Full Member and seconded by another Full Member who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.
- 5.8 An Application for Youth Membership must be in the Prescribed Form signed by the Applicant and one of his parents or Guardians, as well as being proposed by one Full Member and seconded by another Full Member,

who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.

- 5.9 The name and address of such person proposed as a Member, together with the names of those proposing and seconding him, shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the Club Premises for at least one week before election.  
An interval of not less than two weeks shall elapse between nomination and election of such Members.
- 5.9.1 Persons shall not be admitted to any of the privileges of Membership until after their election by the procedures stated in this Rule.
- 5.10 If and when the Application for Membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the new Member's particulars shall be forwarded by the Club Secretary to the County Secretary or other designated Officer for submission to the Central Council of the G.A.A. for registration and allocation of a personal membership number.
- 5.11.1 The Executive Committee shall have the power to investigate any matter, and to expel, suspend, warn, fine or disqualify Members from Club activities for breach of this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide or for conduct considered to have discredited or harmed the Club or the G.A.A.
- 5.11.2 Such persons, if Full Members (including Honorary Members) or Youth Members, shall have the right to appeal to the Management Committee of the County Committee of the G.A.A., within seven days of being notified of such decision.
- 5.11.3 Unless the offence is brought to the notice of the County Committee of the G.A.A. by the Club, and that body, having considered the merits of the case and having regard to the rights of the player or member, confirms the penalty imposed, the member continues to be a legal member of the Association and is suspended from Club activities only.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- 6.1 The Annual Subscription to be paid by members of the Club shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.2 The determined Annual Subscription shall be payable on election and thereafter annually, in advance of the date and in the manner decided by the Executive Committee. The date set shall be a date prior to August 1st each year.
- 6.3 The Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe the payment of an Entrance Fee by new or lapsed members in addition to the Annual Subscription above.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, one Players' Representative, and at least five other Full Members.
- 7.3 Nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be by any two Full Members whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2 and who are not suspended or disqualified under this constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.
- 7.4 The Players' Representative shall have participated as a player for the Club within the previous 48 weeks.
- 7.5 The Executive Committee including the Players' Representative, shall be elected by the Full Members present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.6 Only Full Members, whose Membership Fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2 and who are not

suspended or disqualified under this Constitution or Rules or the Official Guide, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

- 7.7 The outgoing Executive Committee shall conduct the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.8 The Executive Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting.
- 7.9 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each quarter, and four members present shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7.10 The Chairman, when present, shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.
- 7.11 If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent, the Committee shall elect a member present to preside at the Meeting.
- 7.12 The Secretary shall record the Minutes of each Meeting.
- 7.13 The Minutes shall specify the date of the Meeting, those present, and a brief account of the Meeting, and shall be read to the next Meeting.
- 7.14 Such Minutes, if agreed as being accurate or having been appropriately amended, shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, having been first proposed and adopted.
- 7.15 The Executive Committee shall have the sole right to appoint Sub-Committees, as required.
- 7.16 The Executive Committee 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.
- 7.17 The Executive Committee shall have power to nominate the Chairman of such Sub Committees.



- 7.18 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be ex- officio members of all Sub-Committees.
- 7.19 The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such Regulations as they deem necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Club, and in particular, but not exclusively, they may by such Regulations set out:-
- (a) The terms and conditions upon which guests, children of members of the Club and visitors shall be permitted to use the premises and property of the Club;
  - (b) The times of opening and closing the Pavilion Grounds and Premises of the Club, or any part thereof;
  - (c) The conduct of members of the Club in relation to one another;
  - (d) The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Club's premises for any particular time or times, or for any particular purpose or purposes;
  - (e) The imposition of fines for the breach of any of the Club Rules or Regulations.
  - (f) And generally all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the Club Rules.
- 7.20 The Executive Committee shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient, to bring to the notice of members of the Club all such Regulations and all alterations and repeals.
- 7.21 All such Regulations so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding upon all members of the Club, provided nevertheless that no Regulations shall be inconsistent with or shall affect or repeal anything contained in this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide, and that any Regulations may be set aside by a special resolution of a General Meeting of the Club.
- 7.22 Each Full Member shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon any complaint or representation sent by him, in writing, to the Secretary.

- 7.23 A Special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called
- (a) by the Secretary or
  - (b) by the Secretary, for a date not more than seven days from the date of the receipt by him of a requisition duly signed by four members of the Executive Committee.
  - (c) Such requisition shall set out the purpose for which the special meeting is required.
- 7.24 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.
- 7.25 Should any Member of the Executive Committee resign, be deemed to have resigned, or his position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall, at their discretion, have the power to fill the vacancy, by co-opting a replacement from the body of the Full Membership.
- 7.26 The service of any Member so co-opted on to the Executive Committee shall not be reckoned in calculating the seniority of such Member, if subsequently elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 8.1 The Club shall in each year hold a general meeting as its Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other General Meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it.
- 8.2 All General Meetings, other than Annual General Meetings, shall be called Special General Meetings.
- 8.3 An Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee, but insofar as is practical shall be held before the end of November each year.

- 8.4 The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:-
- (a) Adoption of Standing Orders.
  - (b) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
  - (c) Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary.
  - (d) Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant(s) of Auditor(s)
  - (e) The Chairman's Address.
  - (f) Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
  - (g) Notices of Motion.
  - (h) Other Business
- 8.5 The Annual General meeting of the Club shall be called in the following manner:-
- 8.5.1 The Executive Committee shall decide upon a date, time and place for the meeting, allowing adequate time to meet the time limits set out hereunder.
- 8.5.2 Once the date of the Annual General Meeting has been fixed, the Secretary shall give at least twenty-eight days notice in writing to the members of such date, at the same time inviting nominations for election to the Executive Committee for the following year and motions for consideration at the Annual General meeting, also specifying that such nominations and motions shall be received by him by a date not less than twenty one days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.
- 8.5.3 The Secretary shall then, on or after the date specified for return to him of such Nominations and Motions, but so as to give the members ten days clear notice before the meeting, circulate to the members the following documentation:-
- (a) Copy of the Agenda for the meeting.
  - (b) Copy of the Annual Report of the Secretary.
  - (c) Copy of the Financial Statements, including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s)
  - (d) Details of the Nominations for election to the Executive Committee.

- (e) Copies of any motions for consideration at the meeting.
- 8.6 In the event of the number of Nominees for any particular Executive Committee position being equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, such Nominees shall be declared elected, and any positions left unfilled, due to the lack of Nominees or Nominees withdrawing, shall be filled by the new Executive Committee, as soon as practical after the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.7 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time, provided ten days clear notice, in writing, shall be given to the members, specifying the purpose of such Special General Meeting,
- 8.8 The Executive Committee shall call a Special General Meeting for a date not more than twenty eight days from the receipt by the Executive Committee of a requisition, in writing, signed by twelve members of the Club, and ten clear days notice, in writing, shall be given to the Members.
- 8.8.1 Such Requisitions by members of the Club shall set out the purpose for which the Special General Meeting is required, and shall be lodged with the Secretary.
- 8.8.2 If the Special General Meeting is not called for a date within the twenty eight days stipulated, then the Requisitioners may themselves convene a Special General Meeting, if necessary using newspaper advertisements to notify the members of such meeting.
- 8.9 No other business, outside that specified in the Notice, shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.
- 8.10 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Save as herein otherwise provided, twenty per cent of Full Members eligible to vote shall be a quorum at a General Meeting.

- 8.11 If within half an hour after the time appointed for a General Meeting, a quorum of members is not present, the meeting if convened on the requisition of members shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week, at the same time and place; and if at the reconvened meeting a quorum of members is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the members then present shall be a quorum.
- 8.12 The Chairman, and failing him the Vice-Chairman, shall preside as Chairman at every General Meeting of the Club.
- 8.13 If there is no such Chairman, or if at any meeting he is not present within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, the members then present shall choose someone of their number who is a member of the Executive Committee to be Chairman of the meeting, and if there shall be no Member of the Executive Committee present, then the members shall elect any one of their number to be Chairman of the Meeting.
- 8.14 The Chairman may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any reconvened meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- 8.15 Failure to comply strictly with the time limits set out in this Constitution and Rules or the non receipt of Notice of a Meeting by any persons entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting, but shall entitle the majority of members present to seek and be granted an adjournment of the meeting to such date by which they would be given an adequate time to be furnished with and consider the contents of any relevant documentation.

## VOTING

- 9.1 Only Full Members, whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2, and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide, shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting.
- 9.2 A Chairman of a General Meeting, Executive Committee meeting or any Sub-Committee meeting shall, in the event of a tie, whether on a show of hands or on a ballot, have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member, other than for the election to any position, when the outcome in the event of a tie shall be decided by lot.
- 9.3 At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on the show of hands, unless, before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a ballot is demanded:-
- (a) by the Chairman
  - (b) by at least five members present and entitled to vote.
- 9.4 Unless a ballot is so demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has on the show of hands been carried, or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, shall be final, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the Club shall be conclusive evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes in favour of or against such resolution.
- 9.5 If a ballot is so demanded, the same shall be taken in such manner as the Chairman directs, and the result of the ballot shall be deemed to be the decision of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.
- 9.6 A Secret Ballot shall be carried out to decide the result of any contest for any elective position.

## **ASSETS AND TRUSTEES**

- 10.1 The Club shall have power to acquire, hold and develop, sell, lease, mortgage charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal Property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the objects of the Club, subject to the overall authority of the Central Council of the G.A.A..
- 10.2 The Real Property shall not be leased, mortgaged, charged, exchanged, sold, conveyed, transferred or otherwise dealt with without the consent of the Central Council of the G.A.A., or as may be set out in any separate Declaration of Trust.
- 10.3 The Real Property, including the proceeds of sale thereof until otherwise directed by the Club, shall be vested in five full members of the G.A.A. as Trustees, who shall hold same in trust for the Club.
- 10.4 In the case of the appointment of the Trustees of the Real Property the Executive Committee shall select three persons, who shall then be appointed by the Chairman for the time being as Trustees, and the Chairman for the time being of the Provincial Council of the G.A.A. and the Chairman for the time being of the County Committee of the G.A.A. shall each, as required, appoint one other Trustee.
- 10.5 The Trustees shall hold office until their retirement or death, unless replaced in accordance with Rule 46, Official Guide.
- 10.6 By way of acceptance of their appointment the Trustees of the Real Property shall sign a Declaration of Trust, as approved by Central Council of the G.A.A., and which shall contain the provisions for appointment, removal and replacement of Trustees as well as regulating the conduct of the Trustees in performing their duties and exercising their powers under the trust.
- 10.7 The Trustees of the Real Property, having first obtained the consent of the Central Council of the G.A.A. where necessary, shall exercise their powers and perform their duties as directed by the Club from time to time.

- 10.8 The Directive of the Club shall be given by a resolution of the full members of the Club, passed by a majority of the members present and voting at a duly convened General Meeting and when so passed shall be binding upon all members of the Club.
- 10.9 A Certificate signed by the Secretary shall, in favour of any person relying on same, be conclusive evidence that a Directive, complying in all respect with the provisions of this Rule, was duly given to the Trustees.
- 10.10 The Personal Property shall be vested in the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary who shall hold same in Trust for the Club.
- 10.11 The Trustees of the Personal Property shall invest and use such property in accordance with the Directives of the Executive Committee, of which an entry in the Minute book shall be conclusive evidence.
- 10.12 The Club shall indemnify and save harmless its Trustees in respect of any loss or expenses bona fide incurred by them in or about the execution of the Trust

### **BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS**

- 11.1 The Executive Committee shall open a Bank Account or Accounts with an approved Bank on behalf of the Club, and all cheques drawn on the said account shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by one of either the Chairman or Secretary.
- 11.2 The Executive Committee shall cause proper Books of Account to be kept in respect of:-
- (a) All sums of money received and expended by the Club, and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditures take place; and
  - (b) All Sales and Purchases of goods by the Club; and
  - (c) The Assets and Liabilities of the Club.
- 11.3 The Books of Account shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Committee shall think fit, and shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the members of the Executive Committee.



- 11.4 The Executive Committee shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places, and under what conditions and regulations, the Accounts and Books of the Club, or any of them shall be open to the inspection of Full Members of the Club not being an Executive Committee member, and no member (not being an Executive Committee Member) shall have any right of inspection of any Account or Book or Document of the Club except as authorised by the Executive Committee.
- 11.5 An independent suitably qualified Person or Persons shall be appointed as Accountant(s) or as Auditor(s) (if an Audit is deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee) to Report on the Financial Statements of the Club, for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.6 The Books and Accounts of the Club shall be presented to such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) by the Committee in sufficient time to enable the Report of such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) to be available and considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.
- 11.7 The Financial Statements shall be approved by the Executive Committee, and signed by two of three Officers – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer – on behalf of the Executive Committee.
- 11.8 The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared and laid before the Annual General Meeting an Account of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet made up to a date not more than six months before such meeting.
- 11.9 The Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Club shall be made available to the Revenue Commissioners, on request.
- 11.10 All Books of Account, including all documents, vouchers, statements and notes, as well as all minute books, notes of meetings, original and copy correspondence and all such documents are the

property of the Club, and no person shall have any personal title to or interest in such documents to the exclusion of the Club.

- 11.11 The Club shall define the End of the Financial Year of the Club.

### **INCOME AND PROPERTY**

- 12.1 No portion of the Income and Property of the Club shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit, dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever to the Members of the Club.

- 12.2 No Officer shall be appointed to any Office within the Club paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club in respect of such Office, provided however nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of:-

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any Member or Officer of the Club for any services rendered to the Club (other than as an Officer);
- (b) reasonable and proper remuneration to any company of which a Member or Officer of the Club is a director or shareholder, for any services rendered to the Club;
- (c) interest at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum on money lent by Officers or other Members of the Club to the Club;
- (d) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by Officers or other Members of the Club (including any Officer) to the Club;
- (e) reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club;
- (f) fee's, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member, holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

## **WINDING UP**

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 Any decision to Wind Up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.
- 13.3 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, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the G.A.A., to be used or disposed of as such County Committee shall direct, but shall in no instance pay or distribute such property amongst Officers, Members or Employees of the Club.

## **ADDITIONS TO AND AMENDMENTS OF RULES**

- 14.1 Additions to and Amendments of this Constitution and Rules may be made at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, providing that the Resolution proposing same is carried by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, that same do not conflict with the Official Guide, and that prior approval has been given by the County Committee for the change.
- 14.2 Members wishing to propose Additions to or Amendments of this Constitution and Rules must send notice of the proposed Additions or Amendments in writing to the Secretary not later than twenty one days before the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting as provided by Rule 8.5.2 hereof.
- 14.3 Where appropriate, no Addition or Amendments shall be made to or in the provisions of the Main Object(s) (3), Income and Property (12) and the Winding-Up Clauses (13) in this Constitution and Rules for the time being in force, unless the same shall have been previously approved, in writing, by the Revenue Commissioners.

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

15. This Constitution and Rules shall be read in conjunction with and subject to the Official Guide.

## **INTERPRETATION OF CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

16. The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the Interpretation of this Club Constitution and Rules (with the exception of Rules 5.11.1, 5.11.2 and 5.11.3) and of any bye-laws and regulations made herein; and the decision of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for, shall be final and binding on the members, subject to appeal to the Management Committee of the County Committee in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5.11.2, and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any Court of Law.

## **GENERAL**

- 17.1 A Notice may be given by the Club to any Member either personally or by sending it by post or electronically to him at his last known address.
- 17.2 Where a Notice is sent by post, service of this Notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the Notice, and shall be deemed to have been effected at the time which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- 17.3 The failure to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- 17.4 This Constitution and Rules shall be taken as an amendment of and in substitution for any existing Constitution and Rules of \_\_\_\_\_ G.A.A. Club as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR THE ADOPTION OF CLUBS WHICH OWN/ OPERATE LICENSED  
BARS IN THE 26 COUNTIES**

(As part of Format No. 2(A))

**DISTRIBUTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR**

**Distribution of Intoxicating Liquor**

- 18.1 No Member, Officer, Committee Member, Manager or Employee of the Club shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquors therein, or in the profits arising from such sale.
- 18.2 Except in the case of a group visiting the Club, as provided for by Section 30 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2000, a visitor shall not be supplied with excisable liquor in the Club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member of the Club, and that such member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the Club Premises or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book kept for that purpose, and which shall show the date of each visit.
- 18.3 No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied for consumption outside the Premises of the Club except to members of the Club between the hours of 8 o'clock in the morning and 10 o'clock at night.
- 18.4 No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied on the Club Premises to any person under eighteen years of age.
- 18.5 (1) Subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph (2) of this Rule, no excisable liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club Premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) or be consumed on the club premises by any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) -
- (a) at any time on Christmas Day or Good Friday;
  - (b) on any other day, as specified hereunder, outside the times so specified in respect of it -

- (i) Saint Patrick's Day: between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;
- (ii) the 23rd December: if it falls on a Sunday, between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.;
- (iii) Christmas Eve and the eve of Good Friday: between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.;
- (iv) the eve of any public holiday (other than Christmas Eve):
  - (I) if the eve falls on a weekday, between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day, or;
  - (II) if it falls on a Sunday, between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;
- (v) any other Sunday (except a Saint Patrick's Day which falls on a Sunday): between 12.30 p.m. and 11 p.m.;
- (vi) any other Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday: between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.; and
- (vii) any other Friday or Saturday: between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day.

(1A) The hours specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) in respect of any day specified in that paragraph are in addition to the period between midnight and 12.30 a.m. on that day, where that period is included in the hours so specified in respect of the eve of that day.

(1B) In subsection (1), 'public holiday' has the meaning given to it by the Organisation of Working time Act, 1997.

18.6 Nothing contained in the Registration of Clubs Acts, 1904 to 2003 or contained, by virtue only of the operation of paragraph (1) of this Rule, shall operate to prohibit the supplying for consumption on the Club Premises of excisable liquor to any person or the consumption of excisable liquor on the Club premises by any person:

- (a) on Christmas Day, between 12.00 midday and 10.00 p.m. or
- (b) on any other day, for one hour after the expiration of any period in respect of that day during which it is lawful for the Club, by virtue of subsection (1) (b), to supply any excisable liquor for consumption on the Club premises.

If in each case the excisable liquor is-

- (i) ordered by or on behalf of that person at the same time as a substantial meal is ordered, and
- (ii) consumed by that person during the meal or after the meal has ended.

18.7 Any sale, supply and consumption of excisable liquors in the building or grounds of the Club permitted under the Intoxicating Liquor Acts or any amendments thereto shall be lawful and not a breach of the Rules of this Club.

**FOR THE ADOPTION OF CLUBS WHICH OWN/OPERATE LICENSED  
BARS IN THE SIX COUNTIES**

(As part of Format 2(B))

**Amendments to Rule 1-17 inclusive**

Add as Rule 3.1.2

The Club is defined as a Sporting Club within the terms of the Registration of Clubs (N.I.) Order 1996 which states 'Sporting Club' means a Club occupying a hereditament to which Article 31 of the Rates (N.I.) Order 1997 applies (Rates Relief) being a hereditament which is used solely or mainly for the purposes of physical recreation.

Add to Rule 5.1.3

No persons shall be allowed to become Honorary Members of the Club or be relieved of the payment of the regular entrance fees or subscription, except those possessing the qualifications defined in this Rule, and subject to the conditions and regulations specified in the Rules.

Add as Rule 5.1.5

Persons shall not be admitted in such numbers to membership not carrying rights of voting in relation to the affairs of the Club as will result in the number of members not having such rights being three times the number of members having such rights.

**Distribution of Intoxicating Liquor**

- 18.1 No Member, Officer, Committee Member, Manager or Employee of the Club shall have any personal interest in the supply of intoxicating liquor therein, or in the profits arising from such supply of intoxicating liquor.
  - 18.1.1 No person shall be paid at the expense of the Club any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to the purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club.
  - 18.1.2 No person shall, directly or indirectly, derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club, or members or guests, apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole.



- 18.2 Except in the case of a group visiting the Club, as provided for by paragraph 18.10, a visitor shall not be admitted to or supplied with intoxicating liquor in the Club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member of the Club, and that such member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the Club Premises enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book kept for that purpose and which shall show the date of each visit.
- 18.3 No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for consumption outside the Premises of the Club.
- 18.4 No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied on the Club Premises to any person under eighteen years of age.
- 18.5 Subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph 18.2 of this Rule, no intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club Premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) or be consumed on the Club premises by any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises)
- 18.5.1 Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied, obtained or consumed in the Club premises except during permitted hours.

Any bar on the premises of the Club shall be kept closed except during permitted hours. Permitted Hours:

- (i) On weekdays, other than Good Friday and Christmas Day, from 11.30 a.m to 11.00 p.m.
- (ii) Good Friday from 5.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
- (iii) Sundays and Christmas Day from 12.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Exception: As provided in Article 25 of the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996, the Club shall not prohibit the consumption of intoxicating liquor during the first 30 minutes after the conclusion of permitted hours.

The Club shall not supply intoxicating liquor outside permitted hours unless it has obtained the necessary

permission as described in Article 26 of the Registration of Clubs Order (NI) 1996.

The same person, except where that person is a parent, husband, wife or child of a member, shall not be admitted as a guest of a member to the Club premises on more than 20 days in any period of 12 months.

A person, on the payment of a fee to the Club in respect of any day may use on that day such facilities as the Executive Committee or the governing body of the Club may determine and paragraph 18.2 shall not apply to that person in respect of that day.

Intoxicating liquor shall not, in a registered Club, be supplied or obtained or consumed by, any person other than a member or a guest of a member or an employee of the Club.

A member shall be responsible for his guest strictly observing the rules and shall not leave the club premises before his guest and a guest, shall not be supplied with intoxicating liquor in the Club premises unless upon invitation and in the company of a member.

Admission of visiting teams etc:

Notwithstanding paragraphs 12 and 14 of Schedule 1 Registrations of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 or any rule required to be made by those paragraphs by the Club, where a team or a body of persons who are, as members of another club (whether registered or not), society or organisation, visiting the Club for the purpose of taking part in or in the organisation of or arrangements for, any pastime, sport, game or recreation at the Club, an official of the Club may enter in the book required to be kept by that paragraph 12 the name of the club, society or organisation visiting the Club and number of persons without specifying their names and addresses, and intoxicating liquor may be supplied to such persons at the request and in the presence of an official of the Club on the occasion of that visit.

- (2) The admission of persons to whom paragraph (1) applies shall be disregarded for the purposes of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Registration of Clubs Order (NI) 1996.

Any supply or consumption of intoxicating liquor in the buildings or grounds of the club permitted under the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 and any extensions and amendments thereto shall be lawful and not a breach of the Rules of the Club.

A list, in alphabetical order, of the names and addresses of every official and member shall be kept on the premises of the Club.

**Cumann Lúthchleas Gael**  
**Full Membership Application Form**

Ainm/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Seoladh/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax/Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:  Day  Month  Year (e.g. 06 02 65)

I hereby apply to: \_\_\_\_\_ Club for Membership

of the above Club and Membership of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael  
(The Gaelic Athletic Association)

.....  
I subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the  
Club and of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (The Gaelic Athletic  
Association, and to abide by its Rules, and I attach herewith  
the appropriate membership fee as determined by the above Club.

Sínithe/Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use only:

Membership/approved by Club Executive on <input type="text"/> Dáta
Sínithe: _____ Club Runaí.
Registered in Central Membership Database on _____
Membership Identification Number: _____

# Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

## Youth Membership Application Form

Ainm/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Seoladh/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax/Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:  Day  Month  Year (e.g. 06 02 90)

I hereby apply to: \_\_\_\_\_ Club for Membership

of the above Club and Youth Membership of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael  
(The Gaelic Athletic Association)

.....  
I subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (The Gaelic Athletic Association), and to abide by its Rules, and I attach herewith the appropriate membership fee as determined by the above Club.

Sínithe/Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), on behalf of the above named:-

We/I consent to the above Application and to undertakings given by the Applicant.

Sínithe/Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Dáta \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use only:

Youth Membership Application approved by Club Executive on  Dáta

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Runaí.

Registered in Central Membership Database on \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Disputes Resolution Code**

### **1. The Disputes Resolution Authority and Jurisdiction**

- 1.1 An Authority known as The Disputes Resolution Authority shall be established. It shall be independent of the Association and be bound only by the Provisions of this Code. It shall consist of a Secretary, who shall be appointed for a term of three years by Congress on the nomination of Central Council. If a vacancy occurs between Congresses, it shall be filled by the Central Council, and the appointment shall be ratified at the following Congress. The Secretary shall have power to appoint Deputies and/or Assistants.

The Secretary shall maintain a Panel of not fewer than 30 persons, made up of not fewer than 15 persons who have qualified as solicitors or barristers or arbitrators (Group 1), and not fewer than 15 persons without such qualification, who, by virtue of their experience and expertise in the affairs of the Association, are properly qualified to resolve disputes relating to the Rules of the Association (Group 2).

The Secretary's selection of the Panel shall be ratified by Central Council.

No serving Officer at County, Provincial or National level shall be eligible for the panel.

- 1.2 The Disputes Resolution Authority shall be indemnified in respect of all costs, expenses and liabilities by the Association and shall lay an account of its business before Central Council (or its appointed subcommittee) on an annual basis. The Disputes Resolution Authority shall not be liable for anything done or omitted in the discharge or purported discharge of its functions unless the act or omission is shown to have been in bad faith.

- 1.3 The Rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association (including Bye-Laws, Regulations, and interpretations of Rules by Central Council applicable to the decision, the subject matter of the dispute (the Rules) and the Laws of Ireland shall govern and be applied to any issue between disputing parties. The Tribunal (as defined in Section 5) shall make such enquiries, seek such opinions and evidence, and make such orders as it considers fit, subject to this Code and to Law.
- 1.4 In all matters in which the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority has a function under this Code, he/she may appoint a deputy to act in his/her place where, for reasons of practicality, he/she is not in a position to act. Such Deputy shall have all the powers and functions of the Secretary when acting with his/her authority.

## **2. Request for Dispute Resolution**

- 2.1 Any party to a dispute governed by this Code who seeks a determination (“the Claimant”) must submit to the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority a written request for dispute resolution proceedings (“the Claim”) containing the following details:
  - (a) the names and addresses of all parties to the dispute and their dates of birth if under the age of eighteen;
  - (b) a brief statement describing the nature and circumstances of the dispute, and specifying the remedy claimed;
  - (c) copies of any rules, regulations, bye-laws, rulings or legal authority relevant to the claim;
  - (d) a statement of any matters on which the parties have already agreed in relation to the conduct of the dispute resolution proceedings, or proposals (if any) in relation to such conduct;

- (e) Confirmation that all avenues of appeal under the Official Guide have been exhausted; and
- (f) A statement that the contents of the Claim are true and accurate.

A prescribed form is set out at the end of this Code, and the Secretary may publish updated prescribed forms for Claims under this Rule.

- 2.2 The Claim shall be notified to the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority as soon as possible after all available appeals within the Rules have been completed, and in any event within 7 days of the last decision, and no Claim shall be entertained after that date, unless the Secretary is satisfied that there is good reason for extending the time.
- 2.3 The Claim shall be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of €1,000 towards the expenses of The Disputes Resolution Authority, which amount shall be reviewed by the Secretary on an annual basis and notified to Central Council in the audited accounts. At the end of any Dispute Resolution proceedings, the total expenses of The Disputes Resolution Authority in the proceedings shall be calculated and the Tribunal (as defined in Section 5) may direct that the expenses be paid by such party or parties as it deems appropriate, and for this purpose may require that any successful Claimant be reimbursed in respect of the deposit by any unsuccessful parties.
- 2.4 The Claimant must serve a copy of the Claim together with copies of any documents supplied to the Secretary on the other party or parties (“the Respondent”) and shall confirm in writing to the Secretary when submitting the claim that such documents have been duly served. The date of receipt by the Secretary of the claim shall be the date the dispute resolution proceedings commenced (“the Commencement Date”).



### **3. Response by Respondent**

Within 7 days, or such extended, or in cases of special urgency, reduced, time limit as the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority may impose and notify to the Respondent, of the Commencement Date, the Respondent may send to the Secretary a response (“the Reply”) containing the following details:

- (a) a response by way of admission or denial of each statement in the Claim;
- (b) a brief statement of the nature and circumstances of any applicable counterclaim being made;
- (c) comment in response to any statements contained in the Claim on matters relating to the conduct of the dispute resolution proceedings;
- (d) confirmation that all available avenues of appeal under the Official Guide have been exhausted; and
- (e) a statement that the contents of the Reply are true and accurate.

and shall confirm in writing to the Secretary that a copy of the Reply together with copies of any documents supplied to the Secretary have been duly served on the Claimant, on any other Respondents and on the Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association. A prescribed form is set out at the end of this Code and the Secretary may publish updated forms for Replies under this Rule.

### **4. Mediation**

- 4.1 The Disputes Resolution Authority shall encourage mediation and negotiations where practical, and shall, if requested and otherwise at the Secretary’s discretion, notify the parties of the names and contact details of persons willing and able to assist in the amicable resolution of disputes within the Rules of the Association.
- 4.2 Mediation and negotiation shall be without prejudice to the dispute resolution proceedings and may take place and continue at any time during the dispute resolution proceedings.

## 5. The Tribunal

- 5.1 Subject to Section 5.4 below, any dispute submitted to The Disputes Resolution Authority shall be decided by a Tribunal (“the Tribunal”) of three persons selected from The Disputes Resolution Authority’s Panel, at least one of whom shall be selected from Group 1 and at least one of whom shall be selected from Group 2 of the Panel.
- 5.2 Every person conducting dispute resolution proceedings under this Code must be independent and impartial, and must never act as advocate for any party.
- 5.3 The Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority shall provisionally select the Tribunal from The Disputes Resolution Authority’s Panel and shall notify the parties of the names of the Tribunal members as soon as practicable after they have been selected. The Tribunal shall be so constituted, unless the Secretary receives an objection from one or more parties to any person provisionally selected within three days of notification (or such shorter period as may be set in the event that the hearing is set for an earlier date), and is satisfied that such person has a genuine conflict of interest.
- 5.4 If all parties to the dispute agree that the Tribunal shall consist of only one person nominated by them from The Disputes Resolution Authority’s Panel, they must notify the Secretary accordingly, and the Secretary, provided that he/she is satisfied that the nominated person is independent of the parties to the dispute, shall appoint that one person, and that one person shall constitute a valid Tribunal.
- 5.5 If any member of the Tribunal refuses, or in the opinion of the Secretary becomes unable or unfit to act, the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority shall appoint another person to the Tribunal in his place.

- 5.6 The Tribunal members shall select one of their number to act as Chairperson, and in default of agreement, the Secretary shall select the Chairperson.
- 5.7 The Tribunal may decide on its own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence or validity of the particular referral to arbitration in accordance with the Official Guide. For that purpose, this Code shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the Rules of the Association.

## **6. Communications**

- 6.1 The parties shall not communicate with the Tribunal except through the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority, unless so directed by the Secretary.
- 6.2 The Secretary may communicate with any party directly to confirm receipt of Documents, and may send copies of any Documents to them.
- 6.3 Correspondence from one party to the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority shall be accompanied by three extra copies, and a further copy of such correspondence must be sent by that party to every other party to the dispute.
- 6.4 All communications shall be either hand delivered or sent by post, email or facsimile transmission to the parties at the addresses set out for each in the Claim, or at such address as any party may have previously notified The Disputes Resolution Authority, the Tribunal and the other parties. Any such communication shall be deemed to be served:
  - (a) if hand delivered, at the time of delivery,
  - (b) if posted, at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing the same shall have been put in the post, and
  - (c) if sent by email or facsimile transmission, at the expiration of 12 hours after receipt of the same has been automatically acknowledged to the sender thereof, and in proving such service, it

shall be sufficient to prove that delivery was made or that the envelope containing the communication was properly addressed and posted as a prepaid letter, or that the email or facsimile transmission was properly addressed, despatched and acknowledged as the case may be.

- 6.5 In cases of special urgency, the Secretary, the Tribunal and (provided that permission from the Secretary has been obtained) the parties may use telephone or such other methods as are necessary in order to give notice.
- 6.6 The Tribunal may deem communications to be adequate notwithstanding a failure of compliance with this Section 6, if the same were sufficiently effective.

## **7. Conduct of the Proceedings**

- 7.1 The Tribunal shall conduct the dispute resolution proceedings in such manner as it considers fit and may follow any arbitral procedure agreed by the parties if it is in the Tribunal's opinion reasonably practicable so to do.
- 7.2 The Tribunal or its Chairperson may hold a preliminary meeting with the parties at which the parties may be given directions as to time limits and procedures, including timetables in respect of steps to be taken.
- 7.3 If directed to do so by the Tribunal, the parties shall make written submissions to the Tribunal giving further details of their Claim and Reply.
- 7.4 In cases of special urgency, the Tribunal (or, if the Tribunal has not yet been constituted, the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority) may, on the application of either party, direct that a hearing be held on a specific date and that any time limits set out in this Code be varied, as so directed.

- 7.5 Each party must submit to the Secretary within such time as the Tribunal shall direct, copies of every document on which that party will rely, unless that document has previously been submitted to the Secretary. Copies shall also be sent by that party to all other parties to the proceedings.
- 7.6 The Tribunal may proceed with the dispute resolution procedures and make its decision even if the Respondent has failed to serve a Reply. A Respondent who does not complete and serve a Reply in accordance with Section 3 may not, without the leave of the Tribunal, contest any Claim.
- 7.7 If any party deliberately or recklessly misleads the Secretary or the Tribunal as to any facts relevant to the dispute or referral, the Tribunal may dismiss their Claim or strike out their Reply and make punitive awards as to costs.

## **8. Interim Rulings**

- 8.1 A Claimant may apply to the Tribunal for interim temporary remedies where necessary in order to preserve the status quo ante pending the Hearing. If any claim for any interim remedy is being made, then subject to Section 7.4, it must be set out on the Claim.
- 8.2 Subject to Section 8.3, such applications shall be heard on a day and at a place and time suitable to the Tribunal, with at least 3 days' notice to the Respondent(s). The Tribunal shall have the same powers as a Court of Law in legal proceedings alleging a breach of contract.
- 8.3 In cases of special urgency, the Tribunal (or, if the Tribunal has not yet been constituted, the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority) may (i) shorten the time required for notice or (ii) dispense with notice, and grant such temporary interim remedy as is appropriate, if the Claimant shows that it has been impossible or impracticable to meet the notice requirements.

- 8.4 No interim remedy shall be granted in the event that the Tribunal or the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority, as the case may be, finds that the Claimant has unreasonably delayed in bringing the application for temporary interim remedy.
- 8.5 If an interim order is made and at the Hearing it is subsequently found that such interim order was inappropriate, the Tribunal may affix the Claimant with liability for any loss or damage thereby incurred by the Respondent(s), unless one or more exceptional countervailing factors are found to exist by the Tribunal.
- 8.6 All parties shall comply with the interim orders of the Tribunal, in default of which the Claim or the Reply (as the case may be) may be struck out without consideration of the substantive Claim.

## **9. Hearings**

- 9.1 The Tribunal shall fix the date, time and place of any hearings in the dispute resolution proceedings and shall give the parties as much notice as practicable of same. All such hearings shall be in private.
- 9.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the Tribunal may direct that the parties should make written submissions and that no evidence will be given orally.
- 9.3 Where the proceedings involve a matter of exceptional importance to the Association, the Tribunal in its absolute discretion may invite submissions from Central Council or any other appropriate party regarding the consequences for members and units of the Association other than those party to the dispute of any decision it might make.  
In any case it shall be open to Central Council to make an oral and/or written submission to the Tribunal.

## **10. Witnesses**

- 10.1 The parties must notify the Tribunal and other parties as soon as practicable and within any time limits set by the Tribunal of the identity of any witnesses they wish to call, and, if the Tribunal requires it, each party shall disclose the subject matter and content of the evidence on which each such witness shall be relying and how that evidence relates to the points at issue.
- 10.2 The Tribunal may question a witness at any stage, and shall supervise the questioning of a witness by the parties.

## **11. Decisions**

- 11.1 If in the opinion of the majority of the Tribunal, one member of the Tribunal has refused or failed to comply with this Code or any applicable law relating to the making of the decision and/or award, having been given a reasonable opportunity to do so, the other members may remove him/her, and the remaining members shall proceed in his/her absence.
- 11.2 The Tribunal shall decide on any issue by majority. The final decision shall be in writing and shall be dated and signed by each member of the Tribunal, and shall be accompanied by the reasons on which it is based.  
Save in exceptional circumstances to be set out in writing by the Tribunal the Party deemed by the Tribunal to have been successful in the Disputes Resolution Proceedings shall, on application, be entitled to its reasonable costs. If requested by either party, the Tribunal shall measure costs.
- 11.3 The Tribunal may direct any party to the dispute resolution proceedings to take, or abstain from taking, any steps, within the Rules of the Association and with due regard to the rights of third parties, including, but not limited to, the re-hearing of any disciplinary or other decision-making process, with or without directions as to the proper procedures to be applied.

- 11.4 In the event of a decision or procedure being quashed, and with agreement of both parties, the Tribunal may conduct a full hearing as if it were an appellate body of last resort under the Rules of the Association, with power to fully conduct the procedure which has been quashed. No decision made by the Tribunal in this context shall be susceptible to appeal or review by any body.
- 11.5 In the event that the parties in dispute agree a resolution of the dispute at any stage in the referral prior to the delivery of the decision, the Tribunal, if satisfied that such proposed resolution is within the Rules of the Association and does not occasion any breach of contract or other act whereby any third party is prejudiced, may ratify the resolution, in which case it shall have the same force as if it were a decision of the Tribunal.
- 11.6 The Chairman of the Tribunal shall arrange for the decision to be delivered to the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority, and the Secretary shall notify the parties and the Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association accordingly.

## **12. General Rules**

- 12.1 If notwithstanding the fact that any provision or requirement of this Code has not been complied with, a party proceeds with dispute resolution proceedings without promptly stating its objection, that party shall have waived its right to object.
- 12.2 Save in respect of decisions made prior to the constitution of a Tribunal and the election of its Chairperson, any decision of the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority may be appealed to the Tribunal.



**FORM 1: REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION**

(“the Claim”)

1 Name: (of Person/Committee/Council/  
Other Body):

\_\_\_\_\_ (“the Claimant”)

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/legal guardian (if under 18):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If the Claimant is a Unit of the Association please  
nominate a person, or persons, to be legally responsible on  
behalf of that unit:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Person(s)/Committee(s)/Council(s)/Other Body (Bodies)  
against whom Claim is made:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (“the Respondent(s)”)

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If the Respondent is a Unit of the Association please  
nominate a person, or persons, to be legally responsible on  
behalf of that unit:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Names and addresses of any *further* persons/ committees/bodies concerned or affected.
- (1): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(use additional sheet for any further names)*

- 4 Brief statement of the facts upon which the claim is based  
*(use additional sheet if required):*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 a) Date(s) of decision(s) being disputed (enclose copy, if in writing):  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Date of Decision of Final Appeal under the Rules of the GAA  
 (enclose copy, if in writing):  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Date of Receipt of Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

- 6 Is an extension of time sought for the submission of the Claim under Section 2.2 of the Disputes Resolution Code? If the answer is Yes please set out reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7 List the Rules of the Association or laws or entitlements of which it is claimed the Respondent(s) is/are in breach *(use additional sheet if required):*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

8 Brief statement explaining why the Respondent(s) are in breach of the rules/laws/entitlements (*use additional sheet if required*):

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9 List what remedy or Remedies is/are claimed (*use additional sheet if required*):

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

10 List any interim Temporary Remedies sought and state reasons why:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

11 Have any matters been agreed in relation to the dispute? If yes, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12 Does the Claimant have any proposals for the carrying out of the hearing (e.g. whether an urgent hearing is necessary, what location is suitable etc.)? Yes\*/No\* (*\*delete as appropriate*)

If yes, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 13 Do you require copies of any documents in the possession or power of the Respondent(s) or any other parties concerned? Yes\*/No\*

(\*delete as appropriate)

If 'Yes', list the documents or categories of documents sought (*use additional sheet if required*):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I/We hereby confirm that I/We have exhausted all available avenues of appeal under the Official Guide.

I/We hereby certify that the facts stated above are true and I acknowledge that if any of these facts is proved to be false, my/our Claim may be dismissed immediately without further consideration:

Signed (in Irish): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Claimant)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Attach a copy of any Rules of the Association relevant to the Claim to the original and each copy of the Claim Form.
2. Send original Claim to the Secretary of the DRA together with a deposit of €1,000 paid by
  - a) Cheque
  - b) Cash
  - c) Electronic Transfer or Lodgement to Disputes Resolution Authority, Bank of Ireland, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.  
A/C No. **92285815** Branch No. **903437**
3. Attach a blank Reply Form to each copy of the Claim being sent to a Respondent.

### **To the Respondent**

If you dispute any of the contents of this Claim, or deny any of the reliefs sought by the Claimant then you should complete the attached Reply, send a copy of it to the Claimant and to each Respondent as well as to the Árd Stiúirthóir, and send the original to the Secretary of the DRA. If you do not complete and serve a Reply in this manner you may not be permitted to contest the Claimant's Claim which may be allowed by default.

### Confirmation of Service

I hereby certify and confirm that I served a true copy of the  
within Claim on the  
1st Respondent by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Claim was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

and on the 2nd Respondent by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Claim was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

and on the Árd Stiúrthóir by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Claim was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM 2: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION**

(“the Reply”)

1 Name (of Person/Committee/Council/Other Body):  
\_\_\_\_\_ (“the Respondent”)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If the Respondent is a Unit of the Association does it wish to nominate different nominee(s) to those in the Claim? If Yes, please give the following details:

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Names and addresses of any *further persons*/committees/bodies concerned or affected:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(use additional sheet for any further names)*

3 Date Claim Received: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Does the Respondent confirm or deny the facts stated in the Claim? If denied, please explain why (use additional sheet if required):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5 Does the Respondent object to furnishing the Claimant with any of the documents sought and, if so, why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

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6 State whether Respondent is agreeable to all or part of the remedy claimed, including any interim Temporary Remedy, claimed:

---

---

7 Have any matters been agreed in relation to the dispute? If yes, please specify:

---

---

---

8 Does the Respondent have any proposals for the carrying out of the hearing?  
If yes, please specify:

---

---

---

9 Do you require copies of any documents in the possession or power of the Claimant(s) or any other parties concerned? Yes\* / No\* (*\*delete as appropriate*)  
If 'Yes', list the documents or categories of documents sought (*use additional sheet if required*):

1. 

---
2. 

---
3. 

---

I hereby acknowledge/deny that the Claimant has exhausted all available avenues of appeal under the Rules of the Association.

I hereby certify that the facts stated above are true and I acknowledge that if any of these facts is proved to be false, my response to the Claim may be struck out immediately without further consideration

Signed (In Irish): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Respondent or on behalf of the Respondent)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach:

A copy of any Rules of the Association relevant to the Reply.

### Confirmation of Service

I hereby certify and confirm that I served a true copy of the within Reply on the Claimant by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

and on the Other Respondent by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

and on the Árd Stiúrthóir by

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)*

to

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)*

on

\_\_\_\_\_ *(insert date of service)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**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 Emlý: -  
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 - Éamonn 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 (Muneacháin)  
2003 - Seán Ó Ceallaigh (Ciarraí)  
2006 - Nioclás Ó Braonáin (Cill Chainnigh)

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