Cluichí Ceathrú Ceannais Craobh Soisear

Naomh Mhuire Conmhaigh
Postponed v
Gaeil Leitir Ceannainn

Bun an Phobail
v
Na Dunaibh

Junior Football - Semi Finals
Games Streaming for Free on Downings and Letterkenny Gaels Facebook Pages

O'Donnell Park
Sunday 20th, 15.00
Convoy v Letterkenny Gaels

MacCumhaill Park
Saturday 19th, 20.00
Moville v Downings

www.donegalgaa.ie. @officialdonegal

MICHAEL MURPHY SPORTS & LEISURE

Mean Fomhair 19ú agus 20ú
i Páirc Sean Mhic Chumhaill agus Páirc Uí Dhomhnaill

Clar Oifigiul: €0
County Board Chairperson - Mick McGrath

You are all very welcome to this weekend’s Michael Murphy Sports Junior football semifinal. Unfortunately one of the two fixtures has been postponed due to Covid-19. The pandemic has seen us battle against the change in our lifestyles, our work, our social fabric, our families, and our sporting involvement. The GAA has seen many changes since its foundation and it has originated from the roots and soul of our Gaelic traditions, but no member could have foreseen the changes wrought by Covid-19.

The year 2020 will certainly remain in our memories as the year of transformation, and we continue to implement the many prevention measures required to keep this virus at bay. I encourage you all to continue the great work that we have all had a part to play in, and I thank you for the many hours of voluntary assistance you have contributed in your club areas in assisting the HSE and others, in bringing safe and healthy practice to vulnerable and lonely members of our communities.

On behalf of the GAA in Donegal I thank the frontline workers who have given so much to helping our society in facing the challenge of the coronavirus. There was a period this year when we thought we wouldn’t get playing our games, but many difficulties were overcome to reach this stage of the championship. We have not agreed with all instructions and regulations, but we respect the decision makers for their fight against this unprecedented virus while still getting our games played. The County Competition Control Committee (CCC) have used new regulations, competition formats, and workmanlike decision making to reach this stage of championship, and we are all delighted to see the championship finalised in these difficulty times. I congratulate all Clubs who have continued to contribute to giving us the opportunity to see Gaelic games played in changed and difficult times.

The streaming of our games is a new phase and challenge that we have been thrown into with restrictions on capacity. This is an industry in its infancy and there have been inevitable hiccups but all times Donegal GAA are striving to bring Championship knockout games into our homes. CLG Dhún na nGall are streaming most of the knock-out games on a PPV basis using professional camera and graphics crews to bring our spectators the best possible quality. The County Board’s goal of bringing all knock-out games to club members and other spectators thwarted by Covid-19 restrictions has been made a reality because of assistance from clubs. They have stepped up to the mark and streamed games for free when fixtures are not covered by the Donegal GAA’s stream teams. This weekend both Junior football semi-finals are being streamed clubs. Na Dunaibh are streaming their game against Bun an Phobail on their Facebook page while Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn’s Facebook page will have their fixture from O’Donnell Park against Naomh Mhuire, Conmaigh. Last week Bun an Phobail and Carn Domhnaigh streamed their quarterfinal fixtures, also free of charge, on their Facebook pages.

I wish Downings, Moville and the match Officials, the best of luck and hope to soon see the other semi-final played.
**Pat Barrett, Referee**

*Naomh Mhuire Conmhaigh v Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn*

Pat Barrett is a 53 year old father of three, married for 24 years to Dympna English. He took up refereeing three years ago. Pat played for Milford for 17 years (1983-2000), his last game being their victory over Glenswilly in the 2000 Junior final. He also captained Milford to their first adult title, a Junior championship following defeat of Naomh Mhuire, Conmhaigh in 1990.

Donegal. He won medals for his club in a number of underage divisional and county grades and was part of the squad that won the first Ted Webb title for Donegal - he was a member of the Donegal Vocational school squad for four years.

Married to Louise with four children who wish him the best of luck in Saturday’s game.

**Kevin McGinley, Referee**

*Bun an Phobail v Na Dunaibh*

Kevin McGinley, a member of the Naomh Columba Club, took up refereeing eight years ago. Kevin has ref’d county finals across all divisions in County Donegal as well as a range of grades and age groups - county Óg Sport, minors, u21B, Junior B and Junior A. Kevin has also been the man in the middle for County Gaeltacht games.

Kevin played for Naomh Columba at all levels and for Donegal. He won medals for his club in a number of underage divisional and county grades and was part of the squad that won the first Ted Webb title for Donegal - he was a member of the Donegal Vocational school squad for four years.

Married to Louise with four children who wish him the best of luck in Saturday’s game.
Junior Championship - League Tables

Ten teams competed in the 2020 Junior Championship.

There were two five-team sections with each team playing each other and each getting two home and two away games. In Section A, Naomh Mhuire Conmhaigh won all four games to top the section and move directly to the semi-finals, while in Section B, Na Dunaibh drew with Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn on the opening day but subsequently won all their games and also moved directly to the semi-finals.

Last weekend, Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn prevailed in Carn Domhnaigh while Bun an Phobail enjoyed a home victory over An Iorras to earn their semi-final berths. In the open draw on Sunday evening Gaels were drawn against Convoy and Moville drawn to play Downings. The second of these two fixtures proceeds today and we hope that it will be soon followed by Convoy v Gaels.

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Tasty Junior Semi-finals in Store
Preview from Ryan Ferry - Donegal News

Ryan wrote this article before the Convoy v Letterkenny Gaels was postponed.

There are two tasty Junior ‘A’ Championship semi-finals down for decision this weekend.

First up is the meeting of Downings and Moville in MacCumhaill Park. Downings prevailed when the sides met in the group but they had home advantage on that occasion.

Lorcan Connor, Johnny McGroddy, and Keelan McGroddy are the main attacking threats for Downings, while Oisin Boyce and Ben McNutt are solid at the back.

The dangermen for Moville are county star Ciaran Diver, Christy Hegarty, and Michael Barr, who has been in superb form of late.

Malachy McDermott is a calming influence in midfield, while Tony McClenaghan and Enda Faulkner bring plenty of power and pace to the half-back line.

It’s a few years since either of these two teams contested a Junior ‘A’ Championship Final and they will both fancy their chances this week.

Letterkenny Gaels and St Mary’s Convoy square off in Sunday’s semi-final at O’Donnell Park.

Convoy have been beaten in the semi-final in each of the last three years and they are desperate to take the next step.

Letterkenny Gaels reached the final last year and were unlucky to lose out to a strong Buncrana team. Brian and Anthony Diver are two reliable defenders for the Gaels, while Ciaran Cannon starred at underage level for Donegal.

In attack, Conor McBrearty is their main man but keep an eye out for Ronan Frain.

Convoy have plenty of talent themselves and young defender Conal McDermott and John Doherty are strong in defence.

Raymond McNamee provides presence at midfield, while Paddy Dolan, Joe McGill, and the returning Anthony Browne will be charged with providing the scores.

Convoy will start as favourites, but both teams will have their eyes firmly set on a final berth.
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Stay local. Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:

**Wash**
Your hands well and often to avoid contamination.

**Cover**
Your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely.

**Distance**
Yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell.

**Avoid**
Crowds and crowded places.

**Know**
The symptoms. If you have them self isolate and contact your GP immediately.

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Covid-19 Adjustments to Match Regulations

Restrictions due to Covid-19 required a number of adjustments to Match Regulations for Gaelic Games during 2020. These include:

1.3 A maximum of 20 players (starting 15 and 5 panel members) shall be allowed within the pitch enclosure during the playing of the game. Any additional panel members should be outside the pitch enclosure.

1.4 A maximum of 4 (football) & 5 (hurling) Team Officials shall be allowed within the pitch Enclosure during the playing of our games – one Bainisteoir, one Maor Foirne, one Medic, One Club Official and One Maor Camán (Hurling only).

1.5 Each team will be allocated an area of the pitch (the Team Officials & Players Zone) between the 20m and 45m lines in advance of the game by the Committee-in-Charge. Their team officials and panel of players, as per regulations 1.3 & 1.4, shall be positioned during the game. The Zones will have ten seats positioned to ensure compliance with Government social distancing guidelines (currently 2 m). Dugouts may be used provided government guidelines around social distancing are observed.

1.7 Ball boys are not permitted.

1.8 Accredited photographers with media passes will be permitted pitch-side. They are restricted to the opposite side of the pitch to the Team Officials and they are not allowed behind either set of goalposts.

2.8 Water Breaks – One water break will take place between the 15th & 20th minute in each half. The referee will signal for the water break only when the ball has gone out of play following a score, wide or during a stoppage called by the Referee. The breaks should last no longer than a minute, with players coming to the area in front of their team zone and drinking from their own clearly marked bottle. The time taken for the break will be added to the end of each half as part of the additional time. If a venue has a match clock, it should continue during this time. Players are permitted to position their clearly marked water bottle around the outside of the pitch. **Maor Uisce are not permitted in either Football or Hurling.**

2.10 Substitutes - Substitutes are not allowed a kick/puck around at half-time. A maximum of three substitutes wearing designated distinctive tops may warm up on sidelines at any one time. A maximum number of 5 substitutes are allowed within the pitch enclosure at any one time. As per rule, there is no limit on the size of a club match day panel.

5.1 The following guidelines are issued to Players & Team Officials to reduce risk and maximise personal safety:
- no handshakes before or after games;
- no spitting or nose-clearing;
- team huddles should only take place where social distancing is observed;
- use hand-sanitisers before and after every match;
- players should use their own clearly marked water bottles;
- interaction with opponents & match officials should be kept to a minimum after the match.

5.2 Players & team officials are reminded of the following disciplinary rules during the Covid-19 Emergency. **Note:** All suspensions below are the minimum and can be increased by the relevant committee.

**Player**
- Spitting at an opponent, team mate or match official is dealt with in Rule 5.20 (Hurling) and Rule 5.18 (Football) – Red Card; Cat III; one-match ban
- Deliberately coughing in the face of an opponent may be considered “behaving in a way which is dangerous to an opponent” (5.17 H; 5.19 F) – Red Card; Cat III; one-match ban
- Challenge the authority of the Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official (6.1 H & F) – Yellow Card
- Remonstrate in an aggressive manner with a Match Official (5.13 F) – Black Card (football)
- Threatening or abusive conduct to a Match Official (5.39 H; 5.35 F) – Red Card; Cat V; 12 weeks

**Team Official**
- Any type of physical interference with an Opposing Player or Team Official – Cat II a; 8 weeks Suspension
- Abusive language to Match Official - Cat I a; 4 weeks Suspension
- Threatening or abusive conduct to Match Official – Cat III a; 12 weeks Suspension
- Assault on Match Official – Cat IV a; 48 weeks Suspension
- The **Referee** has authority during the game to send any person in breach of Match Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.
Covid-19 capacity restrictions on attendances have been eased but, alongside the legitimate worries of vulnerable groups, still frustrate supporters who cannot get to see their clubs play championship football.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh to CLG Na Dunaibh who are streaming this game live on their Facebook page for the spectators for both clubs that cannot make it to MacCumhaill Park on Saturday evening. A professional Stream Team - C-Live Sport - will work alongside a top commentary team of Charlie Collins and Andy Connors. Thanks also to Stream Sponsors - The Downings Bay Hotel.

C-Live Sport which consists of Hugh Quirke on Camera and Sean Quirke looking after all technical aspects of the live stream, including switchers, graphics, score, etc, are one of the four Stream Teams used by Donegal GAA.

Hugh and Sean have a combined tenure in the video-gra-phy business of over 50 years. Together they aim to bring live streams, of the highest possible quality, of sporting events at a local and national level to the general population.
The online site for the Club Donegal House Draw is live at www.winyourhouseindublin.com. The top prize is a four bedroom house, semi-detached, in Dublin in association with Alanna Homes. The house is newly built to the latest energy efficiency standards and is valued at €400,000. There are also four other prizes including a brand new Mazda 2, a week’s holiday, €1,000 cash and a night’s B&B in Carton House with a round of golf for 2.

All proceeds from the draw go towards paying the debt on the newly completed Phase 2 of the Donegal GAA Centre in Convoy and financing the planned Phase 3. The ongoing development of the Centre is a key plank in the future success of GAA games in Donegal - football and hurling, youth and adult, ladies and men. The Donegal Facebook page has a video of county manager Declan Bonner and captain Michael Murphy discussing the centrality of the facilities at Convoy to both the continued success of our county representatives and the nurturing of future stars.

Tickets for the draw can be bought online using devices from mobiles to desktop computers. Tickets are also from contacts within each of the forty clubs in the County. Thanks to the Abbey Hotel, Donegal; the Allingham Arms, Bundoran; the Mount Errigal, Letterkenny; and the Villa Rose, Ballybofey - tickets had been available from these venues but due to Covid 19 regulations this is no longer the case.

During the half-time break in each of the championship knock-out games you can either listen to a Donegal celebrity - Conal Gallen, Daniel O’Donnell, Declan Bonner, Sean McGinley and Micky Joe Hart have all featured to date - promoting the draw. Club Donegal have also been kind enough to sponsor the Man of the Match award in a selection of our championship fixtures to date.

There is a dedicated mobile phone number, where queries can be answered and purchases can be made - 086-604-7089. Currently you can follow Club Donegal on Facebook at “Win Your House in Dublin”, on Twitter @WinHouseDublin and on Instagram at @winyourhouseindublin.
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Other Prizes

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<td>3rd Prize</td>
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<td>4th Prize</td>
<td>€1,000 Cash Prize</td>
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<td>5th Prize</td>
<td>1 night B&amp;B with round of golf for 2 Carton House, Co Kildare</td>
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www.winyourhouseindublin.com

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