



**CLG LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE  
(BUNAITHE 1924)**

Constitution and Rules of G.A.A. Handball, revised and corrected up to date, and published by authority of the GAA Handball Central Council.

This publication replaces all previous versions published.

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## **GAA HANDBALL CONSTITUTION**

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

**“The G.A.A.”** means the the Gaelic Athletic Association.

**“The Official Guide”** means the current Official Guide of the G.A.A. and may be amended from time to time.

**“Real Property”** means the property of GAA HANDBALL of an immovable nature, comprising 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 GAA HANDBALL of a movable nature, comprising all Playing or Sporting equipment of GAA HANDBALL, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets 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.

**“Management”** shall mean the management committee of the Central Council of the GAA

Where the following terms are used in this Constitution they refer to Handball unless otherwise specifically stated.

- (A) Clubs
- (B) County Committees
- (C) Provincial Councils
- (D) Central Council
- (E) National Annual General Meeting

## 2. NAME

2. The official Name shall be CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL LIATHROID LÁIMHE the English version of which shall be GAA HANDBALL.

## 3. OBJECTS

3.1 The Objects of GAA HANDBALL 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 GAA HANDBALL shall be dedicated to and applied solely towards the promotion of these objects.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 There shall be TWO types of Membership of GAA HANDBALL:

4.1.1 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 GAA HANDBALL and the G.A.A.

4.1.2 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 GAA HANDBALL and the G.A.A.

4.2 Full Members (including Honorary Members) and Youth Members of GAA HANDBALL are members of the G.A.A.

4.4 The rights of any member of GAA HANDBALL 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.

4.5 Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide.

4.6 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 Club Secretary together with the prescribed fee.

4.7 An Application for Full or Social Membership must be on 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.

4.8 An Application for Youth Membership must be on 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.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **GENERAL**

1. GAA Handball shall, subject to the overall control of the G.A.A. Central Council, be responsible for the preservation and promotion of the national game of handball.

2. The affairs of GAA Handball shall be subject to the General Rules of Cumann Luthchleas Gael as set out in part 1 of the Official Guide, the GAA Anti-Doping policy and this constitution as approved by Management.

3. GAA Handball is a democratic organisation comprised of the following affiliated units:

- (A) Clubs
- (B) County Committees
- (C) Provincial Councils
- (D) Central Council
- (E) National Annual General Meeting

4. All members and units of GAA Handball taking part in the activities shall be subject to the jurisdiction of GAA Handball and of the GAA where appropriate in all matters that may arise.

### **REGISTRATION**

5. General Rules of the G.A.A. apply as set out in Chapter 2 Official Guide, except in the case of Registration where the registration fee for adults and juveniles plus the registration fee for Third Level students shall be set at a level to be determined by Central Council. Proposed registration fees and registration forms for the following year must be issued to all Runaithí, Coiste Chontae, by 1st November each year. The current fees agreed shall not be increased by greater than 50% in any 3 year period without the approval of the National Annual General Meeting.

(A) Each year before 31<sup>st</sup> January the County Secretary shall forward the list of full members submitted by clubs for the year to GAA Handball. He shall also forward a signed copy of the Club's list of Full Registered Members to the Provincial Administrator. Additional registrations may be made subsequently. Only a Full Member who has paid his annual Club subscription by the due date set by the Executive Committee of the Club shall be eligible to vote at, nominate for, or seek election to the Executive Committee at any following General Meeting of the Club in the Membership year.

(B) Only registered members of affiliated Clubs shall be eligible to compete in any Club, County or inter-county championships and competitions under the jurisdiction of GAA Handball or any of its sub-units.

### **TRANSFERS/DECLARATIONS/SANCTIONS**

6. General rules of the G.A.A. apply, Chapter 6, Official Guide.

## **THE CLUB**

7. A Club must have at least ten full members before it may affiliate to the County Committee as appropriate. Each club shall elect a Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Cisteoir, PRO and may appoint a Childrens Officer if desired. It shall pay affiliation fee to Provincial Council and Central Council and pay the Player Injury levy annually. A club or a player from any club shall not be permitted to play in any competition unless the Player Injury levy has been paid.

A Third Level College Club must have at least six full members before it can affiliate to the Provincial Council and to the relevant County Committee if taking part in the County Competitions.

Where no adult club exists, a youth club may be registered, such a club shall elect a Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Cisteoir and PRO and pay affiliation fee to County Committee, Provincial Council and Central Council and pay the Player Injury levy annually. Such a club cannot take part in adult competitions. It will not have voting rights at County Committee but may have observer delegate status.

8. Members shall not play in competitions except under the auspices of County Committees, Provincial Councils or Central Council, unless having applied to GAA Handball for clearance to do so. The penalty for infringement of this rule shall be suspension for 48 weeks.

9. The affiliation fee for Clubs shall be, at least, €15.00 each year payable to the County Committee.

10. A Club team shall wear its distinctive Club colours in inter-club competitions.

## **CONTROL OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY**

11. General Rules of the G.A.A. apply. Chapter 5, Official Guide.

## **COUNTY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

12. (A) The County Annual General Meeting shall be held before 20<sup>th</sup> November. It shall consist of the officers and members of the outgoing Committee (voting rights as on the Committee) and two delegates from each affiliated Club which competed in the previous year's adult championships. A newly elected officer, unless a member of the outgoing Committee or a delegate, shall not have the right to vote at any stage of the County Annual General Meeting .

(B) The AGM shall consider the Secretary's Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet of the year's workings and also any Motions on the agenda.

(C) It shall elect the following officers for the ensuing year as the Executive of the County Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Games Officer, Communication Officer (PRO), Coaching and Development Officer.

It shall further elect:

- (i) Delegates to National Annual General Meeting
- (ii) Delegates to Provincial Annual General Meeting
- (iii) Delegate to County GAA Committee

(D) A candidate for any position shall be nominated by a Club. Motions for consideration by the County AGM shall be submitted by Clubs. Such Nominations and Motions shall be submitted on the official Nominations and Motions paper and shall include the date of the club meeting at which the nominations and motions were approved. These papers shall be sent to the Clubs at least four weeks prior to the County AGM and which shall be completed and returned to the County Secretary at least two weeks prior to the AGM.

(E) The County Secretary shall send out an agenda, which shall include their Report and the Audited Accounts for the year, with Nominations and Motions, to each Club Secretary the outgoing County Committee members and the GAA County Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

A copy of these documents shall be forwarded to the Central and Provincial Councils within 4 weeks following the County AGM.

(F) Voting to fill the Elective positions specified above shall be by secret ballot and on the basis of the Proportional Representation system.

(G) A county shall only forward to Provincial Annual General Meeting or National Annual General Meeting Motions which have appeared on the circulated agenda of the County Annual General Meeting and have received its approval.

(H) At the first meeting after the County Annual General Meeting the committee may make regulations, which shall not be contrary to regulations of Central Council. Regulations shall remain in force until amended. Amendments shall only be considered on an annual basis.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

13. (A) A County Committee shall consist of the following officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Games Officer, Coaching & Development Officer, Communications Officer (PRO), two representatives from each affiliated Club, Provincial Council representative (who shall be ex-officio members), one delegate to the G.A.A. County Committee and one representative from the G.A.A. County Committee (in County where applicable). All members shall have voting rights.

(B) The County Competitions Control Committee shall consist of Five members, with Three being a quorum, appointed annually by the County Committee. It shall be responsible for all arrangements for and the control of any matter arising from competitions under the jurisdiction of the County Committee, including disciplinary matters other than those reserved to the G. A. A. County Hearings Committee. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, including hearing objections and Counter Objections. It shall consider and make recommendations to the County Committee on applications for transfers and grading within the county.

(i) Where a Hearing is requested it shall be heard by the Hearings Committee appointed by the Central Council of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

(ii) Appeals shall be heard by the Central Appeals Committee appointed by the Central Council of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

(C) A County Handball Committee shall be responsible to the GAA County Committee for the management of handball in the county and it must submit a Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet on the year's workings at the end of each year to the G. A. A. County Committee.

(D) A County Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and shall hold meetings as it deems desirable.

(E) A County Committee must have at least two affiliated Clubs before it can be recognised as such. Where there is only one Club within a county, that Club shall affiliate directly with the Provincial Council.

(F) GAA Handball committees are subject to Rule 3.11(b) of the Official Guide, which states that a member who has served five years in a Specific officership shall be ineligible to hold that officership for ensuing five year period. However, in exceptional cases a county or provincial committee may apply to GAA Handball Central Council for a deviation to the rule. GAA Handball Central Council have the right to sanction such a deviation subject to acceptable grounds.

(G) The GAA County Children's Officer shall have responsibility for all matters referred to him by the GAA Handball County Committee.

#### **PROVINCIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

14. A Provincial Annual General Meeting shall be held at least four weeks prior to National Annual General Meeting unless the Provincial Handball Annual General Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Provincial GAA Convention.

In this instance the date must be confirmed at least 4 weeks prior to Provincial Annual General Meeting to Central Council

It shall consist of:

(a) Members of the outgoing Provincial Council (voting rights as on the Council)

(b) Two representatives from each affiliated county or one representative where there is only one Club in a county and it is affiliated to the Provincial Council.

15. The functions of the Provincial Annual General Meeting shall be to consider Audited Accounts, Motions and general Provincial Activities. It shall elect on the basis of the Proportional Representation system the following officers: Provincial GAA Handball President, Provincial GAA Handball Vice President, Administrator, Treasurer, Youth Games Officer, Development Officer and a Coaching Officer who shall hold office until the election of officers at the next Annual Annual General Meeting. It shall also elect a delegate to the G.A.A. Provincial Council.

16. A candidate for election as a provincial officer shall be nominated by a County Committee. Only Motions carried at County Annual General Meeting may be submitted by that County Committee for consideration of the Provincial Annual General Meeting. Such Motions and Nominations shall be made on the Motion and Nomination paper, which shall be completed and returned to the Provincial Administrator at least 4 weeks prior to the Provincial Annual General Meeting.

17. The Provincial Administrator 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, to the



outgoing Provincial Council members and to the G.A.A. Provincial Council and to GAA Handball Central Council at least two weeks before the Provincial Annual General Meeting.

## **PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

18. A) A Provincial Council shall consist of a President, Vice President, Administrator, Treasurer, a delegate to the GAA Provincial Council, Youth Games Officer, Communications Officer, Development Officer and a Coaching Officer together with two representatives from each affiliated county. The President shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years. The immediate past Council President shall be an ex-officio member for the year following his termination of office.

B) The Provincial Council Management Committee shall comprise of a President, Vice President, Administrator, Treasurer, a delegate to the GAA Provincial Council, Communications Officer and Youth Games Officer.

C) The Provincial Council shall nominate for appointment annually a Provincial Competitions Control Committee which shall consist of three members. The Provincial C.C.C. shall be responsible for all arrangements for and the control of any matter arising from competitions under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council and matters arising from same, including disciplinary matters other than those reserved to the G. A. A. Provincial Hearings Committee. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, including hearing objections and Counter Objections from competitions under its control.

D) Where a Hearing is requested it shall be heard by the Hearings Committee appointed by the Central Council of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

(E) Appeals shall be heard by the Central Appeals Committee appointed by the Central Council of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

19. Subject to the overall jurisdiction of the Central Council, a Provincial Council shall have within its Province the following powers: To manage the fixtures programme for the Provincial Championships and the general workings within the province.

20. A Provincial Council shall present to National Annual General Meeting:

- (1) Administrator's Report
- (2) Audited Accounts.

21. A minimum of 5 days written notice shall be given by the Provincial Administrator to all members for meetings, except in the case of an emergency when he may, in consultation with the Chairperson, summon a meeting with shorter written or verbal notice.

A special meeting may be convened by the Administrator on the written request of a majority of members.

## **NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

22. The National Annual General Meeting shall be held on a Saturday and/or Sunday prior to the Annual G.A.A. Congress, the venue to be selected by Central Council.

It shall consist of the outgoing Council (voting rights as on the outgoing Council), the past Presidents, the President-elect, and delegates from the counties on the basis of three delegates from a county. In cases where there is only one Club in a county it shall be entitled to only one delegate. Officers or Council members cannot appoint proxies to represent them at National Annual General Meeting. The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member for the year following his termination of office.

23. The functions of National Annual General Meeting shall be:

(A) To consider Reports and Audited Accounts of the Central Council and its subsidiary Councils for the preceding year up to 31 October.

(B) To elect by secret ballot on the basis of the Proportional Representation system, a President and representative to G.A.A. Central Council.

(C) To consider Motions and to enact, amend or rescind Rules and this Constitution.

24. A candidate for the position of President and representative on the G.A.A. Central Council shall be nominated by a County Committee. Such nominations shall be made on the Nomination Paper, which shall be sent to the County Committee at least eight weeks prior to the National Annual General Meeting, and which shall be completed and returned to the National Manager at least six weeks before National Annual General Meeting.

A President or representative to the G.A.A. Central Council 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.

In the case of death or permanent incapacity of the President, the Central Council shall have the authority to appoint from among its Provincial Presidents (Vice- Presidents) an acting President, who shall perform the duties of the Presidency until the next National Annual General Meeting.

25. Special National Annual General Meeting: In special circumstances and with the support of a two-thirds majority of its members, present and voting, Central Council may summon a Special National Annual General Meeting. Special National Annual General Meeting to consist of the same representation as is allowed at National Annual General Meeting. Notice for such a meeting shall specify the business to be transacted at the Special Annual General Meeting and no other business shall be transacted.

26. A Committee consisting of the President, the four Provincial Chairpersons, and the National Manager shall prior to National Annual General Meeting, 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 number of Rules and/or regulations affected, or where there are minor clerical errors. Counties shall be advised in writing of the reason for a Motion not being in order and, subject to a time-limit determined by Central Council, shall be afforded an opportunity to resubmit the motion for the consideration of the Motion Committee. The President shall have the authority at National Annual General Meeting to rule a Motion out of order.

## **MOTIONS**

27. (A) Only Motions carried at Central Council, Provincial Annual General Meeting or County Annual General Meeting and made on the Motion/Nomination paper may be submitted for discussion at National Annual General Meeting. Such Motions shall be made on the Motion/Nomination paper which shall be sent to the County Committee at least eight weeks prior to National Annual General Meeting which shall be completed and returned to the National Manager at least six weeks prior to National Annual General Meeting.

(B) Motions to enact new or amend existing Rules and/or this Constitution shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the numbers of any Rules and/or Regulations affected thereby.

(C) Motions to revise Playing Rules may be tabled only every three years, and in such years they shall take precedence in Motions on National Annual General Meeting Agenda.

(D) Motions to remove or amend an existing Rule must be carried by two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

(E) National Annual General Meeting 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, must come in Motion form to a subsequent National Annual General Meeting.

(F) New and amended Rules shall become operative four weeks from date of National Annual General Meeting, and the text shall be circulated to County Secretaries within this period for distribution to Clubs.

(G) Amendments to this Constitution shall be subject to approval of GAA Management and shall not be enforced until approved.

(H) A Motion declared not to have received one-third of the votes at National Annual General Meeting may not be tabled on a National Annual General Meeting agenda for the subsequent three years.

28. At least two weeks before National Annual General Meeting each county, in accordance with representation, and also the President and Director General of the G.A.A. shall be issued with copies of the Bainisteoir Náisiúnta's Report, Audited Accounts, the Agenda and the list of Nominations and Motions.

## **CENTRAL COUNCIL**

29. (A) The Central Council shall consist of President; the National Manager, without voting rights; the President-elect, if in office; the immediate past President for the year following his term as President; the Vice-presidents, being the Presidents of each Provincial Council; the handball representative on the G.A.A. Central Council, a representative of GAA Management, the four Provincial Administrators, 1 non-GAA Handball Representative (nominated by the President in

conjunction with the National Manager for appointment by the Central Council) all with voting rights.

(B) The President, National Manager, President-elect, immediate past President and non-GAA Handball Representative shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of the Council. A Provincial President may be represented by another officer of the Provincial Council with 7 days prior notice.

(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.

### **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL**

30. (A) Central Council subject to the overall control of GAA Central Council is the supreme governing body of GAA Handball on all handball matters between National Annual General Meetings.

(B) It shall have the authority to interpret handball rules.

(C) It shall control the All-Ireland Championships.

(D) It shall, at its first meeting each year ratify members to the various national Committees (within the Association's Strategic Plan) as decided from time to time by Annual or Special National Annual General Meetings. It shall also appoint representatives to the National Strategic Planning Committee and Chairperson of said Committees, whom shall hold office for a maximum 5 year term.

(E) Central Council will meet at least 8 times per calendar year.

(F) Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed so as to admit to Central Council or its sub-committees authority to introduce, enact or rescind aspects of the Constitution or in any way vary or delegate the power reserved to National Annual General Meeting by rule 23. This rule shall in all aspects be subject to rule 23 and in the event of conflict rule 23 shall prevail.

31. The Central Council shall appoint a National Manager

32. A minimum of 5 days written notice shall be given by the National Manager 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 National Manager on a request of a majority of the members.

33. (A) The Central Competitions Control Committee shall consist of the National Fixtures & Events Officer, the four Provincial Appointed Representatives and two other members appointed by the Central Council. It shall have a three year term of office. It shall be responsible for all arrangements for and control of any matter arising from competitions under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and matters arising from same, including disciplinary matters other than those functions reserved to the G.A.A. Central Hearings Committee. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the

Enforcement of Rules, including hearing Objections and Counter Objections, from competitions under its control. Hearings, where prescribed, shall be heard by the Central Hearings Committee.

(B) The National Coaching Committee (Under the Strategic Plan) shall comprise: Chairperson appointed by Central Council, National Children's Officer, National Development Officer, 4 Reps appointed by Provincial Councils, 1 National Coaching Tutor nominated by the Chairperson for appointment by Central Council. It will have a 3 year term in office.

The National Committees shall implement annual work programmes based on a rolling Strategic Plan for GAA Handball as approved by National Annual General Meeting, Special National Annual General Meeting or Central Council.

Central Council shall act as a resource to facilitate training, project management and support services as required for the National Committees.

(C) The Irish Collegiate Handball Association /Collaiste Ard Oideachais Liathroid Laimhe (ICHA/CAOLL) shall be the National Governing Body for Third Level Handball in Ireland.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

34. Elective Office: Elective offices referred to in this Constitution shall be confined to fully paid up members of GAA Handball.

35. The quorum for all meetings of Committees or Councils of the Association shall be one quarter and not fewer than Three of the members entitled to attend unless the Constitution provides otherwise.

36. Except where otherwise provided in the Constitution, 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 Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member, irrespective of whether or not he had originally voted on the issue. 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.

37. All official correspondence to the Central and Provincial Councils in connection with County and Club matters, except as provided for in Rule, must come through the Secretary of the County Committee or, if absent, the Assistant Secretary (who was elected at previous County Annual General Meeting). Likewise, all official Club correspondence to County Committees must come through the Club Secretary.

38. A referee cannot make an award of a game. The award rests with the relevant Competitions Control Committee acting on his report. Reference rule 6.43, Official Guide: Award/Facts of Game

39. Where a referee fails to submit his report within a period of 14 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.

40. At its first meeting after National Annual General Meeting Central Council shall have the power to review the amount of fees and fines referred to in the Rules and Constitution, and to increase or decrease same as considered necessary.

#### **OBJECTIONS/APPEALS/INVESTIGATIONS**

41. General Rules of the G.A.A. apply. Chapter 7, Official Guide

#### **ENFORCEMENT OF RULES / DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

42. Procedures for Disciplinary and Related Hearings as laid down in an Treorai Oifigúil, Cumann Lúthcleas Gael.

43. The Association shall use all practical endeavours to support Irish Industry especially in relation to the provision of Trophies and playing Gear and Equipment.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

44. Official documents and correspondence shall have the following in Irish:

- (a) The name of the Club/ Committee being represented (where a Club/ Committee is involved).
- (b) The signature of the sender, subject to Rule 4.6(d), Official Guide
- (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 Rúnaí on official list of players for games.

Correspondence and documents not complying shall be ruled out of order, but may, subject to any time limit specified by Rule or the Committee in charge, be resubmitted in compliant form.

45. The Constitution of GAA Handball shall be read in conjunction with the General Rules of Cumann Lúthcleas Gael contained in the Official Guide as amended from time to time.



## GAMES REGULATIONS

**NOTE:** These are included for record purposes only. They shall not be construed so as to form part of the Constitution. They are subject to amendment by Central Council in accordance with General Rule NOT by way of Motion to Annual General Meeting.

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## PERMITS FOR TOURNAMENTS

46. (A) All county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the County CCC.
- (B) All provincial inter-county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the Provincial CCC
- (C) All National inter-county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the National CCC
- (D) That Handball, as a virtual non-contact sport, is suitable for Female players to take part in organised challenge games/tournaments/training, playing with both male/female partners/opponents, organised in accordance with the requirements of (i), (ii), & (iii).

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

47. The following All-Ireland Championships shall be promoted each year where facilities offer:

- (A) (i) Senior Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.  
(ii) Men's only Senior Hardball Singles and Doubles.
- (B) (i) Intermediate Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.  
(ii) Men's only Intermediate Hardball Singles and Doubles.
- (C) (i) Junior Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.  
(ii) Men's only Junior Hardball Singles and Doubles.
- (D) (i) Minor Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.  
(ii) Minor Boys Hardball Singles and Doubles.
- (E) Under 21 Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.
- (F) Junior B Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.
- (G) Over 35 A & B Singles and Doubles 40x20 & 60x30 Championship.  
(i) Over 35 'A' - Confined to players over 35 years of age.  
(ii) Over 35 'B' - Confined to players over 35 years of age, who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, 35B, Masters or Senior All-Ireland titles.
- (H) Masters Singles and Doubles and Masters "A" and "B" Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles. (Over 40).  
(i) Masters 'A' - Open to players over 40 years of age.  
(ii) Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 40 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.
- (I) Silver Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles (Over 45).  
(i) Silver Masters 'A' - Open to players over 45 years of age.  
(ii) Silver Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 45 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B, or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.
- (J) Golden Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles (Over 50).  
(i) Golden Masters 'A' - Open to players over 50 years of age.  
(ii) Golden Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 50 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.
- (K) Emerald Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles (Over 55).  
(i) Emerald Masters 'A' - Open to players over 55 years of age.  
(ii) Emerald Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 55 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.
- (L) Diamond Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 60).



- (i) Diamond Masters 'A' - Open to players over 60 years of age.
- (ii) Diamond Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 60 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.
- (M) Ruby Masters A Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles (Over 65).
- (ii) Over 70s Singles and Doubles championships in 40x20 and 60x30 grades.
- (N) Junior B, Junior and Open Team of Four 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 All-Ireland Club Championships.
- (O) Inter-County 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 team competitions.
- (P) All players are confined to one grade of singles or doubles in inter-county competition in 40 x 20, Softball and Hardball in any one year, except players competing in the Senior championship who can also compete in their own grade, and players in Masters grades who do not have a doubles partner in their grade in their own county who can play singles in their own grade and play doubles in another grade, for which they are eligible, with a player from their own county.
- (Q) Juvenile Championships under the jurisdiction of the Central Council shall be held each year in Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles. The All-Ireland 40 x 20 Championships to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> April each year and the 60 x 30 Championships by 15 November each year.

All-Ireland Juvenile Championships in the following age groups will apply:

- (i) Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 Grades:

The Under 15 is for non-winners of gold, silver or bronze medals at Under 14 and non-winners of gold at Under 15. The Under 17 grade is for non-winners of gold, silver or bronze medals at Under 14 or Under 16 and non-winners of gold medals at Under 15 or Under 17. Duplication is not permitted i.e. a player may not play in both Singles and Doubles nor in more than one age group in the same year. A player defeated in an earlier round may not be used as a substitute in the same year.

- (ii) Under 12/13 Team of Six Championships in Softball and 40 x 20.

Teams to consist of three Under 12 and three Under 13 players who have not represented their county at Under 14 level or over.

- (iii) Under 14/15 Team of Six Championships in Softball and 40 x 20.

Teams to consist of three Under 14 and three Under 15 players who have not won a provincial championship in any age group.

- (iv) Under 16/17 Team of Four championships in Softball and 40x20. Teams to consist of two Under 16 players and two Under 17 players who have not won a provincial championship in any age group, including Team events.

(v) All counties competing in 40/20 and 60/30 Inter County team championship All-Ireland semi-finals and finals, must submit the names of the players on their team, six in U12/13, six in U14/15 and four in U16/17 to the GAA Handball Office not later than the Monday prior to the scheduled fixture, Penalty for failure to comply; removal from championship.

- (R) Inter-provincial Girls Team of 6 & 10 Competitions.

60x30 Team of 6

- (a) A team consists of 6 players, two at each age group at Under 13, Under 15 & Under 17
- (b) Order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17
- (c) Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before game before play commences
- (d) Each pair play two games to 15 aces
- (e) The aggregate score decides the winner
- (f) In the event of a tie any two players from each side play a tie-breaker to 11 points,
- (g) Full Playing rules apply

40x20 Team of 10

- (a) A team consists of 10 players, two at each age group at Under 13,14,'15'16 & Under 17
- (b) Order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17
- (c) Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before game before play commences
- (d) Each pair play two games to 15 aces
- (e) The aggregate score decides the winner
- (f) In the event of a tie any two players from each side play a tie-breaker to 11 points,
- (g) Full Playing rules apply
- (S) County Championships
- (i) Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Junior B, Minor and Juvenile in Hardball, Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles.
- (ii) Team Championships
- (iii) Players can only compete in two grades of competition in 40 x 20, Softball and Hardball in any one year.

#### 48. **UNDER-AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS & COMPETITIONS**

- (A) A minor player must be under 18 years of age on 1 January of the current year's championship.
- (B) The Under 21 Championships are confined to players in the 17-21 age bracket. Players must be 17 years of age or over and under 21 years of age on 1 January of the year of the championship.
- (C) Juveniles: In all championships and competitions the players must be the specified age on 1 January of the year of the championship or competition.
- (D) The age qualification for overage Championships shall be based on the qualifying age being reached in the year of the Championship.

#### 49. **GRADING**

- (A) There shall be separate grading for all Softball, Hardball and 40 x 20 Championships.
  - (i) A player who has represented his/her county in any code at senior level may be regraded by his/her Provincial Council and subject to ratification by Central Council provided he/she has not won an All-Ireland Championship in that grade.
  - (ii) Regrading in 60 x 30 or 40 x 20 codes is subject to sanction of the County Committee, Provincial Council and Central Council.
  - (iii) A player winning an All-Ireland Singles, or Doubles Championship may still play in the same grade, provided he/she has participated in the Championship prior to winning the All-Ireland title, i.e. promoted immediately on winning the All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship unless still involved in the Singles or Doubles Championship.
- (B) The Junior B Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championship shall be confined to the following players:
  - (i) A Junior B shall not have won a Provincial and/or All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship in Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate or Senior.
  - (ii) A Junior B shall not have won an All-Ireland Championship in Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', or Golden Masters 'A' or 'B'.
  - (iii) A Junior B shall not have played on a Junior, Senior or Open All-Ireland Club Championship winning team.
  - (iv) A Junior B shall not have won an Under 14 or Under 16 All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship.

(v) A Junior B shall not have represented his/her county in Junior, Intermediate or Senior Singles or Doubles Championship (unless subsequently regraded).

(vi) A Junior B shall be over 16 years of age.

(vii) A Junior B, having commenced a playing year in that grade, retains Junior B status for the duration of the year, regardless of the number of Junior B Championships, provincial or national, he may win in the course of that year.

(viii) That Ladies Junior B All Ireland Singles and Doubles Championship in 40x20 and 60x30 be confined to players who have not won a Ladies All Ireland Junior B Singles or Doubles Championship or any All Ireland championship above this grade. Provincial Junior B Championship success does not rule a player from competing in the Ladies Junior B Championship in the years following said success.

(C) The Junior Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championships shall be confined to the following players:

(i) Players who have won an Under 14 or Under 16 All-Ireland Championship in Singles or Doubles.

(ii) Players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or Junior B Provincial Championship in Singles or Doubles.

(iii) Players who have won a Junior All-Ireland Club Championship.

(iv) Players who have won a Junior B Singles or Doubles All-Ireland Championship.

(v) A Junior player in Singles or Doubles Championship shall not have won a Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate or Senior All-Ireland Championship and shall not have represented his/her county in the Intermediate or Senior Championships.

(D) The Intermediate Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championships shall be confined to the following players:

(i) Players who have won a Minor or Under 21 or Junior All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship.

(E) In Doubles a player must play with a partner from his/her own county. A player who is not eligible to play in the Senior grade may play Senior Doubles to partner a player who is eligible to do so and also play in his/her own grade. (without affecting their grading)

A Senior is a player who has represented his/her county in the Senior All-Ireland Championships and/or won: an Intermediate or Senior men's Singles or Doubles All Ireland title or a Ladies Junior Singles or Doubles All Ireland title.

60x30 Softball:

(i) The All-Ireland 60 x 30 Senior Singles and Doubles Championships shall be open to all players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or adult All-Ireland title in that code, seeding to apply. Players who take part in the Senior championship may compete in one other grade if they are eligible to do so.

40x20:

(i) The All-Ireland 40 x 20 Senior Singles and Doubles Championships shall be open to all players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or adult All-Ireland title in that code, seeding to apply. Players who take part in the Senior championship may compete in one other grade if they are eligible to do so.

(F) All-Ireland Club Championships

(i) A player in the All-Ireland Junior B Club Championships must be eligible to play Junior B in the Singles or Doubles Championship and not have played on a Junior B Club Championship winning team.

(ii) A player in the All-Ireland Junior Championships must be eligible to play Junior B or Junior in the Singles and Doubles Championships and must not have played on a Junior Club Championship winning team.

(iii) The Open Club Championships are open to all grades of player.

50. (A) All-Ireland Championships shall be decided on the one-day match system.

51. (A) Entries for the All-Ireland championships must be made by County Committees to the Provincial Council or, where there is no County Committee, by the Club, on or before the date specified, except in the case of all grades of Hardball, and in Senior Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles, where entries are sent direct to the Central Council by the County Committee or, where there is no County Committee, by the Club.

(B) Entries must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fees.

(C) Entries not accompanied by the appropriate fees shall not be entertained.

52. (A) The All-Ireland Ladies Senior Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles Championships shall be run on an Open Draw system.

(B) The Senior, Junior and Minor Hardball Singles and Doubles Championships shall be run on an Open Draw system.

53. The Ladies Intermediate, Junior, Junior B and Minor championships in Softball and 40 x 20 shall be run on a provincial format.

54. The 40 x 20 championships shall be played in the period of March to May each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

55. The All-Ireland Senior Softball Singles and Doubles Championships shall be played in the period of July to September each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

56. The All-Ireland Open Hardball Championships shall be played in the period May/June each year unless there are extenuating circumstances. Multiple entries from counties are allowed in each grade where eligible.

57. Eyeguards shall be compulsory in all grades of hardball and up to 18 years of age, including Minor in softball.

## **COUNTY COLOURS**

58. Each county shall register annually with the Central Council its distinctive county colours, which shall be worn in all inter-county matches. Counties shall also register alternative colours or an alternative combination of their original colours.

Where the controlling Council determines that a similarity of colours occurs, the two counties shall wear their alternative colours or other colours authorised or directed by the Council.

Penalty:

(a) €38.00 for a first offence.

(b) €63.50 for any subsequent offence/s by the same player/team.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS**

59. That in the case where a player cannot fulfil a championship game, including Senior, (except in the case of the death of an immediate family member) on the dates outlined in the National Clar then the County must field a substitute or concede the match. However if the opposing county are willing to refix the match, then it shall be played at a venue nominated by the opposing county.

60. The following All-Ireland Championships shall be promoted each year where facilities offer:

(A) One Wall Singles, in accordance with the present trial format as decided by CCCC.

61. The Central Council shall be the promoting body for all Championships and Competitions organised on an All-Ireland basis, subject to the directions of Annual Congress, and shall be empowered to formulate and administer the rules governing such Championships and Competitions.

62. That in Juvenile All Ireland Championship competition, that an All-Ireland Final cannot be refereed by a fellow club member of any of the players contesting the final.