

Regulations Governing the Organisation and Presentation of the GAA 2020 Club Fixtures during the Covid-19 Emergency

Introduction: These Regulations were drawn up by An Lár Choiste Cheannais na gComortaisí and approved by An Coiste Bainistíochta (09.07.2020) as the basis for County Match Regulations during the Covid-19 Emergency. Choiste Cheannais na gComortaisí Dhún na nGall made some amendments to An Lár Choiste Cheannais na gComortaisí Guidance to ensure all grounds in the County can accommodate appropriate social distancing.

The Central Competitions Control Committee (CCCC) is mindful of the GAA Give Respect Get Respect campaign and has drawn up these Regulations for the benefit of all stakeholders – players, referees, team management, officials, media, members and spectators.

Sideline Official/Match Monitor - A Sideline Official may be appointed by the Committee-in-Charge and it shall be his/her duty to report any breaches of these Regulations.

The Committee-in-Charge may also appoint a Match Monitor who shall be responsible for any duties assigned. The Sideline Official shall include in his report any relevant observations or breaches reported to him/her by the Match Monitor. These will then form part of the Referee's Report in accordance with Rule 1.6, Rules of Control, T.O. 2020 Cuid II but any errors or omissions in respect of this shall not invalidate the Report as a whole.

The Match Monitor may also submit his/her report to the Secretary of the County Competitions Control Committee. The Committee-in-Charge may also impose penalties for breaches of the Regulations brought to its attention by members of the Committee-in-Charge or the Management Committee.

Failure to respect the regulations and follow laid down procedures therein may lead to penalties as defined in General Rule & Section 3 of this document being imposed on individuals, teams, County Committees, or Clubs by the Committees-in-Charge.

1. 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.

1.2 The Clár an Lae shall also 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. For Regulation league and Championship matches, Home team will wear Blue Bibs and away team will wear Orange Bibs.

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 Fóirne**

- **One Medic**
- **One Club Official**
- **One Maor Camán (Hurling Only)**

1.5 Each team will be allocated an area of the pitch (the Team Officials & Players Zone) between the 20 m 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 shall have ten seats positioned to ensure compliance with Government social distancing guidelines (currently 2 metres). Dugouts may be used provided the government guidelines around social distancing are observed.

1.6 Where the National Anthem precedes a game, Teams shall stand to attention respectfully facing the flag; helmets must not be worn for Amhrán na bhFiann, for the parade or in team photographs.

1.7 Ball boys are not permitted.

2. Game Regulations

2.1 The Referee is in overall charge of Game Regulations and shall delegate authority to his Linesmen & Sideline Official; referees will include the Sideline Official/Match Monitor's report(s) with his/her match report as appropriate. 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.

2.2 All Team Officials in the designated areas must be named on the Official list given to the Referee and may include: Bainisteoir, Maor Fóirne, Medics, Maor Camán (Hurling Only) and Club Official

2.3 Club Official - Game and Ground regulations apply to all players and officials and adherence to the regulations is 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 Selector or Member of the backroom team.

2.4 Bainisteoir - The Bainisteoir shall wear a designated distinctive top and is not permitted to enter the field of play. They may move along the sideline between the two 20m lines as per the "Pitch Layout" on Page 3 of these Regulations. The Bainisteoir may not act in any other capacity (e.g. as Maor Fóirne, etc.).

2.5 Maor Fóirne - The Maor Fóirne (who must be a Selector/Coach) must wear the official approved bib (Yellow or Orange) and may enter the field of play **only through the area in front of the team's designated area, and only when the ball has gone out of play following a score, wide or during a stoppage called by the Referee.** He shall exit the field at the nearest point and return to his designated area without interfering with play or opposition personnel.

The role of the Maor Fóirne is to deliver messages to players on their team and any disruption to the playing of the game, challenging the authority of the match officials, interference with opposing players, entry onto the field of play not at a time as listed above or breach of match regulations shall result in their removal from the pitch enclosure and they cannot be replaced for the remainder of the game, included Extra Time. The Maor Fóirne must not be a listed member of the team panel.

2.6 Selectors - Selectors must be positioned outside the pitch enclosure.

2.7 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. Medical personnel while performing their duties are required to wear PPE.

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.

2.9 Maor Camán (Hurley Carriers) – one Maor Camán who must be over 18 years of age, are permitted per team. They must wear an official (Brown or Lilac) bib and will be situated as per the “Pitch Layout” on Page 3 of these Regulations, and at least two metres from the sideline.

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 and they cannot be replaced for the remainder of the game, included Extra Time.

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.

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 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.

2.15 Extra – Time - Regulations governing the playing of Extra Time are outlined in Rule 2.6, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7, Rules of Specification, T.O. 2020 Cuid II.

3. Penalties

3.1 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 sideline privileges for individuals as outlined in Part 2 of these regulations, loss of home venue in League & Championship both in A & B Competitions, loss of personal privileges at neutral venues for Bainisteoir and Maor Foirne and a fine or suspension of individuals as considered appropriate.

3.2 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.

3.3 Where **Maor Camán** sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Committee-in-Charge will appoint Maor Camán on a team's behalf.

3.4 Where Maor Foirne privileges have been withdrawn, a replacement may not be permitted; where an individual Maor Foirne is suspended however, a replacement is permitted to perform this role.

3.5 Where Bainisteoir sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Bainisteoir will be confined to a designated area as decided on by the Committee-in-Charge.

3.6 The frequency and gravity of reported breaches in each game shall be taken into account by the Committee-in-Charge and may lead to next match penalties.

3.7 The provisions of Riail 7.2(c) T.O. 2020 concerning Misconduct at Games by Team Officials shall apply.

3.8 Individuals reported for unauthorised entry on to the field of play may be dealt with under rule 6.44 (e) T.O. 2020.

4. Fixtures, Postponements/Changes of Time

4.1 A complete set of Fixtures to be set up on the Donegal GAA website.

4.2 The Runaí of the CCC shall send a fixture report to Clubs at the beginning of each Month.

4.3 The CCC reserves that in the event of a death of a person who has rendered exceptional service to CLG, then the CCC shall have the responsibility of rescheduling the fixture.

4.4 Clubs which fail to fulfil fixtures in the 2020 Regional Leagues will be deducted two points in their respective League in 2021. Any club that fails to fulfil a league fixture shall be fined the sum of €100 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.

5. Additional Covid-19 Regulations

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 IIa; 8 weeks Suspension
- Abusive language to Match Official - Cat Ia; 4 weeks Suspension
- Threatening or abusive conduct to Match Official – Cat IIIa; 12 weeks Suspension
- Assault on Match Official – Cat IVa; 48 weeks Suspension
- The **Referee** has the 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.

5.3 Club Photographers are not permitted inside the enclosed pitch area, Club Photographers – name must be supplied in advance by participating Club and imagery is for Club use only.

5.4 The County Management Committee may on two occasions only amend regulations during the pandemic

5.5 The County Management Committee may retire a team at any stage of the competition due to the COVID 19 Pandemic (The County Management may replace a retired team in conjunction with rule 6.21 T.O. 2019

5.6 Home Venues may be reviewed after the group stages

6. Adult Football Competitions

6.1 There shall be County Championships in Hurling and Football. Grading, method of grading and system to be decided by the County Competitions Committee and approved by County Management Committee in 2020. The County Management Committee also has the right to hold leagues and to decide on the method and manner of how they shall be run. The County Management Committee shall establish Competition Regulations to aid the smooth running of Competitions.

6.2 Adult Football Championships.

There shall be eight grades of adult football Championships:

- Senior
- Senior B
- Intermediate
- Intermediate B
- Junior A
- Junior B
- Under-21 A
- Under-21 B

(A) The winners of the 2020 Intermediate championship shall qualify to play in the 2021 Senior Championship.

(B) The Winners of the 2020 Junior Championship shall qualify to play in the 2021 Intermediate Championship.

6.3 Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Senior C and Under 21 Championships Format subject to decision by the CCC and approved by the County Management Committee.

6.4 Grading/Eligibility of Players. All grading shall be effected in compliance with R.3.20 (ii) Clubs playing at the 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 twelve 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 applicable.

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. 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 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 5pm July 15th 2020.

6.5 That the CCC in exceptional circumstance 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 his/her life had rendered exceptional service to CLG or may reschedule the fixture for earlier/later time on the same day.

6.6 In the event of a clash of colours between Clubs the away team shall change in both League and Championship games. If a game is being played at a neutral venue the team changing colour will be decided as the result of a coin toss.

6.7 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 then the fixture may be reversed (Failure to comply will result in forfeit of game) This applies to league games only.

6.8 Any club that fails to fulfil a league fixture shall be fined the sum of €100 for each unfulfilled fixture, they shall be deducted 2 points in the 2021 All County League for each Divisional game unfulfilled in 2020. Where a team fails to field in all fixtures of the league prior to the concluding stages, that team will be unable to take part in the concluding stages of the Divisional League,

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.

6.9 Where a report of two (2) or more members of the County Committee who are present at any particular 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. The CCC may appoint match Monitors / CCC members for all games to ensure compliance with regulations and restrictions, The monitor / CCC member may include any breach of rule inside or outside the enclosed pitch area in their report, the Committee in Charge will then act on the report

6.10 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.).

6.11 (A) That no video of any Donegal County Championship game, featuring the relevant Donegal champions, shall be passed on to Ulster or beyond by the Donegal Coiste Bainistí or any unit, without first getting the approval of the Donegal club involved. Penalty €500.00 fine, payable to club involved.

(B) All requests to record games must be made at least 24 hours in advance to the CCC Secretary, no recording /sharing / streaming of the game on social media can take place without the permission of the CCC.

6.12 The underage grades in 2020, ie. U12, U14, U16 & U18, to remain the same for 2020.

7. Adult Hurling Competitions

7.1 The Senior Hurling Championship shall be 15 a side. It shall be played on a league basis in a single round format. If teams finish level in the league stage then the provisions of Rule 6.20 T.O. 2019 as amended in Donegal Regulations 2020 will apply. The top four teams from the league stage shall play in the Senior Championship semi-finals (1st v 4th. 2nd v 3rd)

7.2 Donegal CCC may at its discretion, agree to permit Donegal Hurling Clubs to participate in a senior hurling league organised by Ulster Council.

a) Donegal CCC may also arrange a senior hurling league within Donegal.

b) 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. It may be played on a single round or double round basis, at the discretion of the CCC.

c) Donegal Senior Hurling League games shall generally be played on a Wednesday evening, except where Donegal CCC permits otherwise.

d) The team that finishes top of the league will win the league. Where two teams finish level at the top, the overall scoring difference between them in the game(s) between them will decide who wins the league. In the event that three or more teams finish equal on points at the top of the league, then overall scoring

difference in all league games will determine league positions. Where scoring difference does not separate teams as above, then playoffs will decide the winner.

Any Donegal adult hurling club seeking to play in a hurling league outside the county must also participate in the Donegal Senior Hurling League.

7.3 Intermediate, Junior and Under 21 Hurling Championships If three or more adult hurling clubs wish to participate in an Intermediate Hurling Championship or a Junior Hurling Championship or an Under 21 Hurling Championship then these may be organised at the discretion of Donegal CCC. They shall be 15 a side. These championships may be organised on a league or knockout basis at the discretion of Donegal CCC.

7.4 Senior Secondary, Intermediate and Junior Hurling Leagues If three or more adult hurling clubs wish to participate in a Senior Secondary Hurling League or an Intermediate Hurling League or a Junior Hurling League then these may be organised at the discretion of Donegal CCC. They shall be 15 a side. However, if one team has only 11 players then this game must be 11 a side.

7.5 The Winner of the 2020 Junior Hurling Championship will be promoted to the Senior Hurling Championship for 2021 (Exception – Where a Unit has already a team in the Senior Championship can apply to the CCC for regrading)

7.6 All competitions at adult level are governed by Quarter Finals / Semi Finals & Finals are governed by GAA Winner on the day regulations.