



## **John West Féile na nGael/Féile Peile na nÓg Charter 2026**

The John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na nÓg National and Regional Tournaments are All-Ireland Club festivals for Hurling, Football, Camogie, Handball and Rounders at Under 15 years of age level including international teams. Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile, appointed by Uachtarán CLG, shall have the responsibility for the organisation of the tournaments.

This charter and the accompanying abridged version of the playing rules clearly outline the levels of good practice in terms of behaviour and participation that is required from all players, coaches and supporters at Club, County, Regional and National Féile events. A core aim of Féile is to promote a philosophy whereby every player has the opportunity to participate and play in their respective Féile tournament at a level commensurate to their age, skills and strengths.

Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile shall reserve the right to propose sanctions, including expulsion from John West Féile, of teams/clubs that fail to comply with the Rules and Charter of John West Féile na nGael (Hurling, Camogie, Rounders and Handball) and/or John West Féile Peile na nÓg (Gaelic Football and Ladies Gaelic Football).

Note: All clubs are requested to advise their mentors of the following change to An Treorí Oifigiúil/Official Guide 2025:

### **Category Va**

Any type of assault on a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official.

Penalties:

- (1) Minimum: 96 weeks Suspension, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate;
- (2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction within 192 weeks: 192 weeks Suspension, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate.

*Suspensions for Categories IVa and Va above shall be applicable in all (GAA) Codes and at all Levels.*

## **Participation in John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peile na nÓg**

Teams participating at the National Finals and Regional Tournaments of John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peile na nÓg shall be nominated by their County Coiste na nÓg. All counties are required to hold a County Féile to participate in either National or Regional Féile.

Both John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peile na nÓg offer every team at U15 years age group an opportunity to participate in these festivals of Gaelic Games at Club, Regional or National level.



Participating teams shall be 15-a-side (unless Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile has decided that a certain Division may deviate from the 15-a-side rule), comprising of players who are Under 15 years and Over 11 years. In 2026, players eligible to participate must be born in 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014.

In the case of Handball, a team shall consist of five players.

### **Code of Behaviour**

This Code of Behaviour (Underage) complements the Irish Sports Council (ISC) Code of Ethics and Our Games - Our Code, the joint Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.

<https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour>

An Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile places responsibility on the officers of all participating clubs to ensure that the highest standards of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, officials, coaches, trainers, mentors, supporters, parents/guardians and clubs is forthcoming. All participating players and those attending John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na nÓg are obliged to adhere to and implement the Code of Behaviour when working with underage players.

An Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile will investigate and firmly deal with any alleged transgression of this Code and will propose fines or suspensions and/or exclusion from John West Féile na nGael and/or John West Féile Peile na nÓg as penalties in accordance with the principles of the Code.

### **Supporter Conduct and Club Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of each participating club to ensure that their supporters uphold the highest standards of behaviour at all times. Unacceptable behaviour, including but not limited to verbal abuse, racial abuse, physical abuse, or any form of threatening or intimidating conduct, will not be tolerated.

If such behaviour is reported or witnessed by match officials, pitch coordinators, or members of the Féile Committee, the relevant club will be required to fully cooperate in identifying the individual(s) involved.

Failure by a club to co-operate in the identification of offending supporter(s) may result in the immediate elimination of that club from the remainder of the competition. Furthermore, the club may be subject to a ban from participation in Féile competitions at both National and Regional levels for a period of up to three (3) years.

The incident may be referred to the relevant disciplinary body.



### Team preparation

The use of additional non-club members as trainers and coaches in the preparation of teams for John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peile na nÓg shall not be permitted; nor shall specialist training camps or attendance at, or organising of such camps by a third party on behalf of the club/team. Excessive training of teams in preparation for John West Féile shall not be permitted. County Boards are requested to monitor the excessive use of additional training sessions and challenge games by John West Féile teams, within and outside of their county.

Any perceived transgressions of this Code must be reported to Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile. Upon investigation, any proven breach of these directives may result in the disqualification of the team from county and/or national John West Féile tournaments. Failure by the County Board to report such infractions may result in the exclusion of teams from that county in John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg in subsequent years.

### Registration

Each competing team must register on the official John West Féile registration form quoting the official membership number of each panel member. The Registration Form must be submitted by the Club Rúnaí/ Registrar including the player's full registration details. **Any alteration to the original registration must be notified to the Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile at least twenty-four hours prior to travelling to Féile.**

Clubs participating at Regional and National Féile competitions are required to bring the maximum number of players aged under 15 and registered with their clubs to participate in the Féile competitions. The maximum number permitted for 15-a-side competition is 26 players. An Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile has noted a regrettable trend emerging where some clubs with large playing numbers are only bringing the minimum number of players to Féile competitions. This is contrary to the ethos of Féile and will be monitored closely this year.

Amendments to registration should be made on a separate official registration form providing the full details of the substitute player. The amended registration form should also state the name of the player that they are replacing.

A player may be required by a National Féile Official or their nominee to give his/her date of birth at any time during Féile and random checking of official registration may take place at any time prior to or after the National and Regional Tournaments.



## **Give Respect – Get Respect**

All participating teams shall adhere to the Respect initiative: Give Respect – Get Respect.

This Respect initiative seeks to ensure that, at a very minimum, our Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect and Get Respect from each other.

The following shall be implemented in promoting and supporting the Respect initiative:

- All players shall, as a condition of participation, undertake to play by the rules and take responsibility for their own behaviour whilst always respecting their opponents, referees and officials.
- Players will line up at the centre of the field before each game and will shake hands with all members of the opposing team, their coaches and the referee.
- Similarly in Handball players shall meet at the centre of the court and will shake hands with all members of the opposing team, their coaches and the referee.
- Each player shall shake hands with their immediate opponents before and after each game.