

Europe – Bye Laws

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN TREORAÍ OIFIGIÚIL - 28.05.14

At its meeting on 23.05.14 Coste Bainistí approved your county's Bye- Laws as follows:

The European GAA Board is the officially recognised governing body for the continent of Europe (*excluding the UK & Ireland*) for the Gaelic games and cultural organisations known as the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) & the Camogie Association (CA) whose headquarters are based in Dublin, Ireland. These Bye-laws should be read in conjunction with GAA Official Guide primarily, along with relevant provisions of the official Guides of the LGFA and CA and any “derogations from Rule” agreed by Central Council of the GAA, LGFA and/or CA.

Section A. - County Committee

1. Alterations and / or additions to these County Bye-laws may be made at Annual or reconvened Convention providing that the resolution proposing same is carried by a two-thirds majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
2. The County Management Committee shall act as the Standing Orders Committee for Convention. The Standing Orders Committee shall have authority:
 - a. To examine motions submitted for County Convention and decide whether such motions are in order.
 - b. Put a motion in order where there is a failure to quote the reference numbers of rules affected, where the wrong reference numbers are quoted or where there are minor clerical errors.
 - c. Classify a motion as a bye-law or as a regulation.
 - d. Notwithstanding the above, the Chairperson shall retain the authority to rule a motion out of order at the Convention
3. The Annual Convention of the European County Committee shall be held before December 15th, each year, in a venue to be determined by the Management Committee.
4. In special circumstances, the Management Committee may summon a Special Convention. Representation shall be determined by the Management Committee
5. The Annual Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee, who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary; Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer; Club Development Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture; Public Relations Officer, Youth Officer and IT Officer.
6. A Children's Officer and a Sponsorship Officer, recommended by the outgoing Management Committee, shall also be appointed and the Children's Officer may also hold the position of Youth Officer.
7. The Sponsorship Officer and the County Referees' Administrator (who shall be a fully qualified referee), appointed by the Management Committee at its first meeting after Annual Convention, shall also be members of the County Committee.
8. The Annual Convention shall elect the following other members of the County Committee, who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention: Hurling Officer; Football Officer; Cumann Peil Gael Na mBan (Ladies Football) Liaison Officer, Cumann Camogaíochtá na hEireann (Camogie) Liaison Officer and any Central Council members (GAA, LGFA, CA).

9. Should a vacancy arise in the officers, or other elected members, of the County Committee (elected under Bye-law 2 or 3 above), Rule 3.11(d) of the Official Guide shall apply and the ballot referred to shall be conducted by electronic mail, in accordance with deadlines and procedures to be adopted by the Management Committee within 28 days of the vacancy occurring.
10. The County Committee shall consist of the officers and elected members specified in Bye-Laws 2-6 above, and one representative of each club which participated in a Club Championship sanctioned by the Management Committee, including regional championships, of the current year. Where a club participated in both a Hurling and Football Championships, they shall be entitled to two delegates with an additional delegate for each club that participated in a ladies football or camogie championship.
11. The penalties for a Club failing to fulfil a Championship Game shall not apply to teams unable to travel to fixtures in Championships organised by the European County Board.
12. If the County Committee authorises the establishment of Divisional Committees, each of these Committees may also be represented by one delegate (from the time the decision is made). A geographically based committee which represents an area which is deemed to be part of a Divisional Committee area shall not be entitled to representation.
13. A delegate from a Club, or other Committee entitled to representation, who cannot attend a County Committee meeting may be replaced by another delegate from the same club or committee, to act as a proxy in their absence, provided such proxy shall be appointed in writing and notified to the County Secretary in advance.
14. All of the officers, elected members and club or divisional committee delegates, specified in Bye Laws A.2 - A.6 and A.8 – A.10 above, shall be voting members of the County Committee.
- 15.** The Treasurer shall not be limited to serving five years in his/her office.
16. Within these Bye-laws, the terms Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer etc., (unless otherwise specified in the relevant Rule or Bye-law) shall be understood to mean the officers of the County Committee elected at an Annual Convention.

Section B. - Management Committee

1. The Management Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary; Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer; Club Development Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture; Public Relations Officer, Children's Officer, IT Officer, Sponsorship Officer, Hurling Officer; Football Officer; County Referees' Administrator, Cumann Peil Gael Na mBan (Ladies Football) Liaison Officer, Cumann Camogaíochtá na hEireann (Camogie) Liaison Officer and any Central Council members (GAA, LGFA, CA). All of the above shall be voting members.
2. The Management Committee is authorised to select delegates to attend the Annual Congress, or any Special Congress, of the GAA, LGFA or CA but the delegates shall include the Chairperson and the Secretary, when available.
3. The Management Committee is authorised to select delegates to attend the National Youth Forum of the GAA or any other relevant meeting of the GAA, LGFA or CA.
4. The Management Committee shall appoint the following:-
 - a. a Sponsorship Officer
 - b. a County Referees' Administrator (who shall be a fully qualified referee), at the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Convention (or as soon as practical thereafter) and they shall hold office until such time as a new appointment is made.

5. The normal manner for the conduct of meetings (and formal votes) of the Management Committee and/or any Sub-Committee thereof, shall be by telephone or video conference in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Management Committee.
6. The Management Committee shall meet at least six times per annum at venues nominated by the County secretary and shall cause a record to be kept by way of formal minutes of all matters dealt with.
7. The quorum of all meetings of the Management Committee shall be one quarter of those entitled to attend and vote.
8. Failure to participate (as recorded by the Secretary, with reference to log-in data if required) in such a meeting shall be construed as an absence from the said meeting for the purposes of Rule 3.19(d) of the Official Guide
9. The Management Committee shall exercise the powers granted to the County Committee under Rule 3.20 of the Official Guide, subject to the overriding power of the County Committee to overturn a decision at its next meeting or Annual Convention
10. The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute an “Executive Committee” whose responsibilities will be to carry out any functions of the Management Committee, where the matter concerned requires an urgent policy, or any operational, decision between meetings of the Management Committee. All such decisions shall be reported to the Management Committee at the next meeting of same. Decisions on the payment of amounts exceeding €1,000 may not be taken by the Executive Committee. In the event of absence of the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer during the decision-making process, then they shall be replaced by the Vice Chairperson, Asst. Secretary or Asst. Treasurer, respectively. Decisions of the “Executive Committee” may be taken by e-mail.
11. The Management Committee may establish or recognise Divisional Committees based on national geographic boundaries (or groupings of same) as required. Such Committees may also be referred to as “National Federations” if appropriate. Such Committee/Federation shall have at least four clubs within its area of jurisdiction and their establishment or recognition shall be conditional on ratification of the decision at the next Annual Convention.
12. The Management Committee shall appoint the Sub-Committees specified in Rule 3.21 of the Official Guide and any other Committees required from time to time under rule, bye-law or by Central Council with the exception of those specified in Rules 3.21 (iii), (v), (xii), (xiv) whose responsibilities shall be carried out by the Management Committee.
13. The Sub-Committees shall be chaired by the relevant Management Committee Officer/member, or such other suitable person appointed by the Management Committee. Each Sub-Committee will have at least three members not including the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of all Sub-Committees.
14. All Sub-Committees shall consult with affiliated clubs at least once annually. The terms of reference of all Sub-Committees, and job specifications of all Officers thereof, shall, if they vary in any form those specified in the Official Guide (Rule 3.21), be documented and distributed to all members of the said Committee and all clubs, following approval by the Management Committee.

Section C – Competitions Control Committee

1. The Management Committee shall appoint a Competitions Control Committee (CCC) – which shall be responsible for all arrangements, for control of, and any matters arising from Games under the jurisdiction of the County Committee, including disciplinary matters other than those functions reserved to the Hearings Committee. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, including hearing Objections and Counter-Objections.

2. It shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel, together with the County Referees' Administrator, who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees.
3. The Vice-Chairman shall chair the CCC and the Assistant Secretary shall normally be convener of this Committee.
4. The quorum for meetings shall be three voting members.
5. The CCC shall have Plenary Powers delegated to it by the County Committee. Appeals against decisions of the CCC shall be to the Appeals Committee.
6. The CCC shall decide on which club a member may join based on the principle of playing with with the club in closest proximity to their home address, place of work or place of study, at the time of joining the club. In the event of a dispute, all relevant parties including clubs, applicant, divisional committee (if any) shall be consulted.
7. A member may transfer at any time from one club to another within European County Committees area upon receipt of an official European inter-club transfer form. Such application shall be subject to Bye-Law C.7., if the member's current club objects to the transfer.
8. The CCC will draw up and approve Regulations for all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Such Regulations will reflect decisions taken at Annual Convention, or other meeting convened to discuss same, and shall be approved by the Management Committee, prior to the commencement of a competition.
9. Divisional Committees shall be responsible for other competitions which are limited to clubs within the said committees' jurisdiction, subject to those Regulations being submitted to, and approved by the CCC and Management Committee, prior to the commencement of a competition.
10. Divisional Committees shall be required to appoint a Competitions Control Committee if they organise their own competition..
11. Any player availing of a "Weekend Authorisation" must be graded in their "Home" jurisdiction as required by European Competition Regulations (*e.g "below senior/intermediate"*) to participate in competitions under the jurisdiction of this Committee. Any player who stands suspended by another unit of the GAA, LGFA or CA, shall not be eligible for such a transfer. Any suspensions imposed by the European CCC or Hearings Committee shall be notified to the said players association's Central Council.

Section D – Hearings Committee

1. The Management Committee shall appoint a Hearings Committee which shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary matters where a Hearing is requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules (except Objections and Counter-Objections) arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the County Committee.
2. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel. No member of the Management Committee or Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee may serve as a member of the Appeals Committee.
3. The powers of the Hearings Committee shall be plenary powers delegated to it by the County Committee. Appeals against decisions of the CCC shall be to the Appeals Committee.

Section E – Appeals Committee

1. The Management Committee shall appoint an Appeals Committee which shall hear appeals against decisions of the Hearings Committee.
2. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel. No member of the Management Committee, Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee may serve as a member of the Appeals Committee.
3. The quorum for meetings of the Appeals Committee shall be three members.
4. Its decisions on appeals shall be final and binding subject only to a case being taken to Arbitrations as provided for in the GAA Official Guide (or Official Guides of the LGFA or CA).

Section F – Operational matters

1. An annual Club “management” fee shall be payable to the County Committee, in addition to any fees specified in the Official Guide. The amount of said fee shall be determined by the Annual Convention in the year preceding payment (and will continue at the same rate in succeeding years, until amended by Annual Convention).
2. Each registered club shall provide an electronic mail address which shall be the normal method for exchange of correspondence between the Club and the County Committee, and/or any sub-committee thereof. The Secretary shall maintain a register of such addresses, and of the postal address of the Secretary of each Club, and it shall be the responsibility of each club to notify the County Committee of any change of address.
3. The working language of the County Committee, and all subsidiary committees (except Divisional Committees) shall be the English language. Divisional Committees may decide on their own working language.
4. All written communications to or from the County Committee or any subsidiary committees (except Divisional Committees) shall be in the English language and preferably transmitted, or received, by email or other electronic means. Divisional Committees may decide on their working language. The official postal address of the European County Committee shall be the home address of the Secretary.
5. The official “home” ground of the European County Committee shall be the facilities at “Sportspark West”, Negenputruwe1-5, 6218 RA, Maastricht, The Netherlands.
6. The safety of the European County Committee trophies are the responsibility of the winning club. Any loss or damage to be rectified by the club concerned, at their own expense. The trophies shall be returned to the Secretary four weeks prior to the final of the competition concerned in a clean and fit state for presentation. All engraving and repair of trophies is the responsibility of the County Committee, with the winning club of that particular competition in any given year bearing the cost of such.

Glossary

CA	Camogie Association (An Cumann Camogaiochtá)
CCC	Competitions Control Committee
Congress	Congress of the GAA (primarily) or Congresses of the LGFA or CA
Convention	Meeting of the European County Committee
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association (Cumann Luthcleas Gael)
IT	Information Technology
LGFA	Ladies Gaelic Football Association (Cumann Peil Gael Na mBan)
Official Guide	Official Guide of the GAA

Rule 1.7 – Use of Irish etc

English to be the language of meetings and written communications (see: Bye-law F3)

Rule 1.8 – (Irish) National Flag

Not always possible or appropriate in countries outside of Ireland (depends on local laws/protocols etc)

Rule 1.17 – Branding

Multiple sponsors allowed on club jerseys and may exceed 350 square centimetres

Rule 3.4 - Name of club in the Irish language

Necessity for an Irish name of club does not apply

Subject to the club name being approved by Coiste Bainistí (GAA Management Committee).

Rule 3.5 – Club Constitution and Rules

Adoption of the “Official Club Constitution” (Appendix 2 of GAA rules) is not required provided a club’s constitution and rules are “in line with the principles of, or modelled on, Official Club Constitution as contained in Official Guide”.

Rule 3.9 – Loss of rights for a club

Clubs who fail to participate in a ‘championship’ in the current year may retain ‘rights’ for two years from each date of acceptance of reasons by European Management Committee.

Subject to the clubs who failed to field in a championship not being included for the purpose of determining European representation at GAA Congress.

Rules 3.10-3.24 – County Conventions/Committees etc

Deviations from GAA Rules as provided for in European Bye-laws (2013) where applicable.

Rule 3.40- National Youth Forum.

See European Bye-law B.3. (2013)

Rule 6.6(i) – Player transferring back to Europe on inter-county transfer within 96 weeks returning to same club.

Players who transfer back to Europe may join a different club to the one they were previously a member of - if returning to a different area/city/country.

Rule 6.8(A) – Transferees not playing in any Championship with two Clubs in a given year's Championship.

Players transferring to Europe may play in a championship even if they have already played in a championship with their previous club.