

Coiste na nÓg Dhún na nGall

RULES & REGULATIONS 2021

1 Coiste na nÓg shall be the governing & controlling body of all underage Hurling and Football games within County Donegal.

1.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Coiste na nÓg / Coiste na nÓg CCC

- a) To agree competition formats with all Regional Boards and the Hurling Board at start of the year.
- b) Will have final decision in the grading for all competitions.
- c) Will draw up match regulations for all competitions.
- d) Will work in conjunction with the Coaching & Games Development Committee to co-ordinate new coaching initiatives.
- e) Will deal with all disciplinary matters arising from all stages of all Competitions in both Football and Hurling.

2. Regional Boards

The Three Regional Boards shall be called the Northern Regional Board, the Southern Regional Board and the Inishowen Regional Board.

3. Role and Responsibilities of All Regional Boards:

- a) To organize Leagues, Championships and Blitz competitions up to and including Minor(U17) age group.
- b) To produce a detailed fixture list in conjunction with the Coiste na nÓg CCC at the start of the year for all the above competitions.
- c) To send all disciplinary matters within their Board's area to be dealt with by Coiste na nÓg CCC Disciplinary secretary. Appeals arising out of decisions made by the Coiste na n Óg CCC will be dealt with by the County Hearings Committee.
- d) To have one (1) vote on County Committee.

4. Regional Boards AGMs

The Annual General Meeting of all the Regional Boards shall be held not later than November 30th each year. It shall consist of the officers of the outgoing Boards and two delegates from each club, which competed, in an underage Championship of the preceding year.

5. Finance

Funding will be determined by the Donegal County Committee. The Treasurers shall lodge all monies in a bank as nominated by the Donegal County Committee and shall produce all books including those of the Regional Boards, when requested to do so for audit purposes.

5.1 The Treasurer and one of either the Chairman or Secretary must sign all cheques. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report to every monthly meeting of the Regional Board.

5.2 The Regional Board Treasurer shall send a copy of their annual report to the County Treasurer immediately after the AGM.

6. Fixtures

The Donegal Coiste na nÓg CCC in conjunction with the three Regional Boards and the Hurling Board, shall produce a complete set of all underage fixtures, these to be ratified by Donegal Coiste na nÓg and be set up on the Servasport system and published on Donegal GAA Webpage.

6.1 The Regional Boards' Coiste na nÓg CCC delegate shall be responsible for coordinating Regional Board fixtures and the selection of venues that arise between meetings.

6.2 Coiste na nÓg will meet at least six (6) times during the year to ensure smooth running of the fixture program.

6.3 Players who reside in a Club area where no underage teams exist may apply in writing to the County Committee as per Rule 6.4 T. O 2021.

6.4 Fixtures in all regions will take place as per master fixture plan with the following exception on a postponement. The Coiste na nÓg CCC, in exceptional circumstances, may grant the postponement of a club fixture in the event of a sudden or tragic death or the death of a club member who during their lifetime had rendered exceptional service to CLG. The Coiste na nÓg CCC may grant a postponement on the death of an immediate family member of a player, Team Manager, 3 Main Club Officers and the CCC will have responsibility for the rescheduling. (Immediate Family Members shall include husband, wife, child, parent, sibling and in the case of player grandparent or parent's sibling.)

6.5 A club may seek a postponement of a fixture from the Coiste na nÓg CCC if they can satisfactorily demonstrate that in excess of 2 players are unavailable due to being diagnosed positive for Covid or an excess of 5 players are being considered a close contact of a Covid case. Any such games will be refixed for a time and date considered appropriate by the Coiste na nÓg CCC.

6.6 All last round games in League and/or in Championship will be played simultaneously, no postponement of any game to a date beyond that round, or of the final round of fixtures, will be granted.

6.7 In the case of unplayable pitches, games cannot be called off without a pitch inspection by an official referee appointed by the County Referees Administrator at least 4 hours before appointed time. If the pitch is deemed unplayable the game automatically reverts to the opponent's grounds (provided it is playable).

6.8 Challenge Game The Club Secretary of all Clubs wishing to seek permission to play an Underage Challenge Match, must do so on the Official Challenge match App in advance of the Fixture as per Rule, 6.41 T.O. 2021. Challenge Games outside the County and within Ulster require permission from Ulster Council, Challenge Games outside the Province must be sought from Croke Park, Clubs participating in unauthorized challenge games will be fined E100.

7. Referees unable to fulfill a fixture must contact the Referees Administrator for the services of a neutral referee, and he shall inform the Assistant Secretary of the relevant Board before 6pm on day prior to fixture.

7.1 Referees shall forward their reports to the relevant Regional Secretary / Treasurer who will reimburse their expenses. The referee's expenses shall be recovered from the relevant club.

Referees Reports in Regional games with Disciplinary issues must be with relevant secretary no later than 48 hours after game who shall forward them immediately to Coiste na nÓg CCC Disciplinary secretary at (email address TBC)

Referee reports in all county competitions with Disciplinary issues must be with Coiste na nÓg CCC Disciplinary secretary at (email address TBC) within 48 hours.

The expenses of referees in semi-finals and finals of all county competitions shall be paid for by the Treasurer of the Donegal Coiste na nOg Committee.

8. Games and control of games:

(a) Both teams qualifying for County Finals should be properly attired and presented on County Final Day.

(b) Five (5) Subs only are permitted in all underage levels from u15 upwards.

(c) All knockout League games including County Finals must be finished. Therefore, in the event of a draw at full time, extra time (10 minutes each way) must be played. Penalty kicks to be taken if still level after extra time.

(d) In the event of teams finishing level on points after completion of group games in Regional leagues the positions in league table will be determined by Scoring Difference (subtracting the total Scores Against from total Scores For) per Rule 6.21(4) c (ii) T.O 2021.

(e) An underage player is not allowed to play 2 grades above his/her age (4 years above the competition date) i.e., an U9 is not allowed to play U13, U11 is not allowed to play U15 (see below). Girls may participate only up to and including the U12 grade.

Age Grades on 1/1/2021

Under 17: Be over 13 and under 17 years

Under 15: Be over 11 and under 15 years

Under 13: Be over 9 and under 13 years

Under 12: Be over 9 and under 12 years

Under 11: Be over 8 and under 11 years

(f) Each team to have only Four Mentors including medical person on the sidelines during underage matches from U11 to U17. Distinctive bibs to be worn to identify same (Home Team shall wear Blue Bibs and Away Team shall wear Orange Bibs,) The penalty for breach of this rule is €50.00 payable to relevant Regional Boards if Regional Games or to Coiste na nÓg CCC if County Quarter Final /Semi-Final or Final matches.

9. Returning of Trophies, all cups, and trophies to be returned to the relevant Regional Board Secretary by (1st July 2021). All County Trophies won in 2019/2020 to be returned to Assistant Treasurer Frankie Doherty, assistanttreasurer.donegal@gaa.ie by 1st September 2021, clubs who fail to do so will incur a €200 fine and may be made financially liable for any damage caused.

10. Role of the Coiste na nÓg CCC.

- a). shall organize and decide format of all competitions under its jurisdiction.
- b). shall deal with all objections and counter objections arising from the fixture program within its jurisdiction.
- c). shall deal with referees reports and matters arising other than those functions that are reserved for the County Hearings Committee.
- d). shall investigate and process matters relating to the enforcement of the rules and match regulations except where these matters are reserved for the County Hearings Committee.
- e). shall control all grading or re-grading in respect of county/club and Regional competitions.
- f). the powers of the Coiste na nÓg CCC assistant secretary for Disciplinary are plenary.
- g). The Coiste na nÓg CCC will ensure that the provisions of the official guide are upheld in relation to games and competitions.
- h). The Coiste na nÓg CCC reserve the right to abandon all new competitions fixed for 2021 in the event of further restrictions being imposed as a result of medical advice.

11. Number of Players: If a team has 17 players or more available on match day, they must play 15 a Side. This applies to all competitions from U15 up to and including U17 in all Divisions. Advance notice should be given to opposing team as soon as possible if less than 17 players available.

County Competitions Format

12. U13 All County Division One Championship

Winners and Runners Up in Northern and Southern Regional Under 13 Division One Plus Third Placed team and the Winners and Runners Up in Inishowen Regional Under 13 Division One shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U/13 Division One Championship.

The winners in each regional board and one second placed team (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

12.1 U13 All County Division Two Championship

Winners and Runners Up in Northern and Southern Regional Under 13 Division Two Plus Third Placed team and the Winners and Runners Up in Inishowen Regional Under 13 Division Two shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U/13 Division Two Championship.

The winners in each regional board and one second placed team (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Final. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

12.2 U13 All County Division Three Championship

Three (3) nominated representatives from the Northern and Southern Regional Under 13 plus Two (2) nominated representatives from the Inishowen Regional Under 13 shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U13 Division Three Championship.

The First nominated team in each regional board and one Second nominated team in each regional board (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

13. U15 All County Division One Championship

Winners and Runners Up in Northern and Southern Regional Under 15 Division One Plus Third Placed Team and the Winners and Runners Up in the Inishowen Regional Under 15 Division One shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U15 Division One Championship

The winners in each regional board and one second placed team (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

13.1 U15 All County Division Two Championship

Winners and Runners up in Northern and Southern Regional Under 15 Division Two Plus Third Placed Team and the Winners and Runners up in Inishowen Regional Under 15 Division Two shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U15 Division Two Championship.

The winners in each regional board and one second placed team (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

13.2 U15 All County Division Three Championship

Three (3) nominated representatives from the Northern and Southern Regional Under 15 League plus Two (2) nominated representatives from the Inishowen Regional Under 15 shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U15 Division Three Championship.

The First nominated team in each regional board and one Second nominated team in each regional board (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

14. U17 All County Division One Championship

Twelve teams shall take part in the 2021 U17 Division One championship.

a) The U17 Division One championship format will be played off with a single league of 12 teams.

b) The top 8 teams qualify for the quarter finals with 1st v 8th, 2nd v 7th, 3rd v 6th and 4th v 5th. The top 4 teams will have home advantage in quarter finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible)

c) The bottom 4 teams in the league of 12 will play each other in the Division One Shield Semi-Finals with 9th v 12th and 10th v 11th. The 9th and 10th place teams will have home advantage for the semi-final. (County Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

14.1 U17 All County Division Two Championship

Winners and Runners up in Northern and Southern Regional Under 17 Division Two plus Third Placed Team and the Winners and Runners up in Inishowen Regional Under 17 shall qualify for County Quarter Finals of U17 Division Two Championship.

The winners in each regional board and one second placed team (drawn randomly) will have home advantage in County Quarter Finals. (County Semi Finals / Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

14.2 U17 All County Division Three Championship

Six teams shall take part in the 2021 U17 Division Three championship.

a) The U17 Division Three championship format will be played off with a double round of league fixtures (home and away).

b) The top 4 teams qualify for the All County semi-finals with 1st v 4th, and 2nd v 3rd. The top 2 teams will have home advantage in semifinals. (County Final at Neutral Ground where Possible)

c) The bottom 2 teams in the league of 6 will play each other in the Division Three Shield Final. (County Final at Neutral Ground where Possible).

15. In extraordinary circumstances where a Club are not able to field in a quarter final of the All-County stages of any competition then all Regional boards reserve the right to nominate another club to go forward to represent that regional board in the all-county quarter finals of that competition.