



# **Regulations Governing the Organisation & Presentation of Donegal Club Championships & Leagues**

## **Regulations Governing the Organisation and Presentation of the GAA 2023 Club**

### **Fixtures**

The Committee-in-Charge may impose penalties for breaches of the Regulations brought to its attention by members of the Committee-in-Charge. Failure to respect the regulations and follow laid down procedures therein may lead to penalties as defined in T.O. Rule, in Bye Law or Regulation & being imposed on individuals, teams, or Clubs by the Committees-in-Charge.

### **A. GROUND/PITCH REGULATIONS**

- 1.1** Ground Regulations will apply to all venues considered suitable for club championships. They shall include procedures for entry to each ground, designated areas for substitutes and Team Officials and shall be communicated to Teams in advance along with the official Clár an Lae where the Committee in Charge deem necessary.
- 1.2** The Clár an Lae shall (where the CCC deem it required ) will notify teams in advance of each game as to pre-match & half time protocols, the assignation of dressing rooms, bib colours to be worn, etc.
- 1.3** In League and Championship matches (Non Knockout) - Home team will wear Blue Bibs and away team will wear Orange Bibs. (Exception shall be where bib colours match the team colours)

### **B. ADMINISTRATION**

- 2.** All Trophies are to be returned to the County Office by the April County Committee meeting. Failure to do so will incur a fine of €500. (This does not apply to the Under-21 trophy). Clubs shall be held responsible for the replacement costs of any trophies not returned in time for presentation at the following years final. Clubs shall be held responsible for any damage caused to trophies while in their care and will be liable for the cost of any repairs.
- 3.** Clubs shall submit electronically to the County PRO, the Club Officer contact details by the third Monday of February.
- 4.** Regional Boards shall have all Underage Club Officer contact details with the County PRO electronically by the third Monday of February.
- 5.** When an Adult Club reaches a County Quarter Final, Semi Final or Final, the club must supply the team list as requested to the County PRO at least 3 days (72 hours prior to Throw in) in advance of the game being held where a published handout/match programme is planned. Penalty for non-compliance is a €500 fine.
- 6.** The CCC shall in consultation with the Hurling and underage boards prepare a draft indicative Master schedule of fixtures to include all county and club fixtures at both adult and underage grades. Nothing contained within these regulations, or in the Indicative Master Fixture list shall impinge on the CCC powers as contained in R.3.21 or the CCC powers to make fixtures, provided due notice as specified in the applicable Official Guide is provided.
  - A)** The CCC in conjunction with the County Management Committee shall submit in writing to County Committee meeting for consideration the operating procedures



which the CCC will adopt during the year is respect of

1. Notice of Indicative Fixtures.
2. Notice of Confirmed Fixtures.
3. Procedures for requesting Fixture cancellation/Change of Date/ Change of Time.

**Such procedures shall then be adopted by the County Committee. Any non-compliance by the CCC with the specified procedures shall not negate any fixtures otherwise properly made by the CCC but the CCC shall be required to detail any instances of non-compliance in its report to the next county committee meeting.**

- B) The County Information Booklet where possible be circulated at or before the April County Committee Meeting.
7. All competitions at adult level in the Knockout stages are governed by GAA Winner on the day regulations unless the CCC has specified otherwise, Winner on the day regulations apply for all replays.
  8. Where a report of two (2) or more members of the County Committee or a CCC appointed monitor who were present at any match is to the effect that owing to the nature of play, the conduct of spectators, or otherwise, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael may have been brought into disrepute, the Committee in Charge may order an investigation, even though the referee's report may not have given these facts.
  9. When fixing a game for a neutral venue, the Committee in Charge will assume responsibility for all aspects of the staging of that fixture. (e.g. providing guidance to host club on what is required etc.).
  10. That no video of any Donegal County Championship game, featuring the relevant Donegal champions, shall be passed on to any other county in Ulster or beyond by any unit or person. Penalty At the discretion of the Committee in Charge. To include a fine of no less than €500
  11. When an Adult Club reaches a County Quarter Final, Semi Final or Final, the club must supply the team list as requested to the County PRO at least 3 days in advance of the game being held where a Virtual/published handout/match programme is planned. Penalty for non-compliance is a €500 fine.
  12. Players listed on the Official Team sheet must wear the corresponding number of that submitted by the secretary for match programmes. Where players line out incorrectly a penalty shall apply. The penalty shall be : A fine of no less €50 per infraction  
*Where an injury has taken place to the player, and he is unable to play no penalty shall apply.*
  13. In all codes official match day panels shall be limited to 28 players. Penalty for failure to comply shall rest with the Committee in Charge.
  14. Donegal CCC shall accept and inform clubs on all requests and the CCC's decision to grant permission for Streaming of all games at adult level in all Codes. Donegal CCC shall upon request be forwarded a copy of the game, penalty for failure to comply with the request shall rest with the Committee in Charge.



## **C. COMPETITIONS**

### **15. Rial 6.21 (4) (c) T.O.2018, Cuid 1 (as permitted in this rule) to be amended to apply to all Adult Donegal Club Competitions, as follows:**

When 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:

- i) Where two teams only are involved – the outcome of the meeting(s) of the two teams in the previous game(s) in the Competition;
- ii) Where three or more teams are involved – total League points win in the games between the Teams involved in the tie;
- iii) Where three or more teams are involved – scoring difference in the games between the teams involved in the tie (subtracting the total scores in these games only against from the total scores for in those games only).
- iv) Highest total score for in the games between the teams involved in the tie;
- v) Scoring difference in all games (subtracting the total scores against from the total scores for ) in complete league;
- vi) Highest total score for in complete League;
- vii) Where more than 2 teams are involved for placings after the group stages are complete this shall be decided by drawing of lots by the CCC
- viii) Play Off(s), with the format at the discretion of the CCC.

#### **Exception:**

In relation to means (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) and (vi) above, if the accumulated scores of a team, so involved are affected by a disqualification, loss of game on a proven objection, retirement or walkover, the tie shall be decided by Play Off(s).

### **16.** There shall be County Championships in Hurling and Football. Grading, method of grading and system to be decided by the County Committee. The County Committee also has the right to hold leagues and to decide on the method and manner of how they shall be run. The County Committee shall establish Competition Regulations to aid the smooth running of Competitions.

### **17.** Adult Football Championships.

There shall be seven grades of adult football Championships:

- Senior
- Senior B
- C
- Intermediate
- Intermediate B
- Junior A
- Junior B

Format Senior Championships A For 2023

1. Sixteen clubs shall play in the Senior Championship.
2. All Clubs shall play two games at home and two games away in the sixteen club League stage of the championship.
3. For Round 1, eight teams shall be drawn in order to play at home and eight teams in order shall be drawn to play away to make up eight ties.



4. Those teams drawn to play at home in Round 1 shall make up Pool A and the teams drawn to play away in Round 1 shall make up Pool B
5. For Round 2; the home teams shall be drawn from Pool B with the away teams will be drawn from Pool A.
6. For Round 3; the home teams shall be drawn from Pool A with the away teams will be drawn from Pool B.
7. For Round 4; the home teams shall be drawn from Pool B with the away teams will be drawn from Pool A.  
No club shall play another club more than once in the league stage, and the CCC shall adjust the draw accordingly if necessary.
8. Points from all ties will be awarded based on two points for a win and one point for a draw. All sixteen Final placings shall be decided in compliance with Rial 6.21. & COUNTY REGULATIONS. All Clubs will be placed in numbered descending order with the highest placed club numbered 1 and the lowest numbered sixteen. The Clubs positioned 1 to 4 will proceed directly to the Quarter Finals and those positioned 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 will play to off to reach a quarter final in by the following final pairing 5 v 12; 6 v 11; 7 v 10; 8 v 9.
9. The winners of each quarter finals will be drawn randomly to decide the semi-final pairings. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the 2022 Donegal Senior Championship Final.

**Relegation:** The bottom four clubs will play off over two rounds to decide the club to be relegated. Relegation Round 1: 13th v 16th; 14th v 15th. Relegation Round 2: The losing clubs from Relegation Round 1 shall play and the losing club will be relegated to play in the 2023 Intermediate championship

**Senior Football B (Reserve) Championship:**

1. Sixteen (Where Possible) clubs shall play in the Senior Reserve Championship.
2. The clubs shall play the same club's home and away as determined by the draw for the Senior Championship
3. The CCC may adjust the order of play. Points from all ties will be awarded based on two points for a win and one point for a draw. All sixteen Final placings shall be decided in compliance with Rial 6.21. All Clubs will be placed in numbered descending order with the highest placed club numbered 1 and the lowest numbered sixteen.
4. The four-quarter finals pairings shall be 1st v8th; 2nd v7th; 3rd v6th; 4thv5th.  
Teams 1-4.
5. The winners of each quarter finals will be drawn randomly to decide the semi-final pairings. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the 2022 Donegal Senior Reserve Championship Final

**18. Intermediate Football Championship**

1. Twelve clubs shall play in the Intermediate Championship.
2. All Clubs shall play two games at home and two games away in the Twelve club League stage of the championship.
3. Each club shall be allocated fixtures against a grid numbered 1to12 Points from all ties will be awarded based on two points for a win and one point for a draw. All twelve final placings shall be decided in compliance with Rial 6.21.  
All Clubs will be placed in numbered descending order with the highest placed club numbered 1 and the lowest numbered twelve.



4. The four quarter finals pairings shall be 1st v8th ; 2nd v7th; 3rd v6th; 4thv5th.  
The winners of each quarter final will be drawn randomly to decide the semi-final pairings. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the 2020 Donegal Intermediate Championship Final with the winners promoted to the 2023 Senior Championship.

**Relegation:** The bottom four clubs will play off over two rounds to decide the club to be relegated. Relegation Round 1: 9th v 12th; 10th v 11th. Relegation Round 2: The losing clubs from Relegation Round 1 shall play and the losing club will be relegated to play in the 2023 Junior championship.

**Intermediate B (Reserve) Football Championship:**

1. Twelve clubs shall play in the Intermediate Reserve Championship.
2. The clubs shall play the same club's home and away as determined by the draw for the Intermediate Championship.
3. The CCC may adjust the order of play. Points from all ties will be awarded based on two points for a win and one point for a draw. All twelve final placings shall be decided in compliance with Rial 6.21. All Clubs will be placed in numbered descending order with the highest placed club numbered 1 and the lowest numbered twelve.
4. The four quarter finals pairings shall be 1st v8th ; 2nd v7th; 3rd v6th; 4thv5th. .  
The winners of each quarter final will be drawn randomly to decide the semi-final pairings. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the 2022 Donegal Intermediate B Championship Final

**19. Junior A Championship:**

1. Ten or more clubs shall play in the Junior Championship.
2. The clubs shall be drawn into two groups A & B of five and all clubs shall play two games at home and two games away in the League stage. Points from all ties will be awarded based on two points for a win and one point for a draw. All five final group placings shall be decided in compliance with Rial 6.21.
3. The 1st team in each group shall progress to the semi-finals. The two quarter finals pairings shall be 2nd Group A v 3rd Group B; 2nd Group B v 3rd Group A 2nd placed teams to play at home
4. The winners of each quarter final and the two group winners will be drawn randomly to decide the semi-final pairings. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the 2022 Donegal Junior Championship Final with the winners promoted to the 2022.

**20. Junior B, The C Championship and Under 21 Championships Format subject to decision by County committee as per R.3.20 T.O.2018**

**21. Leagues**

There shall be 4 divisions of adult football leagues The senior League shall consist of:

- Division 1
- Division 2
- Division 3
- Division 4

*\*\*Relegation/ Promotion Subject to decision by County committee as per R 3.20 T.O.2018\*\**

**22. League Competitions 2023**

- Divisions 1 and 3 made up of 13 Teams
- Division 2 made up of 14 Teams



- Division 4 made up of remaining teams.
- That on completion of the 2023 leagues the top two teams shall play in a league final
- That on completion of the 2023 leagues the top two teams in Division 2 & 3 are promoted
- The team that finishes third (3rd) from bottom in Division 1 plays the team placed Third (3rd) in Division 2 the winner plays division1 in 2024
- The team that finishes Third (3rd ) from bottom in Division 2 plays the team placed (3rd) in Division 3 the winner plays division 2 in 2024
- The Senior B leagues shall consist of: The Reserve Teams of Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3.

### **23. Grading/Eligibility of Players.**

All grading shall be effected in compliance with R.3.20 (ii) Clubs playing at Senior and Intermediate championship grades shall submit a list of their first twelve players who shall be ineligible to play in any B competitions. Those clubs with three adult teams shall submit an additional list of their second fifteen players who shall in addition to the first twelve be ineligible to play in the Junior B championship. All Players who are not named in either of the above lists (subject to the lists being approved by the CCC) shall be initially eligible to play in "B" championships and leagues.

Where a club has two teams once an unlisted player plays in an "A" championship he will be no longer eligible to play in the "B" championship but he will remain eligible to play in "B" league. Where a club has three teams, a player not listed in either the first or second twelve will become ineligible for the Junior B championship if he plays in any other championship and he will be ineligible for Div 4 league if he plays in any "A" league fixture. Clubs shall also separately submit to the CCC the names of any players not included in the lists of twelve who had played for the clubs first or second teams (where applicable) in championship the previous year. Penalty for non-compliance: 200 euro fine and the CCC may decide on the twelve players without any reference to the club.

The following minimum penalties shall apply to the club and player(s) for playing at a level which they are ineligible to play in Penalty Player 12 weeks suspension; Team On a proven objection Award of game to opposing team. On an inquiry by the Committee in charge - Forfeiture of game without Award of Game to opposing team or fine depending on the circumstances Clubs shall return all competition entry forms (including first and second 15) electronically to the Secretary of the CCC by the 31st January of the Competition year from 2023.



## **D. GAME REGULATIONS**

- 24.1** The Referee is in overall charge of Game Regulations and shall delegate authority to his Linesmen & Sideline Official where appointed; referees will include the Sideline Official report. The Referee has the authority during the game to send any person in breach of these Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.
- 24.2** Official team sheet will be submitted to the Referee in ALL Knock out games (& PRO or nominated person) 15 Minutes before throw in, to include panel and team officials, penalty to Unit for failure to comply with shall rest with the Committee in Charge.
- 24.3** (A) A player or team official may only be replaced after the 15-minute period prior to Throw In due to injury which removes him from that game, his number shall be retired for that game. In the case of the team official they may be replaced except the Chairperson. Penalty to Unit and Player for failure to comply with shall rest with the Committee in Charge. The CCC Shall appoint/nominate a person to ensure compliance with 16.2-16.3 and record any instance of breach along with the referee.
- 24.4** ALL Team Officials in the designated areas must be named on the Official list given to the Referee and may include: Bainisteoir, Selector, Medic, Maor Camán (Hurling Only) and Club Chairperson (Who Cannot be replaced), Club Runai (Or nominated person) Water Carrier (1) Over 18 years of age \*\* ( Official team personnel (Selectors/Coaches), substitutes, injured players or members of the extended panel may not act as the nominated person ).

### **24.5 Club Officials**

Game and Ground regulations apply to all players and officials and adherence to the regulations are the responsibility of the Club Official.

The Bainisteoir also shares the responsibility of ensuring that Game Regulations are respected by players and members of team management. They shall also have the responsibility for preparing substitutions slips and shall not be a \*\* ( Official team personnel (Selectors/Coaches), substitutes, injured players or members may not act as the nominated person ).

**Bainisteoir** - The Bainisteoir shall wear a designated distinctive top and is not permitted to enter the field of play. The Bainisteoir may not act in any other capacity (etc.). Any unauthorised entry into the field of play or breach of match regulations shall result in their removal from the pitch enclosure to include extra time

**Selectors** – 1 selector may remain in the designated area in front of the dug out. Any unauthorised entry into the field of play or breach of match regulations shall result in their removal from the pitch enclosure to include extra time

**Medics** - One Medical person shall be identified on the Official Team list and will sit in the areas designated in Ground Regulations; they will wear clear identification and may only enter the field of play to attend to an injured player(s). Selectors/Coaches cannot act as a medical person, without advance approval from the Committee in Charge.

**One Maor Uisce over 18 years of age** (Who shall not enter the field of play and shall be situated between the 20 meter and 45-meter line only and the opposite the opposition dug out) and must wear an official bib, Any unauthorised entry into the field of play by the Maor Uisce or breach of match regulations shall result in their removal from the pitch enclosure to include extra time.

**Maor Camán (Hurley Carriers)** – one Maor Camán who must be over 18 years of age, are permitted per team. They must wear an official bib. Official team personnel (Selectors/Coaches), substitutes, injured players or members of the extended panel may not act as Maor Camán. Maor Camán are not allowed to carry water into the players and may enter the



field of play only with a replacement hurley when necessary. Any unauthorised entry into the field of play by the Maor Camán or breach of match regulations shall result in their removal from the pitch enclosure, including Extra Time.

**Substitutes** - A maximum of three substitutes wearing designated distinctive tops may warm up on side lines at any one time.

**Sliotars** - Any sliotars not officially approved and displaying the official GAA stamp shall not be used. Breaches shall be brought to the attention of the Referee.

**Late Fielding** - A team taking the field late before a game shall be subject to the penalties outlined in Rule 6.44(d)(i), T.O. 2020; a team responsible for a half time interval being exceeded shall be subject to penalties outlined in Rule 6.44(d)(ii)(a), T.O. 2020 and a team responsible for an interval period allowed being exceeded by more than 10 minutes shall be subject to penalties outlined in Rule 6.44(d)(ii)(b), T.O. 2020.

**Distinctive Tops** - If not wearing the official bib, the distinctive tops as listed above concerning the Bainisteoir shall not clash with the main colour of either team.

- 25. Matters not provided for** – Matters not specifically provided for in these regulations shall be dealt with by the referee and his team of officials on the day, and then by An Lár Choiste Cheannais na gComortaisí when reported via either the Referee, Sideline Official or Match Monitor.
- 26.** In the event of a clash of colours between Clubs the following shall apply. In Rounds of the League away team shall change. In Championship games and Playoffs of championship and League, both teams shall change to colours that are acceptable to CCC.
- 27.** In the event of poor weather conditions Home Clubs must have their playing pitches inspected by an Official Neutral Referee four (4) hours prior to the throw in time. If the Pitch is deemed unplayable or should become unplayable due to adverse weather conditions leading to abandonment then the fixture may be postponed and refixed by the CCC who may refix to a neutral venue.
- 28.** Any club that fails to fulfil a league fixture shall be fined the sum of €250 for each unfulfilled fixture, where the CCC Secretary have been given sufficient notice to ensure the other team involved and Referee, do not field. Clubs will be compensated for travelling expenses incurred within the limit of the fine.
- 29.** Where a report of two (2) or more members of the County Committee who are present at any match is to the effect that owing to the nature of play, the conduct of spectators, or otherwise, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael may have been brought into disrepute, the County Committee may order an investigation, even though the referee's report may not have given these facts.
- 30.** When fixing a game for a neutral venue, the CCC will assume responsibility for all aspects of the staging of that fixture. (e.g. Ensuring adequate stewarding, providing guidance to host club on what is required etc.).
- 31.** That no official video of any Donegal County Championship game, featuring the relevant Donegal champions, shall be passed on to any other county in Ulster or beyond by the Donegal Coiste Bainistí, without first getting the approval of the Donegal club involved.





**E. HURLING**

- 32.** The Hurling Championships shall be 15 a side
1. The Senior summer league would involve seven round robin games. The top four teams would play in a Senior Championship semi-final format (1 v 4 and 2 v 3). The bottom four teams would play in an Intermediate Championship semi-final format (1 v 4 and 2 v 3) (Based on the placings 5=1, 6=2,7=3, 8=4, With the winning teams playing in the top four playing in the 2022 Senior Hurling Final and the Intermediate winners playing in the 2022 Intermediate Final.
  2. The top four in the Junior Summer league would play in the Junior Championship semi-finals (1 v 4 and 2 v 3). The remaining teams would play in the Junior B Championship semi-finals.
  3. All senior and intermediate teams must name their first 12 players that cannot play Junior Hurling. Any player that plays in the intermediate or Senior Hurling championship semi-finals will not be eligible to play in the Junior Championship.
  4. A club that wins the Junior Championship will be promoted to the senior league the following year, however, if a club with a second team wins the Junior Championship there will be no promotion. The losing semi-finalists from the Intermediate Championship will play off. The losers of this game will be relegated to the Junior league. However there will be no relegation play off in the event a club's second team win the Junior Championship.
- 33.** Donegal CCC may at its discretion, agree to permit Donegal Hurling Clubs to participate in a senior hurling league organised by Ulster Council. Any Donegal Senior Hurling League shall be 15 a side, however, if one team has only 13 players then this game must be 13 a side. Any Donegal adult hurling club seeking to play in a hurling league outside the county must also participate in the Donegal Senior Hurling League.

**F. FIXTURES, POSTPONEMENTS/CHANGES OF TIME**

- 34.1** Fixtures will be published on the Donegal GAA website.
- 34.2** The Runáí of the CCC shall send a fixture report to Clubs at the commencement of competitions.
- 34.3** The CCC reserves the right in the event of a death of a person who has rendered exceptional service to CLG to consider postponement of the game provided the CCC has received the completed online match request change form, only the CCC shall have the responsibility of rescheduling the fixture.
- 34.4** Requests for postponements/changes (.ie Tragic Circumstances) of time for fixtures will only be considered once the online change request form is completed and returned except in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible or practical to do so.



**G. PENALTIES**

- 35.1** Penalties for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations shall be at the discretion of the Committee-in-Charge. These may include warnings, fines, the withdrawal of side-line privileges for individuals, loss of home venue in League & Championship both in A,B and C Competitions, loss of personal privileges at neutral venues for Bainisteoir and a fine or suspension of individuals as considered appropriate.
- 35.2** The Referee has the authority (T.O. 2021) during the game to send any person in breach of these Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure.
- 35.3** Where Maor Camán sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Committee-in-Charge will appoint Maor Camán on a team's behalf.
- 35.4** Where Maor Uisce sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Committee-in-Charge will appoint Maor Uisce on a team's behalf.
- 35.5** Where Bainisteoir sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Bainisteoir will be confined to a designated area as decided on by the Committee-in-Charge.
- 35.6** The frequency and gravity of reported breaches in each game shall be considered by the Committee-in-Charge and may lead to next match penalties amongst other penalties.
- 35.7** The provisions of Riail 7.2(c) T.O. 2020 concerning Misconduct at Games by Team Officials shall apply.
- 35.8** Individuals reported for unauthorised entry on to the field of play may be dealt with under rule 6.44 (e) T.O. 2020

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<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9/10</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">of ATU Donegal students have either returned to further study or gained employment within 4 months of graduation</p>		<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">2</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">Campuses in County Donegal: Letterkenny and Killybegs</p>		<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">72%</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">of courses offer work placement opportunities</p>
	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">43%</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">increase in student enrolment in the last seven years</p>		<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">40+</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">Masters &amp; Postgraduate programmes</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">50</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">International Partners</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5,000</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">students</p>		<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">54</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">CAO Programmes</p>		<p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 0;"><b>ATU Donegal</b> Donegal GAA University Partner</p>