

Comhairle Ardoideachais Competition Regulations 2025/26

Fixture Changes

- Fixture changes, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the CCC, must be agreed by both clubs.
- Comhairle Ardoideachais is supportive of floodlit fixtures in both codes to avoid clashes with lectures – Clubs which have access to floodlit facilities shall schedule games for evenings or night-time
- Any changes as agreed by both clubs must be e-mailed by the Host Club to:
 - Darragh.cox@gaa.ie
 - Secretary.he@gaa.ie
 - the opposition

In the event of any dispute regarding the timing or venue of a game, the final decision and determination shall be made by the Competition Control Committee (CA).

The Penalties for a Club/Unit failing to fulfil a Championship Game shall be as follows:

(i) For a First Failure - the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team, but without Disqualification, subject to the condition below.

If in the opinion of the Committee-in-Charge, the failure to field was for an ulterior purpose, affecting the position(s) of other Club(s), the defaulting Club may, at the discretion of the Committee, be disqualified from the Championship.

(ii) For a Second Failure – a Club shall be Disqualified from the Championship, and the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team.

Comhairle Ardoideachais Match Regulations 2025/26

GAMES

(1) Referees:

(a) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall appoint all Referees for Division 1 Hurling and Football League games, knock-out stages of league competitions and all rounds of Championship Competitions. The referee shall appoint his own umpires. Linesman shall be appointed by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin where possible. In the absence of appointed linesmen, the referee shall appoint one linesman from each side.

(b) If the appointed referee is unable to officiate on the day of the game:

(i) Both teams shall make every effort to secure a neutral referee.

(ii) In the event of a neutral referee not being available then both teams must agree on a referee. This agreement shall be signed by an official of each club.

Penalties: Failure to secure a neutral referee or to agree on a referee as outlined at (b) (i) and (ii) above – game shall not be re-fixed or awarded to either team.

A CA Club which fails to contribute appropriate referee's expenses shall incur a fine of €200; said fine shall be doubled with each repeat offence.

(2) Venues

Where the distance between two clubs is greater than 300km, matches shall be played at a neutral venue.

Clubs are free to enter into their own home and away arrangements with other clubs.

All neutral venues shall be appointed by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.

If a home team is unable to provide a venue the game will be played at the venue of CA's choice. Home Team must inform CA not later than midday on the day prior to the game of having to concede home venue.

Astroturf, 3G & 4G pitches are approved pitches for the playing of Higher Education games. If a CA Club cannot provide a home venue, the nearest Astroturf, 3G & 4G pitches available becomes the home venue.

Sigerson Cup

For all fixtures in the Sigerson Cup, up to the Semi Finals and up to 300km, the venue will be decided on a home and away arrangement between all participating clubs beginning with the 2014 Sigerson Championship with a draw for home advantage to start each arrangement.

An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin will keep a record of fixtures and of the home and away arrangement. Clubs hosting the Championship Weekend in the current competition year who are awarded home advantage for the rounds up to the semi-final, shall be away to the same opponent on the next occasion they meet.

Note: matches involving MTU Kerry (Tralee) and Dublin colleges shall be played according to home and away arrangements.

(3) List of Players

(a) In Championship matches and league finals, players shall wear numbers in accordance with their numerical listing on the team-sheet given to the referee and which must be consistent with the match programme.

Penalty: €200 for first offence. €400 for second offence.

(b) In the case of clubs operating an Elite Entry Scheme or equivalent (as outlined in 31(c)(2) of the CA Constitution 2021/22) the club must use the Team Sheet template provided by Comhairle Ardoideachais €200 for first offence. €400 for second offence.

(c) For Sigerson/Fitzgibbon Championship matches & all League Finals numbered panels must be sent to the home side by the opposition 36 Hours in advance of the fixture. Penalty: €200 for first offence. €400 for second offence.

(4) Postponement/Pitch Availability:

(a) When a home team considers its pitch unplayable: It must inform An Oifig CA (Páirc an Chrócaigh), who, in consultation with An Cathaoirleach, CA, shall have the authority to call off the game before the referee's inspection.

(b) Where the home team does not have a pitch of its own or its home pitch is unavailable it shall acquire the use of another ground.

(c) Where there is a change of venue, the home CA Club must notify in advance An Oifig CA, the opposing team and the referee.

(d) Where permission to postpone is granted: (i) The home team shall inform immediately the visiting team and the referee; (ii) Both teams shall agree, in consultation with An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, a revised date, venue and referee. Failing agreement, the time and venue shall be set by the Competitions Control Committee (CA).

(e) Where the home ground(s) of a CA Club are deemed to be of an unsatisfactory standard by the referee and An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, that CA Club may forfeit home advantage for its remaining games of that season. Penalty for non-compliance: €200.

5) Drawn 'Knockout' Games:

(Regulations governing the playing of Extra Time & Winner on the Day are outlined in Rule 2.6, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7, Rules of Specification, T.O. 2021 Cuid II & Winner on the Day regulations approved Ard Chomhairle on the 19th January 2019.)

Extra – Time & Winner on the Day

Proceed to Extra time (two periods of ten minutes each way) If still level, a “penalty competition” to decide the outcome:

- The relevant rules in T.O. Cuid II shall apply in relation to Penalty Kicks/Pucks, unless otherwise stated.
- Penalties will be taken for goals only.
- The Referee shall choose the end at which the penalty kicks/pucks will be taken. The end may be changed by the referee if it becomes unplayable during the course of the penalties.
- The Referee will ensure two goal umpires are in place at the end in which the penalty kicks/pucks are to be taken;
- Both umpires shall position themselves on the end line at opposite side of the goals facing inwards
- If a penalty is scored, the goal umpire, will wave the green flag once the referee has signaled
- If the penalty is saved or missed the point umpire will signal a wide once the referee has signaled
- Each team shall register five penalty takers, a goalkeeper & a substitute goalkeeper with the referee and indicate in which order the penalty takers will take their penalties. (A penalty taker can also be a goalkeeper or a substitute goalkeeper.)
- The referee shall toss a coin in the presence of the two captains to see which team will have the option of going first.
- Only players who are on the field of play at the end of Phase 1 (i.e. end of Extra Time), shall be allowed to be registered as a penalty taker or goalkeeper. Exception: The substitute goalkeeper can come from the team panel.
- A goalkeeper who is injured while the penalty kicks/pucks are being taken and is unable to continue as a goalkeeper may be replaced* by the substitute goalkeeper who has been nominated in advance, provided the referee is notified. If in the event the substitute goalkeeper also gets injured, one of the registered penalty takers may replace* the substitute goalkeeper, provided the referee is notified. (*Once replaced, the goalkeeper/ substitute goalkeeper cannot be reintroduced as a goalkeeper at a later stage)
- Subject to the conditions below, both teams will take five penalty kicks/pucks which are taken alternately by the teams. The game is awarded to whichever team scores more of their five

penalty kicks/pucks o If, before both teams have taken five penalty kicks/pucks, one team has scored more goals than the other team could score, even if they were to complete their five penalty kicks/pucks, no more penalty kicks/pucks shall be taken o If, after both teams have taken five penalty kicks/pucks and both teams have scored the same number of goals, the penalty competition will continue but in sudden death format using the same five registered players until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks/pucks. In sudden death, the same sequence of penalty takers does not have to be followed as in the first round of penalty kicks/pucks.

- Each penalty kick/puck is taken by a different player. All registered players must take a penalty kick/puck before any player can take an additional penalty kick/puck.
- The referee shall signal for the penalty to be taken. The penalty kick/puck is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play (including over the crossbar) or a goal is scored.
- Only the players involved in the penalty taking competition, as well as the Referee, Linesmen and Umpires are permitted on the pitch. With the registered penalty takers located between the 45m & 65m lines closest to the end selected by the referee. Goalkeepers to be located 20m from the goals.
- All other players (including substitute goalkeepers), managers, officials, backroom personnel etc., should be at their designated sideline area, and off the field of play when the penalty-taking competition is taking place.

RESULTS

(6) Notification of Results:

It shall be the responsibility of CA Clubs to inform An Oifig CA of the result of all fixtures within three days (and not later than seven days after the game). Penalty: €200 Fine, Increasing by €200 for each repeat occurrence.

(7) Walkovers / Failure to Field:

A club shall lose home advantage for its team in the next higher or highest grade of championship in the following championship season if it fails to field in any fixture when a team was entered in a league or championship competition in an academic year.

(a) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin may also: (i) impose a fine; (ii) Consider disqualifying the team from competition(s) for the remainder of that academic year.

(b) In the event of a team conceding a second or further walkover(s) per academic season, An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall: (i) impose a fine double the amount of the previous penalty; (ii) Disqualify the team from all competitions in that academic year and relegate its League status for the following academic year

(c) Any team so disqualified must apply in writing for re-admission to all competitions for the following year.

(d) If a team concedes a walkover in a knock-out league game, it shall not be given seeding in the relevant championship of that year.

CONDUCT

(8) Responsibility for Team Conduct:

- (a) Each CA Club shall designate to CA the persons in charge of each of its teams on each team list.
- (b) The CA Club shall be fully responsible for any damage rendered by its members or guests on the property of a host college, hotel or rented accommodation.

Penalty: (i) Fine, (ii) in a case of serious damage(s), An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall have power to exclude the CA Club from the next academic year's competition(s).

(9) Special Regulations for Championship Weekends

An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall issue special regulations for the organisation and presentation of the weekend stages of CA Championship competitions. These regulations shall be binding on host colleges and colleges participating in the weekend stages.

(10) Treatment of Cups and Trophies:

- (a) CA Clubs in possession of a perpetual CA cup or trophy shall:
 - (i) Maintain the piece in good condition;
 - (ii) Engrave the piece appropriately, with the name of the CA Club (and, if desired, the names of players on the winning team);
 - (iii) Return the piece in good condition, polished and cleaned, to CA before 30 November of the next academic year.
- (b) In the event of any damage being rendered to a perpetual CA cup or trophy:
 - (i) The CA Club responsible shall ensure its repair to original standard;
 - (ii) Repair may only be authorized by CA.

Penalty: fine, appropriate to the cost of repairs or replacement.