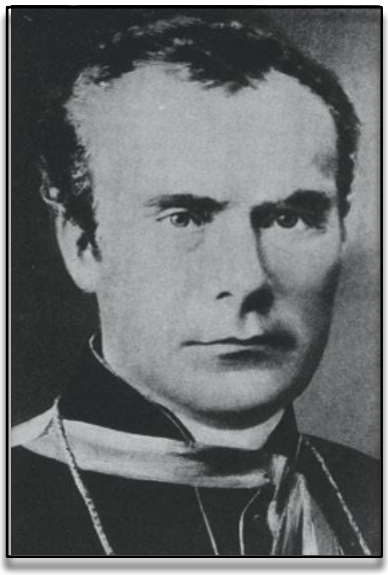
OFFICIAL GUIDE - PART 1

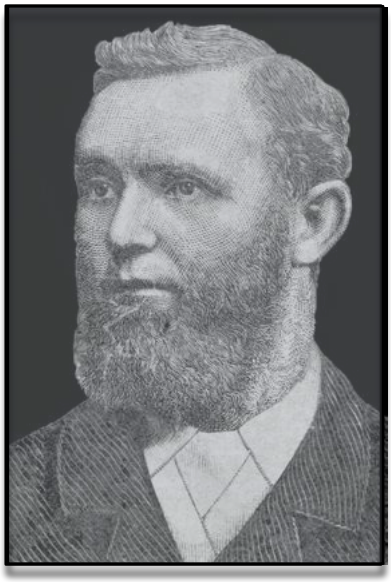
Gaelic Athletic Association *(Established 1884)*



ARCHBISHOP THOMAS W. CROKE

In 1913 the GAA paid Frank B Dineen £3,500 for the sports field at Jones's Road and renamed it Croke Park in honour of their first patron. Croke was born in May 1823 near Kanturk in Co. Cork. Born to a Catholic father and Protestant mother, his mother's family disapproved of the marriage and when his father William died suddenly, he was taken in by his uncle, Fr Thomas Croke, a parish priest in Charleville. The young Thomas was educated in Paris and later Rome where he was ordained in 1847. He spent 20 years in Cloyne and was Archbishop of Auckland, New Zealand from 1870-1874, returning to Ireland as Archbishop of Cashel. Croke was one of the most influential figures in the Irish Catholic church in the latter half of the nineteenth century, a crucial phase in the church's history as it emerged in the post-Emancipation period as one of the most influential institutions in Irish society and further afield. He was an important figure in many of the key social and political movements of the post-Famine period, including the expansion of educational opportunities for Irish Catholics and the inter-linked campaigns for tenant right and home rule. He was supportive of the idea of a GAA from its outset and enthusiastically accepted the invitation to be among its first patrons. His support allowed the GAA to designate Sundays for matches, and he was an influential figure in the Association's turbulent early years, helping to heal divisions.

Dr. Croke's Letter



MAURICE DAVIN

Elected as the first President of the GAA in 1884, Davin was from Carrick-on-Suir in Co Tipperary and was born in 1842. A farmer with a successful river haulage business, he was known internationally for his athletic prowess. He competed in the first ever international athletics event, between Ireland and England, which was held at Lansdowne Road in 1876, and over his long career he set hammer throwing and shot putt records, as well as being an accomplished rower and boxer. Sharing Cusack's passion for the promotion of Irish athletic disciplines, Davin championed the promotion of Gaelic football, and he made an essential contribution with the drawing up of standardised official rules for hurling, football and GAA athletics events in 1885 which allowed new clubs to be formed and games to flourish. His international profile and natural leadership qualities made him a vital asset as the GAA sought to establish itself as being central to Irish life. Croke Park's Canal End was renamed the Davin Stand in his honour.

MICHAEL CUSACK

Born in Carron in Co Clare in 1847, Cusack was a passionate sports enthusiast. A schoolteacher who had several posts around Ireland, he later set up the successful Cusack's Academy in Dublin which prepared students for civil service exams. The provision of sporting opportunities for the ordinary citizen and Irish control of Irish athletics were inspirations which later centred on the revival of hurling which Cusack had known in his youth and was determined to save from extinction. The formation of several hurling clubs across 1883 and early 1884, a forceful promotional campaign in the media, and the garnering of widespread support for the idea of a Gaelic sports revival led to the calling of a meeting in Hayes's Hotel in Thurles in Tipperary on November 1, 1884, where the Gaelic Athletic Association was officially formed with Cusack appointed one of its three secretaries along with John McKay and John Wyse-Power. Croke Park's Cusack Stand is named in his honour.

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
(Established 1884)

Official Guide - Part 1
Containing the Constitution and Rules of the G.A.A., revised and corrected up to date, and published by authority of the Central Council.

This publication replaces all previous versions published.

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CHAPTER 1
AIMS AND ETHOS

1.1 Name

The name of the Association is: "The Gaelic Athletic Association".

1.2 Basic Aim

The Association has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32-County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes. It is the International Governing Body responsible for the promotion of Gaelic Games and the Aims and Ethos of the Association.

1.3 National Games

The Association shall promote and control the National games of Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders, and such other games, as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.

1.4 Additional Aims

(a) The Association shall actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and other aspects of Irish culture. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs.

(b) The Association shall promote its aims amongst communities abroad through its International Units and World GAA.

(c) The Association shall support the promotion of Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football.

(d) The Association shall use all practical endeavors to support Irish Industry especially in relation to the provision of trophies and playing gear and equipment.

1.5 Dedication

The Association and its resources shall be used for and dedicated solely to the above aims.

1.6 Irish/English Versions of Rules & Codes

The Rules and Codes of the Association shall be published in Irish and in English.

1.7 Units/Jurisdiction

The Association is a democratic organisation comprising the following units:

(a) Clubs
(b) County Committees
(c) Provincial Councils
(d) Central Council
(e) Annual Congress

Members of the Association shall, by virtue of their membership, be subject to the jurisdiction of the Association's Rules, Codes, Bye-laws and Regulations, which shall govern the relationship between the various units, between members, and between members and units.

Members and units shall be bound to resolve any and all disputes that arise, within the framework of the existing procedures, the Appeals System, and the Dispute Resolution Provisions as set out in these Rules and Codes.

Members shall not resort to court proceedings in disregard of these procedures, the Appeals System and the Dispute Resolution provisions.

1.8 Amateur Status

The Association is a volunteer-led and Amateur Association.

(a) A player, official or member may claim expenses in conjunction with the playing of Gaelic games. Expense payments to officials, players and members are permitted only to the extent that they do not generate an income tax liability in the relevant jurisdiction. Expense payments made by Association units (or individuals on their behalf) shall not exceed the standard rates laid down by the Central Council.

(b) Players are permitted to benefit directly from endorsements or commercial initiatives related to the playing of Gaelic games. Personal endorsements shall respect GAA intellectual property rights as outlined in Code 3.2. Players may not participate in full-time training and all preparation for competitions shall be consistent with policies issued by Central Council.

(c) Other than as outlined above, a player, team, official or member shall not accept payment in cash or in kind in conjunction with the playing of Gaelic games from any party.

(d) Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit the payment of salaries or wages to employees of the Association in administrative or broader games development related coaching roles approved by Central Council.

Minimum Penalty for breaches of any of the above provisions: 24 weeks suspension.

Maximum Penalty on Repeated Infractions: Expulsion from the Association.

1.9 Non-Party Political

The Association shall be non-party political. Party political questions shall not be discussed at its meetings, and no Committee, Club, Council or representative thereof shall take part, as such, in any party-political movement.

Penalty: A penalty of up to twenty-four weeks suspension may be imposed for infringement.

The Association shall also maintain a neutral stance in any non-GAA campaign/movement subject to an 'Advocacy Policy' which shall be adopted by Central Council which may be amended from time to time

1.10 Anti-Sectarian/Anti-Racist

The Association is Anti-Sectarian, Anti-Racist and committed to the principles of inclusion and diversity at all levels. Any conduct by deed, word, or gesture of sectarian or racist nature or which is contrary to the principles of inclusion and diversity against a player, official, spectator or anyone else, in the course of activities organised by the Association, shall be deemed to have discredited the Association.

1.11 Safeguarding of Children/Young People (Under 18 Years of Age)

(a) The Association shall safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of all those under 18 years of age who are involved in its games and related activities.

(b) The Association shall take all practical steps to protect them from all discernible forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment, and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

(c) Central Council shall have in place a Child Safeguarding Policy for the protection and safeguarding of children/young people under 18 years of age (including the disciplinary and other procedures to be applied in the event of the breach of the Policy) and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provision of the Policy from time to time. The Code shall provide for the manner in which it is determined whether the procedures under the Code or the provisions of Rule 7 shall be invoked in any particular case.

(d) The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code. This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Code and Guidelines.

(e) Central Council shall have in place the GAA Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse. Allegations and complaints of abuse shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the provisions of these Guidelines and not under any other provision of these Rules or under the Club Constitution.

1.12 Adult Safeguarding (Over 18 Years of Age)

(a) The Association shall safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of all Adults (Over under 18 years of age)who are involved in its games and related activities.

(b) The Association shall take all practical steps to protect them from all discernible forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment, and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

(c) Central Council shall have in place a Code of Conduct/Behaviour for the protection and safeguarding of adults (including the disciplinary and other procedures to be applied in the event of the breach of the Code) and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provision of the Code from time to time. The Code shall provide for the manner in which it is determined whether the procedures under the Code or the provisions of Rule 7 shall be invoked in any particular case.

(d) The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code. This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Code and Guidelines.

(e) Central Council shall have in place the GAA Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse. Allegations and complaints of abuse shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the provisions of these Guidelines and not under any other provision of these Rules or under the Club Constitution.

1.13 Code of Conduct

The Central Council shall adopt a Code of Conduct for Officers, Members, Players, Parents/ Guardians, Mentors, Supporters, Match Officials, Teams, Units and Non-Members, defining appropriate behaviour and practices. The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code. This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Code.

1.14 Anti-Doping Rules/Doping Control Committee

(a) The Association forbids the use of prohibited substances or methods, a practice generally known as doping in sport. The Rules of the Association regarding doping are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as adopted by Sport Ireland and as amended from time-to-time ("the ADR"). The latest version can be downloaded from http:// sportireland.ie/anti-doping
The Rules contained in the said ADR shall have effect and be construed as Rules of the Association.

International Units shall comply with the Anti-Doping legislation in their respective Countries of operation.

Central Council shall establish a committee known as the Doping Control Committee and shall designate to it such functions of the Association in relation to the prevention of doping in the games of the Association as it deems suitable.

(b) Senior Inter-County Championship

A player who wishes to participate in a Senior Inter-County Championship game must have completed the GAA's online anti-doping education course in that Championship year.

Penalty: A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next game in the combination of the National League/ Inter-County Senior Championship, even if the game occurs in the following year.

(c) National Leagues

A player who wishes to participate in a game in the National League must have completed the GAA's online anti-doping education course within the previous 12 months.

Penalty: A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next game in the combination of the National League/ Inter-County Senior Championship, even if the game occurs in the following year.

1.15 Playing Gear and Equipment

All jerseys, shorts, stockings, tracksuits (tops and bottoms) and kitbags, worn and/or used for official matches, in pre-match or post-match television or video interviews, player walk-ups and photographs, shall be manufactured by a GAA Licensed Kit Manufacturer. This requirement shall also apply to replica playing gear.

2.1 Membership

(a) There shall be four types of Membership of the Association:

(i) Full Membership, for persons over 18 years (i.e. shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year).

(ii) Youth Voting Membership, for persons Under 18 and Over 16 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 18th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 16th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year.)

(iii) Youth Membership, for persons Under 16 and Over 12 (i.e. shall celebrate their 16th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 12th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year).

(iv) Child Membership, for children Under 12 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 12th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date). On expiration of a Child Membership of the Association, a person may apply for Youth Membership of the Association through a Club for which the child is eligible to play.

(b) Membership of the Association shall be granted only by a Club, to persons who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Gaelic Athletic Association, as stated in the Official Guide.

(c) A person becomes a Full or Youth Member of the Association when they are approved as a Full or Youth Member respectively of a Club. Once granted, Full Membership of the Association shall continue for life, and Youth Membership shall continue until the end of the year in which the member celebrates their eighteenth birthday, at which time their next membership subscription payment will automatically be as a Full Member, unless the member resigns in writing, or is expelled in accordance with the Official Guide.
A Member who resigns their membership of the Association and thereafter seeks to re-apply for membership shall be restricted to making such application to the Club of which they were a member immediately prior to their resignation.

(d) The rights of a Member of the Association shall be conditional upon the member complying with the Rules, Codes and Regulations of the Association and Club, including payment of any Annual Membership Fees and Levies. Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with the Rules, Codes and Regulations of the Association and Club. Subject to the foregoing, only Registered Full Members shall be entitled to vote at Club Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting.

(e) The Rules, Codes and Regulations governing application for Membership shall be set out in the Official Club Constitution.

(f) The Membership Year of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall run from 1st April to the following 31st March.

(g) Only a Full Member or a Youth Voting Member who has paid their annual Club subscription by the due date set by the Executive Committee of the Club. (which shall be on or before March 31st each year) shall be eligible to vote at, nominate for, or seek election to the Executive Committee at any following General Meeting of the Club held up to and including the due date for payment of the annual Club subscription in the following Membership Year. The onus is on the member to prove they paid their membership subscription.

The Club

3.1 The Club

(a) The Club is the basic unit of the Association, and its objective shall be the promotion at local level of the Association's aims, as stated in this Official Guide.

(b) A Club shall be obliged to obtain a current copy of the Official Guide, and its members shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules, Codes and Regulations in it, and shall be bound by them. A Club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its members and known partisans.

(c) A Club shall be recognised as a Unit of the Association if it participates in a Senior, Intermediate or Junior Championship Competition.

Exceptions:

(i) To cater for the ever-changing Demographics, in Rural and Urban areas, a County Committee may give club status to a unit that complies with Central Council Approved Policy.

(ii) The Central Council, with recommendation of the Management Committee, may consider an application for deviation from this Rule submitted in writing by a County Committee and, if approved, shall determine its Terms.

3.2 Club Name

A Club shall not be named after a living person or after any existing political or semi-political organisation. It must bear a name in the Irish language.
A motion to change the name of a Club requires a three-fifths majority of members present, entitled to vote and voting at a General Meeting.

3.3 Club Constitution

The Official Club Constitution approved by Congress and set out in Appendix 4 of this Official Guide, shall govern the affairs of all Clubs. Each Club shall adopt the appropriate form of the Official Club Constitution at a General Meeting. Additions to and Amendments of a Club's own Constitution may be made at a General Meeting, as prescribed in Article 14.1 of the Official Club Constitution, provided that they do not conflict with the Official Club Constitution or the Official Guide and that they are submitted in writing to, and be approved by, the County Management Committee. See Appendix 4.

3.4 Expulsion of Club

If a Club is expelled from the Association, and there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the Association, to be disposed of as such County Committee shall direct.

3.5 Winding Up a Club

A resolution to wind up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present, entitled to vote and voting. If upon such winding up, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst

the members, officers or employees of the Club, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the Association, to be disposed of as such County Committee shall direct, but they shall in no instance pay or distribute the property amongst the members, officers or employee.
Any decision to wind up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.

Notwithstanding the above, where a Club fails to comply with Code 4.3 and/or fails to take part in any competition in two consecutive Competition Years the Club shall be deemed to be wound up, with the foregoing provisions of this Rule having full effect as if the decision to wind up was otherwise taken and approved in accordance with the procedure outlined.

3.6 Amalgamation of Clubs

A resolution to amalgamate two or more Clubs shall be passed only at General Meetings of the Clubs concerned, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported at each of the respective meetings by not less than three quarters of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
A vote to amalgamate shall be by secret ballot. A resolution to amalgamate shall be made prior to the 30th of November, in the year preceding the taking place of the proposed amalgamation.
Upon such amalgamation, all property, assets and liabilities of the Clubs involved shall be transferred to and vested in the Amalgamated Club.
The players of the Clubs involved shall be deemed to be players of the Amalgamated Club.
Any decision to amalgamate clubs shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.

3.7 Loss of Rights of Club

A Club which does not take part in a Championship, as an individual Unit, or as part of a Group Championship team allowed under Rule 3.17(n), shall lose representation on County and other Committees, and shall not be entitled to make nominations, table motions, or participate at the Annual Convention, subject to any deviation allowed under Rule 3.1.

Convention

3.8 Convention

An Annual County Convention shall be held before 18th December. It shall consist of the Officers and Members of the outgoing Committee (voting rights as on the Committee) and two delegates from each Club which competed in a Junior or higher grade Championship of the current year. A newly elected Officer, unless a member of the outgoing County Committee or a delegate, shall not have the right to vote at any stage of the Convention.
In special circumstances, a County Committee may summon a Special Convention. Representation and Notice shall be determined by the County Committee.

3.9 Elections

Subject to the Exceptions hereunder:

(a) The Annual County Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, if desired; Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, if desired; Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Communications Officer, and Hurling Officer, if desired; and shall appoint a Planning and Training Officer, Demographics Officer, a Health & Well Being Officer and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

A member shall not hold more than one of the above Officerships at any given time. The Officers elected/appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention.

(b) A member who has served five years either consecutively or cumulatively, in a specific Officership, shall be ineligible to hold that Officership for the five year period following immediately after serving the fifth year in that Office.
If a member is elected as an Officer of the County Committee 'in term', twenty-six weeks or less before Convention, that time served shall not be considered as part of the five years' period.

Exceptions to (a) and (b) above:

(1) Where a County Committee, with permission of the Central Council, has appointed a Secretary for a period in excess of one year, that Officership shall not be subject to Election or to the provision of Section (b).

(2) Where a County Bye-Law provides that the positions of Treasurer and/or Children's Officer are/is not subject to a maximum number of years in office, the provision of Section (b) does not apply.

(c) Subject to the limitations set out at (b), a County Bye-Law may make provision regulating and controlling eligibility/ tenure for election to the Officer positions outlined in Section (a).

(d) It shall further elect: Two representatives on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council, who shall hold office respectively for the term of the ensuing Provincial and Central Councils.

(e) Should a vacancy arise in the Officerships of the County Committee or in a County's representation on Central or Provincial Council, it shall be filled on the basis of
   (a) Nomination by Clubs,
   (b) ballot vote of Officers and Members of the current County Committee.

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

3.10 Delegates

County Convention shall elect or authorise selection and/or election of:

(a) Delegates to attend Annual Congress, who shall include the Chairperson and County Secretary, when available.

(b) Delegates to attend the Provincial Convention.

3.11 Nominations

A candidate for any of the positions outlined in Rule 3.9, excepting the Children's Officer, Planning and Training Officer, Demographics Officer and Health & Wellbeing Officer shall be nominated by a Club. Such nominations shall be submitted on the nomination form, which shall be sent to each Club at least six weeks prior to the County Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the County Secretary at least four weeks prior to the Convention.

3.12 Motions

Motions for consideration by the County Convention shall be submitted only by Clubs and the County Committee. Motions from Clubs shall be submitted on the motion form, which shall be sent to the Clubs at least six weeks prior to the County Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the County Secretary at least four weeks prior to the Convention. Motions from Clubs shall have been approved by a meeting of the Executive Committee or AGM of the Club and the date of such meeting shall be shown on the motion form.

3.13 Agenda and Notice

The County Secretary shall send an agenda, which shall include their Report and the Audited Accounts for the preceding financial year ending on 30th September, with the nominations and motions, to each Club Secretary and to the Members of the outgoing County Committee, at least one week before the Convention.

A copy of these documents and the County Grounds Accounts for the preceding financial year ending 30th September shall, at the same time, be forwarded to the Central and Provincial Councils. Failure to do so may involve suspension.

3.14 Forwarding of Motions

Except as provided in Rule 3.17(k), a County shall only send forward to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress motions which have appeared on the circulated agenda of the County Convention and have received its approval. Where a motion is submitted originally by a Club, the Club name along with the County name shall appear on Congress documentation.

A County Convention may submit an amended motion to Congress, provided such amendment does not alter the essential meaning of the original motion submitted.

3.15 County Bye-Laws

County Conventions shall make Bye-Laws which shall be reviewed on an annual basis and forwarded for sanction to the Management Committee of Central Council within two weeks of the date of Convention. New or amended bye-laws as proposed by Counties shall not become operative until sanctioned.

County Bye-Laws shall not be contrary to a Rule in the Official Guide or a Code. They shall not place a restriction on when Club Fixtures are played or govern postponement of fixtures, as such matters constitute powers of the Competitions Control Committee.

The Management Committee may, for the purpose of compliance with the General Rules or Codes and standardisation, and following consultation between its Rules Advisory Committee and the County Committee concerned, approve amendments to a Bye-Law submitted for sanction. Such a Bye-Law shall become operative immediately and without the necessity of it receiving further approval of a County or Special Convention. Motions to remove or amend an existing Bye-Law shall be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

3.16 Committee

(a) A County is a Unit recognised as such by the Central Council.

(b) A County Committee shall consist of the Officers, the Central and Provincial Council Representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), other representatives of District or other Committees or Clubs as set out in the County Bye-laws, the County Safety and Facilities Officer, Planning and Training Officer, Children's Officer, Demographics Officer, Health & Wellbeing Officer, the County Referees' Administrator and a representative of each of the following Committees:
County GAA Handball (where applicable), County Primary Schools, County Post-Primary Schools, and, if desired, up to two members of the Association nominated by the Chairperson and Secretary, subject to their approval by the County Committee.

(c) The number of voting members of a County Committee shall be set out in the County Bye-Laws. A full time County Secretary shall not have voting rights in that capacity on the Committee.

(d) The County Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of the Provincial and Central Councils.

(e) A member absent, without just cause, from three consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the Committee for that year. This shall also apply to all members of Sub-Committees.

(f) Where Clubs are not represented on the County Committee, general meetings involving the Clubs shall be held at least twice a year.

(g) District or other Committees or Clubs may, not later than the 31st August in any year, notify the Secretary of the County Committee in writing of the appointment of a replacement representative on the County Committee. Such representative shall
thereafter assume full membership of the County Committee until the conclusion of the following County Convention.

3.17 Powers

A County Committee shall be the governing and controlling body of all the affairs of the Association within the County, excepting those functions reserved to the Provincial Council and Central Council under this Official Guide. The following shall be the powers of the County Committee:

(a) To control Club affiliations. This shall include the power to approve or disapprove the Winding-up of a Club or the Amalgamation of Clubs.

(b) To manage County hurling and football competitions, subject to the provisions in Rules 3.28(k) and 3.29.

(c) To determine all matters relating to the management and selection of its Inter-County teams, subject to Rule 3.65.

(d) To make Regulations governing:

(i) Competitions under its control but it shall not place restrictions on the Competitions Control Committee in its scheduling of Games.

and

(ii) Other matters incidental to its powers, functions and operations.

A Regulation once adopted shall remain in force unless altered or deleted by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

Alterations may be considered only on an annual basis.

Exception

A decision to alter a Regulation may be made before a competition commences and in accordance with Rule 4.3.

(e) To provide for the security and development of Association property within its jurisdiction.

(f) To appoint a Full-Time County Secretary or other Full-Time Administrator, subject to permission from the Central Council and a process and conditions determined by the Management Committee on behalf of the Central Council.

(g) To draw up short-term (one-year) and long term (three/ five year) plans for all activities within its jurisdiction, and to report on same to Provincial Convention.

(h) To appoint a County Referees' Administrator. The maximum period of office shall be five years. If a member is appointed to the position 'in term' twenty-six weeks or less before the next Convention, that time served shall not be considered as part of the five years' period.

(i) To appoint a County Safety and Facilities Officer and a Digital Communications Lead.

(j) To make the necessary appointments agreed in Central Council's policies and procedures for the protection of children.

(k) To submit one motion to the Annual Congress.

(l) To submit Motions to Central Council to enact, amend, rescind Codes. Such Motions shall only be submitted to the County Committee by Clubs and/or the County Management Committee. Motions from Clubs shall have been approved by a meeting of the Executive Committee or AGM of the Club and the date of such meeting shall be shown on the motion form.

(m) To form Divisional Sub-Committees and other Sub-Committees (e.g. Football, Hurling, Minor and Youth Sub-Committees), whose functions and powers shall be defined in County Bye-Laws. Each Committee shall have a specified number of members. The Officers of Divisional Sub-Committees shall be elected at Divisional Sub-Committees' Annual General Meetings.

Officers of other Sub-Committees referred to above shall be appointed, without election, by the County Committee (or a Divisional Committee, where appropriate).

A member who has served five years in any specific Officership shall be ineligible to hold that Officership for the ensuing five years.

If a member is elected to an Officer position 'in term' twenty-six weeks or less before the next Convention, that time served shall not be considered as part of the five years' period.

Any such Sub-Committees making fixtures shall be obliged to maintain a Competitions Control Committee with the same functions within the Sub-Committee's jurisdiction as those of the Competitions Control Committee at County level.

Disciplinary Hearings under the jurisdiction of such Divisional and other Sub-Committees shall be heard:

(i) by the County Hearings Committee, unless a County Bye-Law provides otherwise. Appeals from the County Hearings Committee in these cases shall be to the Provincial Hearings Committee in accordance with Rule 7.6 (a)(2).

(ii) where provided for in County Bye-Law, by a Hearings Committee of five or more members, with the same functions within the Sub-Committee's jurisdiction as those of the Hearings Committee at County level.

Two or more such Divisional and other Sub-Committees may maintain Hearings Committees consisting of the same persons.

Appeals from such Hearings Committees shall be to the County Hearings Committee.

(n) (i) To allow players of a Junior and Intermediate Club, including players of Clubs that are unable to field Junior Teams, to play for Divisional or Group Team.

(ii) To allow players of Junior Clubs, and the players of Intermediate Clubs that are unable to field in that grade, to play for Group Teams.
Arrangements shall be subject to annual review by the County Committee.
Players by so playing in these Divisional or Group teams shall not lose their Championship status.

The Committee-in-Charge of a Divisional or Group Team shall arising from games in which the team has played have the same rights as are available to a Club under Rules 7.3 (x), 7.5, 7.6, 7.8 and Code 16.1.

(o) To allow Under 21/20, Minor or Younger Grade players of Clubs that are unable to field Under 21/20, Minor or Younger Grade teams to avail of a provision of Rule 6.7, Exception (1) (a) or (b).

(p) To delegate to its Competitions Control Committee the resolution of issues concerning Entitlement of Attachment to First Club.

3.18 Sub-Committees/Functions

A County Committee shall appoint the following Sub Committees, membership of which shall be determined by the County Committee and set out in County Bye-Laws except as otherwise provided for in this Rule. Each Committee shall have a specified number of members:

(i) Management Committee

It shall be responsible, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the County Committee, for the management of the affairs of the Association, including finance, between meetings of the County Committee.

The County's Representative on the Central Council shall be a member of the Committee. A County may have a Bye-Law to the effect that a Recommendation of the County Management Committee on a matter of Finance may not be upset save by a three-fifths majority of the members of the County Committee present, entitled to vote and voting.

(ii) Competitions Control Committee

It shall be responsible for all arrangements, including the appointment of Referees, for and control of any matters arising from Games under the jurisdiction of the County Committee, including disciplinary matters other than those functions reserved to the County Hearings Committee.

It shall be responsible for the hearing of Objections and Counter-Objections for which it shall have Plenary Powers.

A County Committee may delegate other plenary powers to its Competitions Control Committee.

In cases in which Plenary Powers apply, Appeals may be made only to the Provincial Hearings Committee.

Other Functions

(i) It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes,
(ii) It shall process and make recommendations to the County Committee on the Grading of Clubs,
(iii) It shall be responsible, in the first instance, for making decisions on applications for Transfer within the County and the Grading of Players
(iv) It shall, on delegation from the County Committee, be responsible in the first instance for making decisions on issues concerning Entitlement of Attachment to First Club.

It shall consist of a minimum of five members, who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel, one member of the Fixtures Analyst Sub-Committee, together with the County Referees' Administrator who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of Referees.

(iii) Fixtures Analysts

(a) At least one Fixtures Analyst shall be appointed on the nomination of the Management Committee.
(b) The Fixtures Analyst(s) shall be responsible for monitoring and analysing the County Fixtures Programme on an annual basis.

(c) The Fixtures Analyst(s) shall present a Report to Annual Convention on fixtures played in all club competitions and make recommendations for changes in the fixtures calendar where appropriate.

(d) This report will be submitted to the Provincial and Central Fixtures Analysis Committees annually.

(e) A Fixture Analyst shall be appointed as a member of the County Competitions Control Committee.

(iv) Hearings Committee

(a) It shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary Matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested, relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the County Committee or the Executive Committee of a Club within the County.

Exceptions:

(i) A Hearing of an Objection/Counter Objection is the function of the County Competitions Control Committee.

(ii) In the interest of impartiality, a County Management Committee at the time of issuing a Notice of Disciplinary Action may direct that any subsequent Hearing shall be conducted by the Provincial Hearings Committee.

(b) It shall adjudicate on Appeals that may arise from decisions of the Competitions Control Committee on applications for Transfer within the County, the Grading of Players and Entitlement of Attachment to First Club.

(See provisions outlined in Rules 6.4(f), Code 10.8 and Rule 6.3(d) respectively.)

(c) It shall consist of a minimum 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 may serve as a member of the County Hearings Committee.

(d) The powers of the County Hearings Committee shall be plenary powers.

(v) Safety and Facilities Committee

It shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with

(a) Ground Health and Safety Legislation

(b) Chapter 5 of The Official Guide (Control of Association Property).

(c) The terms of the Associations Public Liability and Property Insurance policies.

It shall further make recommendations to the County Management and Finance Committees in relation to:

(i) The development of Grounds and Facilities, including advice on available grant aid.

(ii) Other duties as directed from time-to-time by Central Council.

The Committee shall consist of at least six members, to include The Safety and Facilities Officer (as Chairperson) and a qualified Event Controller.

The remaining members should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee.

Other persons with the particular skill set appropriate to specific items under discussion by the Committee may be added from time-to-time and shall act as complementary workgroups.

(vi) Planning and Training Committee

It shall be responsible for:

(a) Delivering Club and County Officer Training within the county.

(b) Assisting clubs in developing a Club Plan, including details regarding the financing of such plans.

(c) Assisting the County in the development and implementation of a county plan.

(d) Other duties as directed from time-to-time by Central Council.

The Committee shall consist of at least five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by the Central Council, the relevant Provincial Council or any of their sub-committees.

(vii) Referees' Administration Committee

It shall be responsible for the Administration and Development of Refereeing in the County, including the recruitment, training, assessment and classification of referees.

(viii) Coaching and Games Development Committee

It shall be responsible for the implementation of Games Development activities at Club, Schools and County levels.

(ix) Cultural Committee

It shall be responsible for (a) the Irish Language (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.

(x) Communications/Marketing Committee

It shall be responsible for Publicity, Marketing and Publications.

(xi) Youth Committee

It shall be responsible for the initiation and co-ordination of all Youth Activities within the County.

(xii) Finance Sub-Committee

It shall have responsibility for all Financial Matters referred to it by the County Committee and/or the County Management Committee.

(xiii) Information Technology Committee

It shall implement procedures for the training and development of Information Technology requirements at County and Club level, as directed by the National Information Technology Committee.

(xiv) County Teams Management and Panels Sub-Committee

It shall, subject to the overall control of the County Committee, manage the relationships between:

(a) the County Committee (as representative of the Clubs),

(b) the County Senior Team Managers and all other personnel appointed by the County Committee to assist in the management of Senior Inter-County team panels and

(c) the Senior Inter-County Team Panels.

This Sub-Committee must meet at least twice each year and otherwise as required.

The Sub-Committee shall discharge its functions in the context of the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships (Players'/ Manager's Charter) approved by Central Council from time to time.

Membership of this Sub-Committee shall be detailed in the completed said Charter, which shall be submitted to the Central Council by January 31st each year.

(xv) Audit and Risk Committee

It shall support the Treasurer, the Management Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee in all financial and risk related matters.

It shall be responsible for the promotion and monitoring of good governance standards and risk management practices by the County Committee and all its subsidiaries (including any person or entity that raises funds in the name of the GAA).

It shall consist of no more than five members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee; and up to four other members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

The Committee shall provide reports to the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and the Central Audit and Risk Committee when requested and at least once per year.

(xvi) Demographics Committee

It shall be responsible for monitoring the impact of population changes and advising the County on the formation of policies to deal with those changes. It shall liaise with the relevant committees within the Association and with relevant bodies outside the Association in carrying out its functions.

It shall consist of at least five members to include the Demographics Officer, who shall act as Chairperson. All other members shall be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

(xvii) Health and Well-Being Committee

It shall have responsibility for all health related matters referred to it by the County Committee and/or the County Management Committee.

General

Plenary powers are powers which can be exercised by a Sub-Committee without the approval of the County Committee.

Except where plenary powers or functions have been specifically delegated to a Sub-Committee, all decisions of any Sub-Committee shall be submitted for approval of the County Committee prior to implementation.

The Officers and Members of the above Sub-Committees shall not in General Rule be subject to maximum terms of office but a County Bye-Law may prescribe a limitation(s) in terms of office.

3.19 County Sub-Committees (excepting Audit and Risk Committee.) General

(a) The Chairperson of each Sub-Committee shall be selected from the Officers or Members of the County Committee or from other personnel deemed qualified by the County Committee.

(b) The Chairperson of each Sub-Committee shall present a Progress Report on the work of the Sub-Committee at County Committee meetings.

(c) All County Sub-Committees shall meet with corresponding Sub-Committees at (a) Provincial and (b) Club levels, at least once annually, with the higher Committee being the convenor.

(d) The Terms of Reference of all Sub-Committees, and job specifications of all Officers shall, upon appointment, be documented and distributed.

(e) Each Sub-Committee shall submit a written Report to County Convention, to be included on the Convention Agenda.

3.20 Forwarding of Affiliations

Prior to 1st March of each year, a County Committee shall submit to Provincial Council a list of all affiliated clubs in the County with a fee of €2 per club. A County failing to comply shall forfeit representation on Provincial and Central Councils until the list and fees are furnished.

3.21 Loss of Rights of County

A County failing to compete in either the Senior, Intermediate or Junior Inter-County Championships shall forfeit representation on Provincial and Central Councils, and shall not be entitled to make nominations, table motions, or participate in Provincial Convention or Annual Congress.

3.22 Convention

An Annual Provincial Convention shall be held before 18th January. It shall consist of:

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

(b) One representative for every ten affiliated Clubs, or a fraction of ten over five, which took part in the previous year's Championships, subject to a minimum of four and
a maximum of six representatives for any one County. In special circumstances, the Provincial Council may summon a Special Convention. Representation shall be as determined by the Provincial Council

3.23 Functions/Elections

(a) The functions of the Provincial Convention shall be to consider audited accounts for the preceding year up to 30th. September, motions, and general Provincial activities. Subject to the exception hereunder, it shall elect the following Officers: a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Officer.
The Elections shall each be completed at Convention on the basis of one secret ballot vote on the Proportional Representation system, and the result of each count shall be announced at Convention.
Exception:
Subject to the approval of Central Council, a Provincial Convention may appoint a full-time Secretary, who shall not be subject to annual election, and whose employment contract and job specification shall receive the approval of the Management Committee.

(b) A Provincial Officer, other than a full-time Secretary, shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years. Should a vacancy arise in the Officerships of the Provincial Council prior to 31st October in any year, it shall be filled on the basis of (a) nominations of the Counties (b) ballot vote of Counties, (based on Provincial Convention voting strength) and Members of current Provincial Council.

3.24 Nominations

A candidate for election as a Provincial Officer, shall be nominated by a County Committee Such nomination shall be made on the Nomination Form, which shall be sent to the County Committees at least six weeks prior to the Provincial Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the Provincial Secretary at least one month prior to the Convention.

3.25 Motions and Bye-Laws

(a) Motions.
Only motions carried at a County Convention may be submitted by that County Committee for consideration by the Provincial Convention. Such motions shall be on the Motion Form, which shall be sent to the County Committee at least four weeks prior to the Provincial Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the Provincial Secretary at least three weeks prior to the Convention.
A Provincial Council may submit a Motion to its own Convention in the prescribed manner, as determined by the Provincial Council.

(b) Bye-Laws.
Provincial Convention may make Bye-Laws, which shall become operative, when sanctioned by the Management Committee, on behalf of Central Council. A

Provincial Bye-Law shall not be contrary to a Rule in the Official Guide or a Code. The Management Committee, on behalf of the Central Council, shall sanction or reject a proposed Bye-Law within four weeks from date of receipt.

3.26 Agenda and Notice

The Provincial Secretary shall send an Agenda, which shall include their Report and the audited Accounts for the year, with the Nominations and Motions, to each County Secretary and to the outgoing Provincial Council, at least two weeks before the Convention.

3.27 Council

A Province is a Unit recognised as such by Central Council. A Provincial Council shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Communications Officer, full-time Secretary (without voting rights), and two Representatives from each County and, if desired, up to two members of the Association nominated by the Chairperson and Secretary, subject to their approval by the Provincial Council. The immediate past Council Chairperson shall be an ex officio member for the year following termination of office.

The GAA Handball Provincial Council, the Provincial Higher Education Council, the Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council, and the Provincial Primary Schools' Committee, shall each have one Representative, without voting rights, on a Council.

The Provincial Council shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Provincial Convention.

A Representative on the Council who has served as a representative of the same Unit for five years, either consecutively or cumulatively, shall be ineligible to hold that position for the five-year period following immediately after serving the fifth year in that position.

A year's term shall be from immediately after Annual Provincial Convention to the conclusion of the next Annual Provincial Convention.

If a member is elected as a Representative on the Council 'in term', twenty six weeks or less before the next Provincial Convention, that time served shall not be considered as part of the five years' period.

A Provincial Council shall meet not less than four times per year. 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.

3.28 Powers

Subject to the overall jurisdiction of the Central Council, a Provincial Council shall have within its Province the following powers:

(a) To manage the Provincial Hurling and Football Championships, excluding the appointment of Referees for, and matters of misconduct and breaches of Match Regulations arising from, Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship games. This shall include consideration of Regrading Applications for participation in the Provincial Intermediate and Junior Club Championships. The Award of all Games under its jurisdiction, including Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games, shall be the responsibility of the Provincial Council.

(b) To determine all matters relating to the management and selections of its Inter- Provincial teams.

(c) To arrange for playing purposes the boundaries of the Counties.

(d) To control financial and all other affairs of the Association within the Province that are not under the jurisdiction of a County Committee.

(e) To make Regulations governing Competitions under its control and other matters incidental to its Powers, Functions and Operations. A Regulation, once adopted, shall remain in force unless altered or deleted by a simple majority of those entitled to vote and voting. Alterations may be considered only on an annual basis.

(f) To carry out the duties of a County Committee suspended for breach of Rule or Code.

(g) To appoint a Provincial Referees' Administrator who shall attend meetings only for the purpose of the appointment of referees for games, other than Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship games, and shall be entitled to vote on same. The maximum period of office shall be three years.

(h) To submit one motion to the Annual Congress.

(i) To monitor, supervise and advise a County Committee within its jurisdiction on its performance in the areas of Games Development, Competitions, Fixtures Administration, adherence to Directives of Central Council, Financial Performance, Marketing, Public Relations and investment in Physical Facilities.

(j) To consider applications by Counties for the regrading of more than one Club to Intermediate or to Junior status in any Championship year. Prior approval of the Provincial Council must be obtained for any such regradings in excess of one Club in each grade.

(k) To carry out a Games Audit and examine the Fixtures Programme in each of the Counties under its jurisdiction, and to make recommendations or take any action deemed necessary in relation to same.

(l) To publish an Annual Report on the state of the Games and on Games Development in the Counties under its jurisdiction.

(m) To approve physical developments by Clubs, and to recommend County Grounds Development to Central Council.

(n) To appoint Sub-Committees, as may be required from time to time, with delegated powers in relation to such specified matters/activities as may be determined by the Council.

3.29 Monitoring of County Fixtures Programme

A County shall submit its complete Fixtures Programme, both Adult and Underage, to its Provincial Council by the last day of January each year, and the Provincial Council, through its nominated appointee with responsibility for Club Fixtures, shall either submit it to the Central Fixtures Analysis and Oversight Committee for approval or instruct adjustment to the Programme as is considered necessary. Provincial Councils, through its nominated appointee, shall monitor the progress of each County's Championships on a monthly basis.

Any postponements of a Championship Game shall be notified to the Provincial Council within three days of the original date of the Game, and the reason for the postponement shall be given.

Each Provincial Council shall establish a Sub-Committee, to include the Provincial Chairperson and its nominated appointee with responsibility for Club Fixtures, to ensure that its responsibilities in relation to Club Fixtures are met, and this Sub-Committee, through its nominated appointee, shall report breaches to the Central Fixtures Analysis and Oversight Committee. Any failure by a Provincial Council to enforce this Rule shall be dealt with by the Central Council's Management Committee.
Club Games shall not be postponed because of a County's involvement in an Inter-County Championship, except as provided for within these Rules or Codes. Counties shall comply with Policies and Directives of the Central Council on the proper scheduling of Club Fixtures.

Penalty for non-compliance:
Loss of Championship Expenses and/or Grants, or Disqualification from the Inter-County Championship concerned.
Provincial Councils shall organise an Annual Seminar for Counties on the subject of effective fixture making.

3.30 Sub-Committees/Functions

(A) A Provincial Council shall appoint the following Sub-Committees:

(i) Management Committee

It shall be responsible for the management of affairs within the Provincial Jurisdiction, between Provincial Council meetings.
Provincial Council may appoint a joint Management and Finance Committee, if it so decides.

(ii) Competitions Control Committee

It shall be responsible for all arrangements (including the appointment of Referees for non Inter-County Senior Championship Games) for, and control of, Games under the Provincial Council and matters arising from same, other than those functions reserved to the Provincial Hearings Committee, the Central Competitions Control Committee, Development Competitions Control Committee, the Central Referees' Appointments Committee and the Central Hearings Committee. It shall hear Objections and Counter Objections arising from any Game under its control. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, Codes and Match Regulations, other than those functions reserved to the Committees (dealing with disciplinary matters) stated above.
It shall be responsible for making decisions on applications for Inter-County transfers within its jurisdiction.

(iii) Hearings Committee

(a) It shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary Matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested, relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes arising from matters under the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Council.

Exceptions:

(1) A Hearing of an Objection/Counter Objection is the function of the Provincial Competitions Control Committee.

(2) A Hearing in relation to Misconduct and Breaches of Match Regulations arising from the Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games is the function of the Central Hearings Committee.

(b) It shall hear all Appeals against decisions of County Committees.

(c) It shall consist of a minimum of five Members who may not include any Members of the Provincial Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee save that the Provincial Secretary may act as a non Voting Secretary to the Hearings Committee when dealing with Appeals.

(iv) Safety and Facilities Committee

It shall be responsible for Grounds and Physical Development, Club Development, Club and County Administration, and Grounds' Safety.

(v) Referees' Administration Committee

It shall be responsible for the recruitment, training, assessment and classification of Referees under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council.

(vi) Coaching and Games Development Committee

It shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating County Performance in Games Development.

(vii) Cultural Committee

It shall be responsible for (a) the Irish Language, (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.

(viii) Communications /Marketing Committee

It shall be responsible for Publicity, Marketing and Publications.

(ix) Finance Committee

It shall have responsibility for all Financial Matters referred to it by the Provincial Council. Provincial Council may appoint a joint Management and Finance Committee, if it so decides.

(x) Fixtures Analysts

(a) Two Fixtures Analysts shall be appointed by the Management Committee. One of these shall be the Provincial Council's nominated appointee with responsibility for Club Fixtures and shall act as the Provincial Representative on both the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee and the National Club Fixtures Oversight Committee.

(b) The Fixtures Analysts shall be responsible for monitoring and analysing the Provincial Fixtures Programme.

(c) The Fixtures Analysts shall present a Report to Provincial Convention on all Fixtures at Provincial and County levels and make recommendations for changes in the fixture calendar where appropriate.

(d) The Fixtures Analysts shall assist the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee in organising the education and training of Fixtures Analysts at County level.

(xi) Audit and Risk Committee

It shall support the Treasurer, the Management Committee and the Finance Committee in all financial and risk related matters.

It shall be responsible for the promotion and monitoring of good governance standards and risk management practices by the Provincial Council. It shall consist of no more than five members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Central Audit and Risk Committee and up to four other members nominated by the Management Committee. Neither the Treasurer nor the Finance Director, if applicable, shall be members.

The Committee shall provide reports to the Central Audit and Risk Committee when requested and at least once per year.

(B) (i) All Sub-Committees shall, subject to Rule 3.27, be appointed for a three year term coinciding with the election of the Provincial Chairperson.
A vacancy shall, as appropriate, be filled at the first meeting after Provincial Convention or when it arises.

(ii) The number of voting members of the Provincial Council on each Sub- Committee shall be set out in the Provincial Council Bye-Laws.

(iii) The membership of the Management Committee shall be drawn from the Officers and County Representatives of the Provincial Council.

(iv) The membership of the Competitions Control Committee shall be drawn from the Officers and County Representatives of the Provincial Council, together with the Provincial Referees' Administrator, who shall be a member of the Committee in accordance with Rule 3.28(g).

(v) Membership of the Referees' Administration Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Provincial Council, and the Referees' Administrators of the Counties in the Province.
(The Secretary of this Committee may be one of the County Referees' Administrators or an additional person appointed by the Provincial Council).

(vi) The Chairpersons of the Management Committee and of the Competitions Control Committee shall respectively be an Officer of the Provincial Council. The Chairperson of each of the other Sub-Committees shall be selected from Officers or Members of the Provincial Council or other suitable personnel.

(vii) The Chairperson of each Sub-Committee shall present a Progress Report on the work of the Committee as required by the Provincial Council. A Progress Report shall be presented by all Sub-Committees at least once per year.

(viii) All Provincial Council Sub-Committees shall meet with the corresponding Sub-Committees at (a) National and (b) County levels, at least once annually, with the higher Committee to act as convenor.

(ix) The Terms of Reference of all Sub-Committees shall, upon appointment of the Sub-Committees, be documented and distributed.

Note: Sections (ii), (vii) and (viii) above are not applicable to the Audit and Risk Committee.

3.31 Submission of Records

(a) A Provincial Council shall submit to Central Council before the 1st May of each year, a list of Clubs in each County under its jurisdiction, together with a fee of €1 per Club.

(b) A Provincial Council shall present to Annual Congress:

(i) Secretary's Report

(ii) Audited Accounts.

(iii) An Assessment of the current state of the Association in the Counties.

Failure to furnish these accounts may involve suspension, and in such instance Central Council shall, on an interim basis, take control of the affairs of the Association within the Province.

3.32 Notice of Meetings

A minimum of five days written notice shall be given by the Provincial Secretary to all Members of meetings, except in the case of an emergency, when the Secretary may, in consultation with the Chairperson, summon a meeting with shorter written or verbal notice.

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

3.33 Congress

The Annual Congress shall be held prior to 1st March. The venue shall be selected by the Central Council, who shall give due consideration to all applications received by the Council. It shall consist of the outgoing Council (voting rights as on the Council), the past Presidents, and delegates from the Counties on the following basis:

(a) Counties that participated in the previous year's Senior Inter-County Championships
One delegate from each ten affiliated Clubs or fraction of ten over five, but the minimum representation from such Counties to be four delegates. Counties with fewer than five affiliations to have two representatives. The maximum representation for any one County shall be ten delegates.

(b) Other Counties
One delegate from each fourteen affiliated Clubs or fraction of fourteen over seven, but the minimum representation from such Counties to be three delegates. The maximum representation for any one County shall be ten delegates.

The Gaelic Players' Association shall be represented by one named representative of the Association.

Provincial Secretaries and Chairpersons of National Committees shall be entitled to attend and speak but shall not have voting rights.

The President, at the President's discretion, may invite other visitors to Congress to speak.

3.34 Functions

The functions of Annual Congress shall be:

(a) To consider Reports and Audited Accounts of the Central Council and its subsidiary Councils for the preceding financial year ending on 30th September.
(b) To consider Reports from Congress Workshops.
(c) To elect by secret ballot a President and two Representatives of Congress.
(d) To consider motions and to enact, amend, or rescind Rules.
(e) To approve or disapprove any Interpretation of Rule given by Central Council by December 31st prior to Congress, in accordance with Rule 3.41(b), in considering its inclusion in Rule.
(f) To determine Association policy in broad outline.
(g) To appoint the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority on the nomination of the Central Council, or in the event of a vacancy occurring between Congresses, to ratify at the following Congress any such appointments made by the Central Council.

3.35 President/Representatives of Congress

A candidate for the position of President or Representative of Congress shall be nominated by a County Committee. Such nomination shall be made on the Nomination Form, which shall be sent to the County Committee no later than 1st January prior to the Annual Congress, and which shall be completed and returned to the Director General before 15th January. Nominees shall declare to the Director General at least two weeks before Congress whether they are/are not standing for election.

The elections of a President and Representatives of Congress shall each be completed at Congress on the basis of one secret ballot vote on the Proportional Representation system, and the result of each count shall be announced at Congress.

A President or a Representative of Congress shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

A President shall be elected one year prior to the commencement of their term of office and for that year shall be referred to as the President-elect.

Should a vacancy arise among the Representatives of Congress prior to 30th November in any year, it shall be filled on the basis of:

(a) Nominations by the Counties,

(b) Ballot Vote of Counties (based on Congress voting strength) and Members of current Central Council.

If a vacancy occurs after 30th November, the position shall be left vacant until the next Congress.

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

3.36 Special Congress

In special circumstances, and with the support of a three-fifths majority of its members, the Central Council may summon a Special Congress. A Special Playing Rules' Congress may be called by Central Council to meet the provisions of Rule 3.38(d).

A Special Congress that is held within a forty-eight weeks period following an Annual Congress shall not change a decision made at that Annual Congress.

3.37 National Youth Forum

A National Youth Forum, to be attended by young people of 12-21 years of age, shall be held annually. A maximum of five young people, who attended the National Youth Forum will be nominated by the Management Committee to present a Report to Congress, where they shall have speaking rights.

3.38 Motions

(a) Motions for Congress may be submitted as follows:

(i) Motions carried at a County Convention.

(ii) A maximum of one motion submitted directly by a County Committee.

(iii) A maximum of one motion from a Provincial Council.

(iv) Central Council shall be entitled to submit Motions on:

(1) Any Interpretations of Rule given by the Central Council in the previous Calendar Year

(2) Any relevant matter relating to Rule arising from a Disputes Resolution Authority Tribunal decision in the previous Calendar Year.

(3) Any Motions consequent upon a Central Council Sub-Committee Report.

(4) Any proposals of the Standing Committee on the Playing Rules that have been approved by Central Council under Rule 3.57.

(5) Emergency matters relating to the Playing Rules.

(6) A maximum of three Motions other than those listed in the Categories listed above.

(v) A maximum of one motion from World GAA

(vi) A maximum of one motion submitted by the Gaelic Players' Association.

(vii) Motions carried at the Annual General Meetings of the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools' Council on any matters affecting the Association at their level.

(viii) Motions carried at the Annual Convention of the Higher Education Council on any matters affecting the Association at its level.

(b) (i) Motion(s) for Annual Congress, carried at a County Convention or submitted directly by a County Committee, shall be sent by electronic transmission to the Director General on or before 23rd December.

(ii) A Motion for Annual Congress from a Provincial Council shall be sent by electronic transmission to the Director General on or before 23rd January.

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

(d) Motions to revise Playing Rules may be tabled only in years divisible by five.
Any such motion shall be submitted by the date required for submission of motions for the previous year's Congress and shall be referred to the Standing Committee on the Playing Rules for evaluation.

Exception: Motions submitted in accordance with Section (a)(iv) of this Rule.
In any year in which Playing Rules are on a Congress Agenda, they shall take precedence in the list of motions, or they may be debated at a Special Congress, if so decided by Central Council.

(e) Motions to remove, amend or to temporarily amend/ set aside a Rule shall be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

(f) Congress 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, shall come in motion form to a subsequent Congress.

(g) New and amended Rules shall become operative four weeks from the date of Annual Congress or Special Congress, unless otherwise specified and approved in the Motion adopted, or as provided hereunder.
Central Council (or in urgent cases Management Committee on behalf of Central Council) may bring forward or defer the date of implementation of a new or amended Rule.
A new Rule or amendment shall not have retrospective application. A Competition commenced under the then existing Rules/Regulations (other than Playing Rules) shall be completed under these Rules/Regulations.
The text of a new or amended Rule shall be circulated to County Secretaries within four weeks of finalisation, for distribution to Clubs.

(h) A motion declared not to have received one-third of the votes at Congress may not be tabled on a Congress Agenda for the subsequent three years, unless the Management Committee allows it in exceptional circumstances.

3.39 Agenda and Notice

At least two weeks before Annual Congress, each County, shall be issued with copies of the Director General's Report, Audited Accounts, the Agenda and Workshop Topics, and list of Nominations and Motions.

3.40 The Council

(a) The Central Council shall consist of the President, the Director General (without voting rights), President-elect, if in office; the immediate past President for the year following their term as President, the Vice-Presidents, being the Chairpersons of the Provincial Councils (who shall take membership at the conclusion of the Annual Congress following their election), two Representatives of Congress, a Representative of World GAA, and a Representative with voting rights of each of the following - each County in Ireland; Britain; the London County Committee; the USGAA Board; the New York Board; the European Board; GAA Handball; GAA Rounders; the Higher Education Council; the All-Ireland Post- Primary Schools' Council; the All-Ireland Primary Schools' Council and the Gaelic Players' Association and a Representative without voting rights from each of the Camogie Association and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.
A member of the Council who has served as a representative of the same Unit for five years, either consecutively or cumulatively, shall be ineligible to hold that position for the five-year period following immediately after serving the fifth year in that position.
A year's term shall be from immediately after an Annual Congress to the conclusion of the next Annual Congress. If a member is elected as a Representative on the Council 'in term', twenty six weeks or less before the next Congress, that time served shall not be considered as part of the five years' period.

(b) The President, Director General, President-elect, immediate past President, and Representatives of Congress, shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of the Council. A Provincial Chairperson may be represented by another Officer of the Provincial Council.
A County or other representative may be represented by a proxy, who shall be a member of the representative unit.

(c) Should a vacancy occur in representation, such vacancy shall be filled by the body concerned.

(d) The Central Council shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Congress.

(e) 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.

3.41 Powers and Functions

(a) It is the Supreme Governing Body of the Association between Annual Congresses.

(b) It is the final authority to interpret the Rules and Codes, subject to Rule 3.34(e). It shall consider and adjudicate on recommendations made by the Management Committee on requests for Interpretation of Rule or Code received in writing by the Director-General.
In the case of a Rule, any such Interpretations shall have the force of Rule until the Congress held in the Calendar Year after the Interpretation being given, and which Congress shall, on a Motion submitted by Central Council, approve or disapprove the Interpretation being included in Rule.
In the case of a Code, any such Interpretations shall, have the force of Code until the Central Council meeting held in the January, after the Interpretation being given, at which Central Council shall approve or disapprove the Interpretation being included in Code.
An Interpretation shall not be given on the subject matter of a case which is pending before an Adjudicative Unit of the Association.

(c) It shall have responsibility for enacting, amending or rescinding Codes which apply throughout the Association, and which shall be subject to the Official Guide. Motions to enact, amend or rescind any Code may be submitted by:
(i) A County Committee
(ii) A Provincial Council
(iii) Central Committee set out in this Official Guide

Motions shall be submitted by the Secretary of the relevant Unit or Central Committee to the Office of the Director General on or before 23rd December and shall be considered by the Central Council at a meeting during the following January having been previously deemed to be in order by the Rules Advisory Committee pursuant to Rule 3.56 (b).
New and amended Codes passed in January shall become operative four weeks from the date of Annual Congress, unless otherwise specified and approved in the Motion adopted, or as provided hereunder:
The Central Council (or in urgent cases the Management Committee on behalf of the Central Council) may bring forward or defer the implementation date of a new or amended Code.
A new Code shall not have retrospective application.
A Competition commenced under the then existing Codes /Regulations (other than Playing Rules) shall be completed under these same Codes/Regulations.
Motions to enact, amend or rescind any Code may be submitted by the bodies set out above at any time during year but may only be considered by the Central Council with the consent of the Management Committee at a meeting, other than the January meeting referred to, having been previously deemed to be in order by the Rules Advisory Committee pursuant to Rule 3.56 (b). In such circumstances the approved enactment/ amendment/rescindment shall be operative as determined by Central Council.
Such Motions shall be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting at a meeting of Central Council.
A motion declared not to have received one-third of the votes at Central Council may not be tabled on a Central Council Agenda for the subsequent three years, unless the Management Committee allows it in exceptional circumstances.
The text of new or amended Codes shall be circulated to County Secretaries within four weeks of finalisation for distribution to Clubs.
The Management Committee (on the advice of the Rules Advisory Committee) when considering a motion to enact, amend, or rescind a Code, is satisfied that a Rule of the Official Guide will be impacted by the passing of the motion it shall invite Central Council to make a provisional decision on the motion in the first instance pending the submission of a motion by Central Council to Congress to amend the impacted Rule.
The provisional decision to amend the code shall not have effect unless and until the motion to amend the impacted Rule has been approved by Congress. Where a Rule of the Official Guide is amended following a motion to Congress and such amendment requires the consequent amendment of a Code, the Code shall be deemed to be amended forthwith on the coming into effect of the motion as approved.

(d) Motions to enact new or amend existing Codes shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the numbers of any rules affected thereby.

(e) It shall issue Regulations and Directives which shall be subject to the Rules contained in the Official Guide and to Codes adopted by the Central Council. Such Regulations and Directives may include sanctions but such sanctions shall not include suspension or more serious sanction or fines in excess of €1,000.

(f) It shall issue Guidelines to assist Units and Members in complying with Rules, Codes, Regulations and Directives.

(g) It (or in urgent cases Management Committee on behalf of Central Council) shall have the power to bring forward or defer the date of implementation of a new or amended Rule.

(h) Its jurisdiction shall extend over the whole Association in all matters. It shall appoint Trustees to hold funds, investments, and property of the Association. Its prior approval shall be obtained for any action affecting the general policy of the Association and for capital expenditure.

(i) It shall, through its Management Committee, review County Committee Audited Accounts and shall have authority to take such action as is deemed necessary to ensure proper financial governance.

(j) Its decisions on all matters appertaining to the Association are final and binding on the members of the Association.

(k) It shall have the power to make Regulations governing Competitions under its control (on the recommendations of the Management Committee or advice of the Central Competitions Control Committee, the Development Competitions Control Committee, as provided for in these Rules or Codes), and other matters incidental to its Powers, Functions and Operations.

A Regulation, once adopted, shall remain in force unless altered or deleted by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

Alterations may be considered only on an annual basis.

(l) It shall control the All-Ireland Championships, Inter-Provincial Championships, National League Competitions and annually determine an Inter-County Certification Programme based on the advice from the Certification, Governance and Oversight Committee.

(m) It shall, as required, at its first meeting each year

(i) elect members to the Management Committee

(ii) appoint members to the Central Hearings Committee and Central Appeals Committee, on the recommendation of the Management Committee.

(iii) appoint a Chairperson of World GAA.

(n) It shall appoint an Audit Committee, which shall consist of at least six members.

(o) It shall appoint a Rules Advisory Committee and a Standing Committee on the Playing Rules.

(p) It shall at every meeting consider a Report from the Management Committee on its activities.

(q) It shall nominate the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority for appointment by Congress. If a vacancy occurs between Congresses it shall fill the vacancy, and the appointment shall be submitted for ratification by the following Congress. It shall ratify the panel selected by the said Secretary in accordance with the Disputes Resolution Code.

(r) It shall, at its first meeting after Congress week-end, have the power to review the amount of fees and fines referred to in the Rules and Codes, and to alter same as considered necessary.

(s) It shall have the power to authorise the use of Association Property in accordance with Rule 5.1 for games/activities other than those controlled by the Association.

(t) It shall have the power to arrange for playing purposes the boundaries between Provinces.

(u) It shall have the power to recognise geographical areas as Provinces or Counties; or Administrative Areas with the same status as Counties or Provinces. Such recognition may be subject to conditions or restrictions.

(v) It shall have the power to decide from time-to-time what geographical areas fall under the jurisdiction of World GAA.

(w) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed so as to admit to Central Council or its Sub-Committees authority to introduce, enact, amend or rescind Rules, or in any way vary or derogate the power reserved to Congress by Rule 3.34. This Rule shall in all respects be subject to Rule 3.34 and in the event of conflict Rule 3.34 shall prevail.

3.42 Powers of the Director General and other Officers

(a) The Central Council shall appoint a Director General, who shall be the Chief Executive of the Association.

(b) The Director General may enter into any contract or transaction on behalf of the Association which is in the ordinary course of the business of the Association or which has been approved by the Management Committee.

(c) The Director General may from time to time delegate such power as is set out in clause (b), in whole or in part, to any person or persons nominated by the Director General for that purpose.

(d) The Secretary of an Administrative Unit may enter into any contract or transaction on behalf of that Unit which is in the ordinary course of business of that Unit or which has been approved by the Management Committee of that Unit.

3.43 Notice of Meetings

A minimum of five days written notice shall be given by the Director General to all members for meetings, except in an emergency, when the Director General may, in consultation with the President, summon a meeting with shorter notice. A Special Meeting may be convened by the Director General on the request of a majority of the members.

3.44 Management Committee

(a) It shall consist of the following sixteen voting members:
- (i) The President.
- (ii) The Chairperson of each Provincial Council (5).
- (iii) The two Representatives of Congress, one male and one female.
- (iv) One member from each of four Provinces, elected/appointed by their respective Provincial Councils for one year.
- (v) Two members of the Association nominated by the President and Director General.
- (vi) A voluntary Officer of the Camogie Association and a voluntary Officer of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Both Officers shall be female.

The Director General, the President Elect (if in office), and the Financial Director shall be entitled to attend meetings.

Effective from Annual Congress 2027, Section (a) of this Rule shall read as follows -

(a) It shall consist of the following sixteen voting members:
- (i) The President.
- (ii) The Chairperson of each Provincial Council (5).
- (iii) The two Representatives of Congress, one male and one female.
- (iv) One member from each of four Provinces, elected/appointed by their respective Provincial Councils for a three-year period. At least three Provincial Councils (by agreement) shall each elect/ appoint a female member.
- (v) Two members of the Association nominated by the President and Director General for a three-year period. At least one nominee shall be female.
- (vi) A voluntary Officer of the Camogie Association and a voluntary Officer of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Both Officers shall be female.

The Director General, the President Elect (if in office), the immediate Past President (for the year after their term of office as President) and the Financial Director shall be entitled to attend meetings.

(b) Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Central Council, it shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association, including its general activities, matters of discipline, finances, and implementation of policies determined by Congress. All other Sub-Committees of the Central Council shall report directly to the Management Committee.
(c) It shall submit to the Central Council, for its consideration, its Budgetary proposals for the following year.
(d) It shall have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Central Council.
(e) It shall submit to the Central Council, for its consideration and adjudication, recommendations on requests for interpretation of Rule received in writing by the Director General.
(f) It shall have authority to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with delegated matters/ activities.
(g) It shall furnish a Report on its activities to each meeting of the Central Council.

3.45 Central Sub-Committees Nomination Committee

(a) It shall consist of the Uachtarán, Ard Stiúrthóir and one other Nominee appointed by Central Council.
(b) All nominations shall be recommended by the Management Committee to Central Council for approval.

3.46 The Central Competitions Control Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson; one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee; and the Secretary of each of the four Provincial Councils.
(b) It shall be responsible for Competition Scheduling and Arrangements for and Control of Games, except at Under 17 and younger age grades, (excluding the appointment of Referees) under the jurisdiction of the Central Council.
(c) It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes (including hearing Objections and Counter Objections) and Match Regulations arising from Competitions and Games, excluding at Under 17 and younger age grades, under the jurisdiction of Central Council.
(d) It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes (excluding Objections and Counter Objections) and Match Regulations arising from Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games.
(e) It shall investigate and process matters referred to it by the Management Committee under Rule 7.1(a)
(f) It shall have the authority to direct Committees within Provinces and Counties to enforce the penalties prescribed in these Rules and Codes relating to Disciplinary Matters arising from Games.
(g) It shall prepare Match Regulations for the consideration and decision of the Management Committee and Central Council.
(h) It shall be responsible for making decisions on applications for Inter-County transfers within its jurisdiction.
(i) It shall investigate, and process matters related to the Enforcement of Rules on Inter-County player availability to Clubs, Inter-County Challenge and Tournament Games and Closed Periods/Collective Training at adult Inter-County level.

3.47 Development Competitions Control Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson, appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee, one Provincial Games Manager (or alternative Provincial Council nominee) from each of the four provinces, the Chairperson of the Central Competitions Control Committee, the Chairperson of Féile, the Chairperson of Central Games Development Committee, the Chairperson of All-Ireland Post-Primary Council, the Director of Games Administration and the Director of Games Development.

(b) It shall be responsible for Competition Scheduling and Arrangements (including the appointment of Referees) for, and Control of, Tournaments and Games under the jurisdiction of Central Council at Under 17 and younger age grades.

(c) It shall have responsibility for the processing and enforcement of the provisions of Codes, 11.7, 14.1 and 14.2 in respect of Blitzes/Tournaments and Challenge Games under the jurisdiction of Central Council at Under 17 and younger age grades.

(d) It shall investigate and process matters relating to the enforcement of Rules and Codes (including hearing Objections and Counter Objections) and Match Regulations arising from Competitions and Games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council at Under17 and younger age grades.

(e) It shall investigate, and process matters related to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes on Inter-County player availability to clubs and Closed Periods/Collective Training for Inter-County teams at Under 17 and younger age grades.

(f) It shall have authority to undertake an annual operational review of club and inter-county competitions at U17 and younger age grades and present findings and recommendations as appropriate to Central Council.

3.48 The Central Hearings Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson and two members from each of the four Provinces appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee.
No Member of the Management Committee or Central Competitions Control Committee may serve as a member of the Central Hearings Committee.

(b) The Chairperson shall select at least three members of the Committee to conduct a hearing.

(c) It shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary Matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested relating to:

(i) the Enforcement of Rules and Codes arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the Central Council. Exception:
A Hearing of an Objection/Counter Objection is the function of the Central Competitions Control Committee or the Development Competitions Control Committee.

(ii) Misconduct arising from the Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games.

(iii) Match Regulations arising from Games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and from the Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games.

3.49 The Central Appeals Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee.
No Member of the Management Committee, Central Competitions Control Committee or Central Hearings Committee may serve as a member of the Central Appeals Committee.

(b) The Chairperson shall select at least three members of the Committee to conduct a hearing.

(c) It shall hear all appeals made at Central Level.

(d) Its decisions on appeals shall be final and binding, subject only to a case being taken to Arbitration under the Disputes Resolution Code, provided for in these Rules.

(e) It shall have the function of considering Applications for a Review of Suspensions imposed in accordance with Rule, as set out in Rule 7.7 Reinstatements, and of making Recommendations on these Applications to Central Council.

3.50 The Central Referees' Appointments Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee, the Chairperson of the Central Competitions Control Committee and one member of the National Referees' Committee who shall be appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee.

(b) It shall be responsible for appointments of Referees and Line Umpires (one of whom shall be the stand-by Referee, nominated in advance) for all Games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and for Provincial Inter-County Senior Championship Games. It shall also appoint a Sideline Official for Senior Inter-County Games.

3.51 The Central Games Development Committee

(a) It shall consist of a Chairperson by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee, the Chairperson of the Coaching and Games Development Committee from each of the four Provinces, the Director of Games Development, the Chairperson of National Games Development Executive and members appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee in the following areas: coach education, participation, talent development, sports science, player welfare; plus the Chairpersons of the Hurling Development Committee, the Higher Education Council, All-Ireland Post- Primary Schools Council and All-Ireland Primary Schools Council.

(b) It shall be responsible for ongoing games development; overseeing games development strategies at national, provincial and county levels; and be a source of expert advice to the Management Committee on games development activities.

(c) It shall have responsibility through the Provincial Council to monitor, supervise and advise on games development policy at county level in accordance with Rule. 3.28 (i).

(d) It shall furnish a report on its activities to Central Council each quarter.

(e) It shall have responsibility to promulgate the Playing Rules for all GAA participants.

3.52 Central Audit and Risk Committee

It shall support the Management Committee, and the Finance Director in all financial and risk related matters. It shall be responsible for the promotion and monitoring of good governance standards and risk management practices by the Central Council. It shall consist of no more than seven members, one of whom shall be a member of the Management Committee, appointed by the Central Council on the recommendation of the Management Committee. The Finance Director shall not be a member.

3.53 Terms of Office on Committees

A member of any of the above Central Council Committees, other than the Director General or other Executive Officer, shall not hold office on that Committee, in the same capacity, for more than a total of six years, with not more than three of those years being served consecutively.

3.54 Certification, Governance and Oversight Committee

(a) It shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, and overseeing compliance with the Certification Programme as set out in Rule 3.65.

(b) On an annual basis, it shall develop and propose minimum standards for inclusion in the Certification Programme for approval by Central Council. The minimum standards shall apply to areas such as player welfare, adherence to Amateur Status [as set out in Rule 1.8], financial governance and other minimum standards as proposed by the Certification, Governance and Oversight Committee from time to time.

(c) It shall also develop and propose appropriate sanctions for breaches of the minimum standards for inclusion in the Certification Programme, for approval by Central Council.

(d) It shall have responsibility for the monitoring of and compliance with the Certification Programme and shall have the authority to propose and make preliminary findings and recommend sanctions for breaches of the Certification Programme against relevant parties.

Note: Hearings for proposed penalties will be dealt with by the Central Hearings Committee and Central Appeals Committee in accordance with disciplinary procedures provided in Rule.

3.55 The Central Fixtures Analysis and Oversight Committee

(a) It shall consist of no more than ten members including a Chairperson appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee, each of the four Provincial nominated appointees with responsibility for Club and Schools Fixtures and the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee.

(b) It shall be responsible for monitoring and analysing the National Fixtures Programme at Club level and in the Education Sector.

(c) It shall present a Report to Annual Congress on all Fixtures under its remit and make recommendations for changes to Central Council to address fixture issues in the Club and Education Sectors.

(d) It shall determine the National minimum Required Standards for fixtures progammes in the Club and Education Sectors.

(e) It shall keep a register and organise the training of all Fixtures Analysts at Provincial and County level.

(f) It shall have responsibility for approving Schools, County and Provincial Club fixture programmes on an annual basis.

(g) It shall be responsible for ensuring County Club fixture programmes are consistent with the Rules, Codes and stated Policies of the Association and shall only approve programmes that meet these criteria.

3.56 The Rules Advisory Committee

(a) A Rules Advisory Committee, appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee, shall be a Standing Committee on the Rules of the Association (other than the Playing Rules).

It shall advise Central Council on matters relating to the Rules and Codes.

It shall prepare Motions, as required by Central Council, for the consideration of Congress, including Motions that are necessary as a consequence of Interpretations of Rule given by the Central Council or Decisions of the Disputes Resolution Authority.

(b) The Committee shall have authority to:

(1) Engage and consult with Units sponsoring Motions for Congress or motions to adopt, rescind or amend Codes with a view to deciding whether the Motions are in order. The Committee may put a Motion in order where there is a failure to quote the numbers of the Rules or Codes affected or where there are minor clerical errors. In the case of a Motion submitted not being in order, the Motion sponsor shall be advised in writing of the reason(s) for a Motion being not in order and, subject to a time-limit determined by the Committee, shall be afforded an opportunity to resubmit an appropriately corrected Motion for the consideration of the Committee. The President shall have the authority at Congress or at a Central Council meeting to rule a Motion out of order.

(2) Combine Motions received from different Sponsors with a broadly common purpose into more manageable and coherent composite Motions.

(c) In the case of all Motions passed at Congress or the Central Council which involve an amendment or change of a Rule or a Code, the Standing Committee shall have authority to examine such Motions and without derogating from their meaning, recommend any rephrasing or relocation considered necessary, before a new version of the Rule or Code concerned is published. Such recommendations shall require the sanction of the Central Council.

3.57 The Standing Committee on Playing Rules

A Standing Committee, appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee shall monitor the Playing Rules of Hurling and the Playing Rules of Football on an ongoing basis with regard to:

(a) the Interpretations of the Rules and

(b) the Implementation of the Rules.

The Standing Committee shall have the responsibility of bringing forward to the final meeting of the calendar year of the Central Council each year, proposals for any amendments it considers necessary for the deliberation of Congress of the following year.

County Committees shall have the right to submit proposals to the Standing Committee but it is for the Standing Committee to decide what proposals, or an amalgamation of proposals if they relate to the same Rule, are submitted to Central Council for consideration.

3.58 World GAA

(a) Subject to the overall control of Central Council, World GAA shall be responsible for the promotion of the Aims and Ethos of the Association and the administration of its affairs in areas outside of Ireland assigned to it by Central Council provided always that Central Council can add or remove any geographical area to/from the jurisdiction of World GAA.

(b) The affairs of World GAA shall be subject to its Constitution as sanctioned by the Management Committee.

(c) The Chairperson of World GAA shall be appointed by Central Council having been nominated by the Central Sub-Committee Nominations Committee and recommended by the Management Committee.

(d) It shall make recommendations to Central Council on the recognition of areas outside of Ireland as Counties, Provinces or Administrative Areas with the same status as Counties or Provinces.

(e) It shall exercise such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Management Committee or Central Council.

3.59 Handball

(a) GAA Handball shall, subject to the overall control of the Central Council, be responsible for the promotion of the National Game of Handball.

(b) The affairs of the GAA Handball shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association and the Constitution for the regulation of its affairs, as sanctioned by the Management Committee.

3.60 Rounders

(a) The Rounders Council of Ireland shall, subject to the overall control of Central Council, be responsible for the promotion of the National Game of Rounders.

(b) The affairs of the Rounders Council of Ireland shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association and the Constitution for the regulation of its affairs as sanctioned by the Management Committee.

3.61 Educational Institutions

Subject to the overall control of the Central Council, the following Councils shall be responsible for the organisation and control of all affairs at the Levels specified hereunder:

- The Higher Education Council in all Higher Education Colleges and Institutes.
- The All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools' Council for all affiliated schools at Second Level.
- The All-Ireland Primary Schools' Council.

Other than where special sanction is granted by Central Council, the affairs of each Council shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association and such Constitutions as are sanctioned by the Management Committee, on behalf of Central Council.

Hearings arising from Disciplinary Cases and Appeals shall be heard by the relevant Committee at County Committee, Provincial Council or Central Council levels.

Exception: Due to the nature of timing of Third Level Competitions, in order to facilitate notification of fixtures and deal with disciplinary matters in a swift and fair manner, the Higher Education Council may deviate from the strict timelines set out in the following Codes and Rules: Code 11.3, Rule 7.3 (i), (j) (4), (q), 7.5 (c), (e)(2), and (g).

3.62 Gaelic Players' Association

The Gaelic Players' Association is recognised as the official representative body for senior inter county players.

3.63 Deviation from Rule or Code

(a) A County Committee or Higher Council in Ireland may apply, in writing, to Central Council for permission not to exercise, within its jurisdiction, the strict application of a Rule or Code, where strict adherence to the Rule or Code may not be in the best interests of the Association within that jurisdiction. Such permission may only be given in exceptional circumstances in the interests of the promotion of Hurling/Football.

(b) A County Committee or Higher Council of the Association outside Ireland may apply, in writing, to Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific Rule or Code. Such permission may be given where exceptional circumstances are deemed to warrant it.

(c) In the case of a Bye Law from an International Unit, other than in Britain, permission shall not be required for Deviation from General Rule in circumstances where the Management Committee, in sanctioning such a Bye-Law, is satisfied that where any provisions thereof conflict or are not fully in accord with General Rule are unavoidable, are necessary for the proper functioning of that particular Unit and are in the best interests of the GAA and the promotion of Gaelic Games within its jurisdiction.

Applications for permission as in (a) and (b) above shall be made annually.

Applications shall be considered by the Central Council only at its the first full meeting following Congress, unless permission is otherwise given by the Management Committee.

3.64 Special Emergency Circumstances

Where the normal operation of the Association is severely adversely affected due to the existence of a public emergency whether within Ireland (or any part thereof) or outside of Ireland, the Management Committee may, by resolution, declare that Special Emergency Circumstances exist which make it impracticable to conduct the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Rules.

1. Immediately upon making such a declaration the Management Committee shall notify each County of the declaration whereupon the Management Committee may take such steps as are necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association in accordance with its Aims and Ethos notwithstanding anything contained in the Rules including, but not limited to, the suspension or amendment of Rules or parts of Rules and the enactment of new Rules (with power to make such suspension, amendment or enactment retrospective to the date of the declaration of Special Emergency Circumstances, where appropriate).
2. A declaration that Special Emergency Circumstances exist shall be presented to the Central Council for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than two weeks after it has been made. Should the Central Council not approve a declaration by the Management Committee that Special Emergency Circumstances exist, within two weeks, then such declaration shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such a declaration.

3. A declaration that Special Emergency Circumstances exist shall be for a specified period of no more than twelve weeks. The Management Committee may extend the period of Special Emergency Circumstances for a period or periods of no more than eight weeks each but any such extension shall be presented to the Central Council for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than two weeks after it has been made. Should the Central Council not approve the extension of the period of Special Emergency Circumstances, within two weeks, then such extension shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such an extension.
4. If the Management Committee cannot conduct its affairs as a result of the public emergency which gave rise to the declaration it may delegate any of its powers under this Rule to a sub-committee comprising not less than four of its members, which shall include, unless they are incapacitated or otherwise unavailable, the President and the Director General (the latter of whom shall not have voting rights). Decisions taken by such a sub-committee shall be presented to the Management Committee for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than one week after they have been made. Should the Management Committee not ratify a decision of such a sub-committee, within one week, then that decision shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such a decision.

3.65 Inter-County Certification Programme

A County intending to participate in the National Leagues and/or Senior Inter-County Championships in football or hurling shall meet the Certification requirements determined by Central Council annually to do so. The requirements and parameters of such certification shall be determined annually by the Central Council based on advice from the Certification, Governance and Oversight Committee (the "Certification Programme").

4.1 Elective Office/Committees with Plenary Powers

(a) Only a Full Member who has paid their annual Club subscription on or before the 31st March in a membership year shall be entitled to be nominated for or elected to any Elective Office or be appointed to membership of a Committee with Plenary Powers, referred to in the Official Guide, arising in the same membership year.
The onus is on the member to prove the member has paid their membership subscription.

(b) A member holding any Elective Office referred to in the Official Guide shall not misappropriate Association funds or disburse them in a manner other than in the purposes for which the funding was provided or intended. Penalty: Permanent Debarment of the member from holding any Elective Office referred to in the Official Guide.

4.2 Quorum

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 these Rules, Codes or Bye Laws provide otherwise.
This requirement shall not apply to a Club General Meeting.

4.3 Voting

Except where otherwise provided in these Rules or Codes, 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 their vote as a member, irrespective of whether or not they 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 three-fifths of those present entitled to vote and voting is obtained.

4.4 Transitional Committee Provisions

(a) The change or renewal of the membership of any Councils or Committees of the Association (whether in the context of retirement, Annual Congress, Provincial Convention, County Convention or otherwise), shall not defeat or prevent the continuation of any act or procedure commenced prior to the change of membership of that Committee or unit and the newly constituted committee shall have all the powers to continue those acts or procedures as if there had been no change of membership.

(b) Where there is a gap in time between the expiration of the term of office of members of any Management Committee, Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee or the Central Appeals Committee, and their replacement with a new membership (e.g. after a County Convention and before the next County Committee meeting), then, notwithstanding Rule 3.53, the Committee Members formerly in place shall continue to conduct all matters arising as if their term had not expired save that where, by virtue of Bye-Law or otherwise, any person becomes a member of or is to be appointed to any such Committees by virtue of their election to such office (e.g. at a County Convention), that person shall immediately upon election become a member of the Committee in place of that person's predecessor in that office.

5.1 Uses of Property

(a) All property including Grounds, Club Houses, Halls, Dressing Rooms and Handball Alleys owned or controlled by units of the Association ("Association Property") shall be used only for the purpose of or in connection with the playing of the Games controlled by the Association, and for such other purposes, which accord with the Aims of the Association, that may be sanctioned from time to time by Central Council.

(b) Central Council has the power, in exceptional circumstances, to authorise the use of Association Property held by a County Committee, Provincial Council or Central Council for activities other than those controlled by the Association in accordance with policy adopted by Central Council. Policy on the Use of Association Property

(c) Central Council has the power to authorise the use of Association Property which is located outside of Ireland for games other than those controlled by the Association.

Penalty:

In the event of any Club, County Committee, or Provincial Council acting contrary to this Rule, that body shall be subject to suspension or fine, as deemed appropriate.

5.2 Powers

The Association, through its Central Council, and, subject to the overall authority of the Central Council, its Provincial Councils, County Committees and Clubs shall have the following powers:

(a) To acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise, lands and hereditaments of any tenure, or any interest in the same.

(b) To erect and construct, either by itself or through other parties, houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices, or works of every description on any land of the Association, or upon any other lands or hereditaments, and to pull down, rebuild, repair, reinstate, enlarge, alter, and improve existing houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices, or works thereon, and generally to deal with and improve the property of the Association.

(c) To sell, lease, let, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of the lands, houses, buildings, hereditaments and other property of the Association.

(d) To borrow or raise money for the advancement of the aims of the Association.

(e) To acquire, dispose of, grant licences or otherwise deal with Intellectual Property.

(f) To employ staff, consultants, advisors and contractors.

5.3 Trusts of Property

(A) Property held upon Trust

All property owned by a Club of the Association or held by other Units of the Association is held upon Trust for the benefit of the club concerned or the Association as the case may be. The Trust is subject to and governed by the provisions of the Official Guide and the Code in relation to Trusts of Property, both as amended from time to time. All such property shall be vested in a corporate body or bodies established by Central Council ("the Corporate Trustee") and/or a number of full members as Trustees.

(B) Code in relation to Trusts of Property

Central Council shall adopt a Code on Trusts of Property Code in Relation to Trusts of Association Property which shall contain such provisions relating to the Trust and Trustees as are considered appropriate by Central Council, including, without limitation, provisions in relation to:

(a) The Identity of Trustees.
(b) Method of Selection and Appointment of Trustees to Real Property.
(c) Removal of Trustees of Real Property.
(d) Power of Trustees.
(e) Proceedings of Trustees.
(f) Dealings with third parties.
(g) The delegation by Central Council of certain of its functions under the Code in relation to Trusts of Property.
(h) Interpretation.

This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with that Code.

(C) Acceptance of Appointment - Declaration of Trust

As and when required by Central Council, all Trustees of Real Property shall execute a Declaration of Trust as approved by Central Council. The terms of the Declaration of Trust approved by Central Council may be amended or replaced as determined by Central Council from time to time.

(D) Indemnity

Each unit and the Association shall indemnify and save harmless a Trustee in respect of any loss or out of pocket expenses bona fide incurred by a Trustee in or about the execution of the Trustee's powers or duties.

Penalty:

A Unit failing and refusing to comply with the provisions of this Rule shall be suspended until compliance is agreed and, subject to reasonable time allowed, effected.

Transfers/Declarations/Playing Eligibility

6.1 Transfers and Declarations

Association's Ethos: As the Gaelic Athletic Association is community centred, based on the allegiance of its members to their local Clubs and Counties, the Transfer and Declaration Rules in this Official Guide and in County Bye-Laws reflect that ethos. A player is considered to owe allegiance and loyalty to their First Club and County, as defined in these Rules.

6.2 Definitions

First County: The County in which a player's First Club (or Club within an Independent Team) is located.

Own County: The County in which a player's Own Club (non-College) is based.

First Club: The Club (or Club within an Independent Team) with which a player first legally (i.e. in accordance with Rule and Bye-Law) participated in Club Competition at Under 12 Grade or Over (including Go-Games) organised by the County Committee or one of its Sub-Committees in the County of the player's permanent residence.

Own Club: The Club (non-College) of which an individual is currently a playing member.

Catchment Area: An area determined by the County Committee as representative of the hinterland of one or more Clubs. The Boundaries of Catchment Areas may be determined by reference to Parishes (subject to County Boundaries) or other criteria.

Permanent Residence: Unless otherwise defined in Bye Law, a place of Permanent Residence of a person shall be the domestic property where (by reference to actual overnight presence, the person's own or the person's family's ownership of or tenancy in the property, the person's place of non-temporary employment, and such other factors as may be considered appropriate) the Council or Committee assessing the question considers the person's principal private residence to have been for at least the previous month and is likely for at least the ensuing year.

Residence for the purpose of attending a Primary or Post Primary School or a Higher Education College shall not qualify as a Permanent Residence for the purposes of this Rule.

A County may deem certain states of affairs to constitute evidence of permanent residence for the purpose of its Bye-Law, subject to being in accordance with guidelines issued by Central Council.

(Effective 1st January 2027)

For the purpose of applications for Inter-County Transfers, the foregoing definition shall prevail.

Other Relevant Connection: A player shall be considered to have an 'Other Relevant Connection':

(a) With a particular County if:
  - (i) Either of the player's parents at the time of the member's birth were permanently resident in that County.
  - (ii) That County is the County of the first Club of either of the player's parents.

(b) With a Particular Club if:

(i) Either of the player's parents were at the time of the player's birth permanently resident in the present Catchment Area of that Club.

(ii) In the case of a player whose parents or either of them were permanently resident in Co. Dublin at the time of the player's birth, that Club was the First Club of either of the player's parents.

(iii) County Bye-Laws either define generally or for specific cases that particular factors give rise to such a connection.

6.3 Attachment to First Club

(a) For the purposes of this Rule, a person first becomes a member of the Association by joining a Club of the Association, as a Youth Member or a Full Member (as appropriate), within the County of the person's permanent residence.

(b) Counties shall prescribe by means of Bye-Law the extent (if any) to which a person first becoming a member of the Association may have a choice as to what Club the person joins within the County.

(c) Bye-Laws may allow a person seeking to become a member of the Association an unfettered choice of Clubs or a limited choice of Clubs (e.g. where choice is limited by permanent residence in or other relevant connection to a Catchment Area and there is more than one Club in a particular Catchment Area), or no choice at all (e.g. where choice is limited by permanent residence in or relevant connection to a Catchment Area and there is just one Club within that Catchment Area).

(d) Where a case arises in relation to an entitlement to becoming a member of, or be attached to, a Club (thereafter to be the First Club), the County Committee shall delegate consideration of such case to its Competitions Control Committee for resolution.
If requested by any party involved in the case, the Competition Control Committee shall give all parties concerned the opportunity of making observations for consideration within a specified period and/or of attending at a convened hearing to outline their respective positions on the case.
The Competitions Control Committee shall make its decision in accordance with Rule and County Bye Law. An appeal against the decision of the Competitions Control Committee on the case may be made in writing by an aggrieved party to the County Hearings Committee. It shall be made within three working days of the receipt of notification of the decision. It shall state the grounds on which the appeal is being made and shall be signed by the appellant player or, in the case of a Club, by its Secretary. Other formalities regarding submission of Appeal (e.g. provision of duplicate copy, fee) outlined in Rule 7.6(f) to (i) are not applicable in this case. All other relevant sections of Rule 7.6 shall apply. An Appeal may only be upheld on the basis of the provisions outlined in Rule 7.6(p).

(e) When a player first legally participates in Club Competition with a Club (including a Club within an Independent Team) at Under 12 Grade or Over (including Go-Games) organised by the County Committee or one of its Sub-Committees, that Club becomes the player's First Club.

(f) Where the Club or all of the Clubs which an intending member is entitled to apply to join refuse to accept the intending member as a member, the County Committee may authorise that intending member to apply for membership of such other Club(s) as it deems appropriate having regard to the spirit of the Rules and Bye-Laws applicable.

6.4 Transfers Within County

(a) A County shall have a Bye-Law governing the transfer of players from one Club to another within the County. Such Bye-Law shall be consistent with Rule.
Such Bye-Law may restrict the eligibility of a player to a transfer by reference to such matters as the County shall consider appropriate (e.g. by reference to permanent residence or Other Relevant Connections between the transfer applicant and the Catchment Area of the proposed new Club etc.).
A County shall have the option, within County Bye-Law, to allow a player to play with a Club in the area in which the player works.
However, a Bye-Law shall not prevent a transfer being granted where the relevant Competitions Control Committee is satisfied that it is necessary to do so to protect a child from harm and to comply with the child safeguarding commitments of the Association. (See Central Council Directive on this provision).
Additional restrictions of a procedural nature may be imposed if the County considers them appropriate (e.g., limiting the time within a given year when transfer applications might be made).

(b) A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another in the same County must apply to the County Committee for a transfer. Applications may be made online.

(c) The County Committee shall delegate consideration of Applications to its Competitions Control Committee. If requested by any party involved, the Committee shall give the applicant and the two Clubs concerned the opportunity of attending a convened hearing to outline their respective positions on the application.

(d) The Club of the player seeking a transfer shall be notified of the application and its observations shall be considered if received within such time as may be directed by the Competitions Control Committee.

(e) The Competitions Control Committee shall make its decision in accordance with Rule, Code and County Bye-Law.

(f) An appeal against a decision on a Transfer may be made in writing by an aggrieved party to the County Hearings Committee. It shall be made within three working days of the receipt of notification of the decision, it shall state the grounds on which the appeal is being made and shall be signed by the appellant player or in the case of a Club, by its Secretary. Other formalities regarding submission of Appeal (e.g. provision of duplicate copy, fee) outlined in Rule 7.6(f) to (i), are not applicable in this case.
All other relevant sections of Rule 7.6 shall apply. An appeal may only be upheld on the basis of the provisions outlined in Rule 7.6(p).

(g) The Transfer becomes effective:
- On the expiry of the period allowed for an Appeal against the decision on the Transfer application or, if an Appeal is submitted, on the making of a decision on the Appeal and
- On Code 4.2 being subsequently complied with.

6.5 Inter-County Transfers

(a) A player who wishes to join a Club in another County must apply for a transfer to the Provincial or Central Council, as appropriate. An application for Transfer must be made 'online'.

(b) Such application shall not be granted unless the player is in permanent residence in the new County. Exceptions:

  (i) A player who permanently resides outside their First County and wishes to transfer from their current Own Club to their First Club or to the Club (or its successor) of which the player was a playing member immediately prior to leaving their First County, may so transfer provided the player has not played in a Competition for the first time with their Own Club after January 1st.

  (ii) A player who has 'Other Relevant Connection' with a Particular Club (i) as defined in sub-section (b) of Rule 6.2, subject to the player having celebrated their 18th birthday in a preceding Championship Year to the year of their transfer application.

  (iii) A player who has 'Other Relevant Connection' with a Particular Club (ii), (as defined in sub- section (b) of Rule 6.2, subject to the Club the player is transferring to is in a County allowed by Central Council to avail of this provision, and sanction for the Transfer is given by the Dublin County Committees (see Appendix 3), subject to the player having celebrated their18th birthday in a preceding Championship Year to the year of their transfer application. A player who avails of an Exception above may not thereafter declare for a Club in another County.

(c) A player whose permanent residence in a County, other than the player's First County, is terminated, shall not be entitled to commence a new Competition in that County.

(d) An Inter-County transfer is a transfer from one County to another County for Club purposes. It does not determine what Club a player joins in the new County unless provision (i) below of this Rule is applicable. The Player so transferred must otherwise satisfy the requirements of the new County's Bye-Laws as regards the Club the player joins.

(e) Subject to Sub-rule (b) of this Rule, the application shall be granted if there is no objection from the Club or County the player is leaving within ten days of the forwarding of the application to the County by the Central Council or Provincial Council, as appropriate

(f) Where an objection is lodge to a transfer, the following shall be entitled to have their submissions considered and, on appeal, to make submissions, attend and participate in any related hearings: (i) The Club the player is leaving; (ii) The County the player is leaving and (iii) The County of the Club the player proposes to join.

(g) An appeal against a decision on an Inter-County Transfer application may be made to the Central Appeals Committee. Such appeal shall conform to the formalities outlined in Rule 7.6 - Appeals, save that the period allowed for an Appeal shall be three working days.

(h) An Inter-County Transfer involves transfer for all codes and activities at Club level.

(i) A player who transfers from one County to another County, and within 96 weeks thereafter transfers back to the former County, shall rejoin the Club of which the player was a member prior to the initial transfer.

(j) A Transfer becomes effective:

- On the expiry of the period allowed for an Appeal against the decision on the Transfer application or, if an Appeal is submitted, on the making of a decision on the Appeal

and

- Code 4.2 being subsequently complied with.

6.6 Representation at Transfer/Attachment Hearing

In the case of a member seeking a transfer or attachment to a Unit of the Association, the member may be accompanied at a Hearing by one Full Member of either the Club/Unit of which the member is currently a member of or the Club/Unit to which the member wishes to transfer or be attached.

6.7 Playing Restrictions (Club)

(A) A player may not play in any Championship in a given year's Championships in more than one County, save as provided in Exceptions below.

(B) A player may not play with two Clubs in the same code in a given year's Championship, within a County, save as provided for in Exceptions below.

(C) A player may play Hurling with one Club and Football with another Club, within a County, subject to any restrictions provided in County Bye- Laws.

(D) A player may not play with two Clubs in the exact same Competition of a given year.

Exceptions to (A), (B), (C) and (D):

(1) Subject to allowance by the County Committee under Rule 3.17 (o):
A Player of a Club without an Under 21 or Younger Grade team, subject to County Bye- Laws and any restrictions therein, may play:

(a) With an Independent Under 21 or Younger Grade Team within the County which shall not bear the name of an Adult Club within that County;

or

(b) With another Under 21 or Younger Grade Team within the County. In the case of a team having five or more players under this provision in Rule, the team shall play under and be recognised by the combined names of the Clubs in question or by an independent name which shall not bear the name of an Adult Club within the County.
A player who plays on a team provided for in (a) or (b) above, shall be a registered member of the player's Adult Club and shall retain membership of that Club during and at the conclusion of the player's playing participation with a team formed under (a) or (b).

(2) Subject to the Higher Education Council's Rules of Eligibility, a Student of a Higher Education College, pursuing a fulltime Undergraduate or Postgraduate Course, may from the Championship Year after the student's enrolment in the College up to and inclusive of the Championship Year of the student's Graduation:

(i) Play with the student's College Club and with the student's Own Club, provided the student obtains a Permit from the Provincial or Central Council, as appropriate.

(ii) Play with the student's College Club and the student's Own Club, where the latter is in the same County and of a lower grade, and the student obtains a permit.

(iii) Play with the student's College Club in adult competitions and with the student's Own Club in Under 21/20/19 and Minor competitions, where the latter Club is of Senior status within the same County as the College Club, provided that the player obtains a transfer to the College Club from the County Committee.

(iv) Play with a College Club and with a club in Britain, provided the student does not play with the student's Own Club, and obtains a Permit from the Central Council on the approval of the County Committee of the student's Own Club.

Notes: (a) A "College Club" for the purpose of this Rule shall mean a Club Affiliated to, and under the jurisdiction of a County Committee. (A "College Club" shall otherwise mean a Club Affiliated to, and under the jurisdiction of the Higher Education Council).

(b) A Student may avail of this Rule to play for only one College in any Championship Year.

(3) A player who is pursuing a full-time course of study in a Country under the jurisdiction of the European Board may play with a Club in the European Union country of study, or the nearest club to the player's place of study, including a College Club if one exists, and with the player's Own Club, provided the player is participating in a recognised programme of study of a minimum of 12 weeks duration, and the player obtains a Permit from the Central Council.

(4) A player who has received an Authorisation under Code 9.1 or a Sanction under Code 9.2

(5) A player who transfers to a new Club within a County and who has already played in a given year's Championship with the player's former Club may play with the player's new Club only in non-championship competition(s)of that year, provided the player has not played with the player's former Club in the exact same competition(s).

(6) A player who joins a new Club on an Inter-County transfer may not thereafter play with their former club without a further transfer. A player who has already played in a given year's Championship with their former club may play with their new Club only in a non-championship competition(s) of that year.

(E) A player may play with another Club in a non- trophy game, provided the player obtains the permission of the County Committee or higher authority.

6.8 Playing Restrictions (County and Province)

(a) In general, a player may only play for the County of their Own Club and its Province.

(b) (1) A player who transfers to a Club of a County other than their First County shall have an option to play for either their First County and Province, by declaration, or the County of their Own Club and Province.

(2) A player may declare for a County based on 'Other Relevant Connection' With a Particular County (i), as defined in sub-section (a) of Rule 6.2, subject to the player being Over 18 years as defined in Rule 6.11.

(3) A player may declare for a County based on 'Other Relevant Connection' With a Particular County (ii), as defined in sub-section (a) of Rule 6.2, subject to that County being allowed by Central Council to avail of this provision, and the Player's Declaration receives the sanction of the Committee of the Player's First County or Own County, as applicable (see Appendix 3), subject to the player being Over 18 years as defined in Rule 6.11.

A written Declaration for a County may be lodged or revoked on or before the last day of March in any year. A player transferred outside their First County after the last day of March may, on such transfer, declare for their First County.

A player who declares for a County in pursuance of this Rule, may not thereafter declare for another County.

(c) A player shall have played in Club Championship with a Club, Group or a Divisional Team in a County in the previous or current year (not on the basis of an Authorisation, Sanction or Permit granted under Code 9 or Rule 6.8 to be eligible to play in any Inter-County Competition with that County, save:
   (1) Where the County is their First County, or
   (2) The player has Declared for that County under 'Other Relevant Connection' With a Particular County (i) or (ii), as defined in sub-section (a) of Rule 6.2 or under Rule 6.9
(d) A player who has commenced to play for a County in a particular competition may finish that competition, and play for another County, which the player joins by declaration or transfer.
(e) A player shall not play for a second County in a competition of a given year.

6.9 Special Eligibility Provisions for Hurling

For Senior Inter-County Hurling Competitions, a player, subject to the conditions hereunder, shall be entitled to:

(a) Declare for the First County of either of their parents; or
(b) Play for the County of Residence, provided this County is a designated County as provided for in Condition (1) below, while continuing to be eligible to play with their Own Club.

The following Conditions shall apply:

   (1) The County availing of this Rule is not participating in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Liam McCarthy Cup) or Division 1 of the National League, or Tier 2 Senior Hurling Championship (Joe McDonagh Cup) or Tier 3 Senior Hurling Championship (Christy Ring Cup).
   (2) A County availing of this Rule may have a maximum of three such players sanctioned in any Championship Year.
   (3) The permission of a player's Own County must be obtained.
   (4) A player may avail of this Rule for only one County, and may not declare for an Own County for Football.
   (5) If a clash of Championship Fixtures arises between that of a player's Own Club and that of the County availing of this Rule, the player shall play with their Own Club.
   (6) Permission to avail of this Rule shall be for one Championship Year at a time, and application must be made annually for renewal of permission. The closing date for Applications each year shall be the 31st March.

6.10 Non Affiliated Bodies

(a) A member or any unit of the Association shall not participate in games of Gaelic Football, Hurling or Handball promoted by a body not affiliated to Central Council, without the prior sanction of Central Council.
(b) A Club or other unit shall only participate, as such, in games controlled by the Association and against a Club or other unit of the Association, unless the prior sanction of Central Council has been given.

Penalty: 48 weeks Suspension.

6.11 Age Grades

CLUB

Adult: A Player shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship Year.

A County Committee may decide, by means of Competition Regulations, to increase this minimum eligibility age generally or in specific competitions / circumstances.

Under Age Grades: A County shall determine its internal Under Age Grades for competition purposes within the parameters of Under 21 down to Under 11, subject to Central Council policy and the following eligibility criteria:

Exception: A County Committee may reduce the eligibility Age-Span applicable in any of the above Under Age grades by one or more years e.g., the Under 21 grade has a five year span but a County Committee may reduce this span to one of four years by requiring that a player shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship Year.

Under 21: A Player shall have celebrated their 16th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 21st. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 20: A Player shall have celebrated their 16th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 20th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 19: A Player shall have celebrated their15th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 19th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 18: A Player shall have celebrated their 14th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 18th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 17: A Player shall have celebrated their 13th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 17th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 16: A Player shall have celebrated their 12th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 16th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 15: A Player shall have celebrated their 11th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 15th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 14: A Player shall have celebrated their 10th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 14th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 13: A Player shall have celebrated their 9th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 13th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 12: A Player shall have celebrated their 9th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 12th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

Under 11: A Player shall have celebrated their 8th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 11th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

INTER-COUNTY

Adult: A player shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship Year.

Under 20 (Hurling): A player shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st and 20th birthday on or after January 1st of the Championship Year. A player is restricted from playing in both the Inter-County Senior Hurling Championship and the Inter-County Under 20 Hurling Championship within a 60-hour period (from starting time of matches) and Committees in Charge of the latter grade competition shall make such allowance where necessary in its scheduling.

Under 20 (Football): A player shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st and 20th birthday on or after January 1st of the Championship Year. A player is restricted from playing in both the Inter-County Senior Football Championship and the Inter-County Under 20 Football Championship within a 60-hour period (from starting time of matches) and Committees in Charge of the latter grade competition shall make such allowance where necessary in its scheduling.

Minor (Under 17): A player shall have celebrated their 15th birthday prior to January 1st and their 17th birthday on or after January 1st of the Championship Year.
Adult shall include Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grades.

Teams shall be comprised of male Players only.

Exception:
Girls may participate only up to and including the Under 12 Grade.

Note: In the interests of the avoidance of any doubt regarding Age Grade eligibility, Championship Year shall mean the Calendar Year in which the Competition is commenced. In the event that the Competition is completed in a subsequent Calendar Year, such circumstances shall not be construed so as to allow a player who was ineligible, by reason of age, at the date of the commencement of the Competition to play in the Competition at any time up to and including the date of its conclusion.

Penalties:

(1) For Breach in Adult, Under 20/21 and Minor Grades (applying to Club, Independent Teams and Inter-County):

For breach of Upper Age Level:

(i) Team Penalty
On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing team.
On an Inquiry by the Committee-In-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award to the Opposing Team.

(ii) Player: Twenty-Four weeks Suspension.

(iii) Chairperson and Secretary (Club or County, as appropriate):
Forty Eight weeks Suspension

For breach of Lower Age Limit:

(i) Team Penalty
On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing team.
On an Inquiry by the Committee-In-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award to the Opposing Team.

(ii) Player: Two weeks Suspension.

(iii) Chairperson and Secretary (Club or County, as appropriate) - Eight weeks Suspension.

(2) For Breach in Under 16 and Younger Grades:

For breach of Upper Age Limit:

(i) Team Penalty
On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing team.
On an Inquiry by the Committee-In-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award to the Opposing Team.

(ii) Player: Four weeks Suspension.

(iii) Person(s)- in- Charge of the Team: Forty-Eight weeks Suspension.

For Breach of Lower Age Limit:

(i) Team Penalty:
On a Proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team
On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award to the Opposing Team.

(ii) Player: Two weeks Suspension.

(iii) Person(s)-in-Charge of the Team: Eight weeks Suspension.

(3) Definition of Person(s)-in-Charge of the Team

The Manager and Selectors of a Team in the Under 16 or Younger Grades, whose names shall be:

(a) registered annually with the Committee-in-Charge, prior to the commencement of competitions in the Grade

and

(b) included on the List of Players required of in Rule 2.4(i), Rules of Specification, Official Guide, Part 2.

INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.12 Organisation

The Championships shall be organised as follows:

(A) All-Ireland Senior Football Championship:

(i) Provincial Championships

These Championships shall be played on a Knockout Format. Group or 'Round-Robin' Formats may not be used.

(ii) Tier 1 (Sam Maguire Cup)

Counties Participating

The following 16 Counties shall be eligible to participate in Tier 1 (Sam Maguire Cup)

(a) The 8 Provincial Champions and Runners-Up

(b) The next 8 highest-ranked teams at the conclusion of the National League

Exception to (b): The previous year's Tier 2 Championship Winners if not already qualified as one of the teams in (a) or (b) above, shall be eligible instead of the team in (b) with the lowest National League ranking at the conclusion of that year's National League.

Note: The ranking of teams in the National League referred to above shall be on the basis of the outcomes of the National League, including those of Promotion and Relegation, of the Competition Year. For the avoidance of doubt, a league final winner will be considered a higher seed than the team they defeated in the final.

Round 1

The 8 teams in (a) above, shall be drawn to play at Home against the 8 teams in (b) above.

Round 2

The 8 winners in Round 1 shall be drawn to play against each other in Round 2a, with the first team drawn having Home Venue.

The 8 Losers in Round 1 shall be drawn to play against each other in Round 2b with the first team drawn having Home Venue.

Both draws draw will be subject to the avoidance of repeat Provincial Final pairings.

Round 3

The four losing teams from Round 2a will be drawn to play the four winning teams from Round 2b and a draw shall determine Home Venue for each pairing.

The draw will be subject in the first instance to the avoidance of repeat Provincial Final pairings and where possible repeat pairings from Round 1.

All-Ireland Quarter-Finals

The four winners of Round 2a shall be drawn to play against the four winners of Round 3, subject in the first instance to the avoidance of repeat Provincial Final pairings and where possible repeat pairings from Rounds 1 and 2.

All-Ireland Semi-Finals

The four quarter-final winners shall play against each other in the Semi-Finals based on a draw, subject to the avoidance of repeat pairings from the championship, where possible.

All-Ireland Final

The winners of the All-Ireland Semi-Finals shall meet in the All-Ireland Final.

Venues for Tier 1

Venues for the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final shall be determined by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

Tier 2: Tailteann Cup

Tailteann Cup
Counties Participating

The remaining 16 Counties at the conclusion of the National League who have not qualified for the Tier 1 Championship, and New York (who shall enter in at the Preliminary Quarter Final stage).

Round 1
The 16 teams from the National League who have not qualified for the Tier 1 Championship shall be drawn to play against each other in an Open Draw, with the first team drawn in each fixture having home venue.

Round 2
The 8 winners in Round 1 shall be drawn to play against each other in Round 2a, with the first team drawn having Home Venue.
The 8 Losers in Round 1 shall be drawn to play against each other in Round 2b with the first team drawn having Home Venue.

Round 3
The four losing teams from Round 2a will be drawn to play the four winning teams from Round 2b, and a draw will determine Home Venue for each pairing.
The draw will be subject to the avoidance of repeat pairings from Round 1 where possible.

Preliminary Quarter Final
A Round 2a winner will be drawn to play New York.

Tailteann Cup Quarter-Finals
The preliminary quarter final winner and the three remaining winners of Round 2a, shall be drawn to play at Home against the four winners of Round 3.
The draw will be subject to the avoidance of repeat pairings from Rounds 1 and 2 where possible.

Tailteann Cup Semi-Finals
The four quarter-final winners shall play against each other in the Semi-Finals based on a draw, subject to avoidance of repeat pairings from the championship, where possible.

Tailteann Cup Final
The winners of the Tailteann Cup Semi-Finals shall meet in the Tailteann Cup Final.
The Tier 2 Winner shall be eligible for the Tier 1 Championship the following year, regardless of league position.

Venues for Tier 2.
Venues for the Semi-Finals and Final shall be determined by the Central Competitions Control Committee. Notwithstanding any other provisions stated in relation to venues, all games involving New York will take place in Ireland.

Scheduling for Tiers 1 and 2
Games shall be played on Saturdays/Sundays as deemed appropriate by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

Consideration shall be given to the dual involvement of Counties in both Hurling and Football, and, where feasible, avoid direct clashes.

(B) ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURING CHAMPIONSHIP
Tier 1: Liam MacCarthy Cup
Counties Participating

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in 2026:
In Munster Championship: Clare, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Tipperary.
In Leinster Championship: Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Kilkenny, Offaly and Wexford.

Stages:

(i) Provincial Championships

The Provincial Championships of Munster and Leinster shall have a combined maximum of eleven teams, which shall be divided on a Provincial basis into two groups of six and five teams respectively.
The number of teams (i.e., six or five) competing in each of the two Provincial Championships shall be determined from year to year on the basis of the outcome of the Promotion and Relegation process in respect of Tier 2.
Munster Counties shall play in the Munster Championship and all other eligible Counties shall play in the Leinster Championship.
Each team in the group of six will have three home games and two away games and each team in the group of five shall have two home games and two away games.
The Counties finishing in the top two places in each Provincial Group shall qualify for their respective Provincial Final.

(ii) All-Ireland Quarter-Finals

The third-placed team in the Munster Championship shall play the Leinster Runner-up and the third-placed team in the Leinster Championship shall play the Munster Runner-up in the All-Ireland Quarter Finals at venues determined by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

(iii) All-Ireland Semi-Finals

The Provincial Champions of Munster and Leinster shall be in separate Semi-Finals and shall respectively play one of the two Quarter-Final Winners.
Subject to the respective Provincial Champions not meeting the defeated Finalists from their own Province at this stage and, where feasible, the avoidance of Repeat Pairings, a Draw shall be made to determine the Pairings.

(iv) All-Ireland Semi-Finals

In the 'Round Robin' Groups, each team shall play the other teams once. Two points for a Win and one point for a Draw shall be awarded.

Relegation:

The bottom team in the Provincial Championship group of six teams shall be relegated to the Tier 2 Championship.

(C) ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP TIERS 2, 3, 4 and 5

Tier 2: Joe McDonagh Cup

Counties Participating

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in 2026:
Antrim, Carlow, Down, Laois, London and Westmeath.

Format

Tier 2 shall have Six Teams in its Championship and shall be played on a Round-Robin basis. Each County shall have three home games and two away games which shall rotate every other year.

Format (Effective 1st January 2027)

Tier 2 shall have Six Teams in its Championship and shall be played on a Round-Robin basis. Each County shall have three home games and two away games which shall rotate every other year.

The counties who finish in 2nd and 3rd place shall qualify for a semi-final which shall be a Home game for the 2nd placed team. The County that finishes in first place shall qualify directly for the Final in which it will meet the winners of the Semi-Final.

Promotion and Relegation:

The winner of the final shall be promoted to the Senior Hurling Championship Tier 1 and take part in the Provincial Championships in the following year. If the winner is from Munster, they shall play in the Munster Championship, and if the winner is not from Munster, they shall play in the Leinster Championship. The bottom-placed team in the "Round-Robin" shall be relegated to the Tier 3 Championship.

Tier 3: Christy Ring Cup

Counties Participating

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in 2026:
Derry, Donegal, Kerry, Meath, Roscommon and Wicklow.

Format

Tier 3 shall have Six Teams in its Championship and shall be played on a Round-Robin basis. Each County shall have three home games and two away games which shall rotate every other year. The counties who finish in the top two places shall qualify for the Final.

Promotion and Relegation:

The winner of the final shall be promoted to Tier 2. The bottom-placed team in the "Round-Robin" shall be relegated to the Tier 4 Championship.

Tier 4: Nickey Rackard Cup

Counties Participating

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in 2026:
Armagh, Fermanagh, Louth, Mayo, New York, Sligo and Tyrone.

Format

Tier 4 shall have initially Six Teams (excluding New York) in its Championship and shall be played on a Round Robin basis.

Each team shall have three home games and two away games which shall rotate every other year.

The County which finishes in the top place shall qualify for the Final.
The County which finishes in second place shall play New York in a semi-final and the winners shall qualify for the Final.

Promotion and Relegation:
The winner of the Final shall be promoted to Tier 3.
The bottom-placed team in the 'Round-Robin' shall be relegated to the Tier 5 Championship.

Tier 5: Lory Meagher Cup
Counties Participating

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in 2026:
Cavan, Lanacashire, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan and Warwickshire.

Format
Tier 5 shall have six Teams in its Championship and shall be played on a Round-Robin basis.

Each County shall have three home games and two away games which shall rotate every other year.

The Counties which finish in the top two places shall qualify for the Final.

Promotion:
The winner of the Final shall be promoted to Tier 4.

Points/Tie-Breakers in Tiers 2, 3, 4 and 5
Regulations as in Tier 1.

Venues for Tiers 2,3,4 and 5
Venues for all Finals and Semi-Finals shall be determined by the Central Competitions Control Committee.
Semi-Finals involving New York shall be played in Ireland.

New York Participation:
In future years, whichever Tier of Tiers 2 to 5 that New York shall be eligible to participate in shall have seven instead of six teams.
The format of the Tier involving New York shall be:

The County which finishes in the top place shall qualify for the Final.
The County which finishes in second place shall play New York in a semi-final and the winners shall qualify for the Final.

Promotion and Relegation:
If New York is promoted to a Tier, that Tier shall have no Team relegated for that Year.

Once promoted, New York will have a 3-year period in which to win a semi-final or they will be automatically Relegated to the next lowest Tier.
Should New York win a semi-final but remain in a given Tier, a new 3-year period will commence in which they must win a semi-final or be automatically Relegated to the next lowest Tier.

(D) TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE IRELAND
On the direction of Congress, Central Council shall be authorised to make provision for the inclusion in Championships of teams from outside Ireland.

(E) ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Round Robin Championships shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis. Post the Provincial Championships, Counties will compete in Tiered (knockout) competitions.

Tier 1
The All-Ireland Series shall be organised as follows:

(i) All-Ireland Quarter-Finals
Each of the four Provincial Winners shall meet one of the Provincial Runners-Up.

The pairings shall be determined on a Provincial Rota system initially determined by Central Council, but Provincial winners shall not at this stage meet the team they defeated in their own Provincial Final.

(ii) All-Ireland Semi-Finals
A Provincial Rota system, initially determined by Central Council, shall apply. If a Provincial Championship winning team is defeated in its Quarter-Final, the team that defeats it shall take its place in the Semi-Final.
All-Ireland Final.

Additional Tiers
Additional tiered competitions shall be organised for Counties outside of the Provincial winners and runners-up. Competition structures and regulations will be approved annually by Central Council based on proposals from the Development Competitions Control Committee. See Appendix 2.

(F) ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
The All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis in Munster and Leinster. Ulster Teams, as agreed by the Ulster and Leinster Councils, and Galway shall participate in the Leinster Championship. The All-Ireland Series shall be organised as follows:
The Munster and Leinster Winners shall automatically qualify for separate Semi-Finals and may not meet the defeated Finalists of their own Province at this stage.
The defeated Munster and Leinster finalists shall automatically qualify for separate Quarter-Finals.
The teams deemed to have finished 3rd and 4th (as determined by competition regulations) in the Leinster and Munster Minor Hurling championships shall qualify for Preliminary Quarter Finals, where the two Leinster teams shall be drawn to play against the two Munster teams. The winners of these games shall advance to the quarter finals where they will be drawn to play the defeated Munster and Leinster finalists (draw subject to the avoidance of repeat pairings where possible).
The All-Ireland 'B' and 'C' Hurling Championships shall be organised on the basis of recommendations of the Development Competitions Control Committee, as approved by Central Council.

(G) ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
The Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis, with the Provincial Winners qualifying for the All-Ireland Semi-Finals.
The Championship shall be confined to Counties that are Senior Tier 1.
Pairings for the All-Ireland Semi-Finals shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.

(H) UNDER 20 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS
The All-Ireland U20 Football Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis with the winners, going forward to the All-Ireland Series.
The pairings for the All-Ireland Series shall be on a Rota System, initially determined by the Central Council.

The All-Ireland U20 Hurling Championship shall be organised initially on a Provincial basis in Munster and Leinster, with Galway and any Ulster Team(s) as agreed by Ulster and Leinster Councils participating in the Leinster Championship.

The Provincial Winners of Munster shall play the Provincial Winners of Leinster in the All-Ireland Final.

(I) ALL IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The regulations governing the composition, structure and all other matters pertaining to the Championship, shall be decided by Central Council, on the advice of the Central Competitions Control Committee.

(J) An Inter-County Championship that is organised in different stages (e.g., Provincial, All-Ireland Qualifier, All-Ireland Quarter-Finals/Semi-Finals/Final) constitutes the one Competition.

Note: Home Venues for all Senior Inter County Championship games shall be subject to approval by the Central Competitions Control Committee and shall meet the criteria set down by the National Facilities/Health and Safety Committee.

(K) For the league part of Inter-County Championship Competitions, the relevant regulations covering, points for, if a Team is Disqualified or Retires, and league ordering shall be included in the Competition Regulations and approved by Central Council.

6.13 Provincial Championships

(a) A Province which has not completed its Championship shall, when required, nominate a team to compete in the All-Ireland Championship. Failure to do so shall involve disqualification of the Province from the competition.

(b) Format

A Provincial Council may organise its Provincial Championships to take into account the relevant strengths of the Counties within its Province.

The Provincial Senior Football and Hurling Championships shall be organised as outlined in Rule 6.12.

A Provincial Council may organise its Under 20 and Minor Championships as suits its requirements.

(c) Draws

In the Provincial Inter-County Senior Football Championships, one Draw shall be made to cover an entire Championship.

A Bye shall be given only in the First Round.

6.14 Failure to Fulfil an Inter-County Championship Game

A County failing to fulfil a Championship fixture shall be disqualified from the Championship and a fine, the extent of which shall be at the discretion of the Committee-in-Charge, shall be imposed.

6.15 All-Ireland Finals

The All-Ireland Senior Finals shall be played in Croke Park. The Finals shall be played on or before the last Sunday in July on dates determined by the Central Council

In exceptional circumstances the Central Council may make other arrangements.

6.16 Duration of the Senior Inter-County Playing Season

The Senior Inter-County playing season in both codes of Hurling and Football shall not exceed 30 scheduled competition weekends in any calendar year.

For the avoidance of doubt, this limit applies to all scheduled Senior Inter-County competitive fixtures, including League, Championship and all Provincial competitions, but shall not include any additional weekend required solely for the playing of a permitted Senior All-Ireland Final replay.

6.17 Appointment of Match Officials

The Central Council, Provincial Councils and County Committees (subject to the provisions of Rules 3.49(b), 3.30(A)and 3.18(ii)) shall have the absolute power to appoint the match officials for all Games under their respective jurisdictions.

The Council or Committee may delegate the appointment of Umpires to the Referee.

The respective Referees' Administrator at County and Provincial levels shall be a member of the Committee responsible for the appointment of Referees at these levels.

The Referees' Administrator shall not be entitled to discuss any other business or to vote on it, other than for the appointment of referees.

Where an appointed Referee is unable to act the Secretary or other member of the Committee in-Charge shall arrange to appoint a substitute.

For Inter-County Senior Championship fixtures, the Committee responsible shall appoint neutral Score Umpires and Line Umpires, and one of the Line Umpires shall be nominated in advance as the stand-by Referee. It shall also appoint a Sideline Official for all Inter-County Senior games.

6.18 Alterations to Competitions Structure

Provincial Units with responsibility for Inter-County, Club, Higher Education and Post Primary Schools Competitions, shall not add or make modifications to existing Competitions Structure without the prior approval of the Provincial Council or the Central Competitions Control Committee or the Development Competitions Control Committee, as appropriate.

7.1 Disciplinary Jurisdiction

(a) Central Council, Provincial Councils , County Committees and Overseas Units shall have within their respective jurisdictions the power to enforce Rules, Codes and Bye-Laws, investigate breaches of Rules, Codes and Bye-Laws, warn any Unit or Member as to future conduct, and impose upon Members, Teams and Units such penalties as may be prescribed, or where no penalty is prescribed, appropriate penalties, for such breaches. Where reference is made in Rule to Central Council, Provincial Councils or County Committees, such reference shall include or be a reference to their Sub-Committees having jurisdiction over Disciplinary Matters.
The Councils referred to in Rules 3.57, 3.58 and 3.59, other Committees authorised by Central Council and the Sub-Committees thereof, shall have Disciplinary Jurisdiction in their respective spheres of operation.
Notwithstanding the other contents of this Rule, in a serious case that may cause damage, reputational or otherwise, to the Association, the Management Committee of the Central Council shall have the power to direct the Council or Committee under whose jurisdiction the matter has occurred to submit the case directly to the Management Committee of the Central Council or the Central Competitions Control Committee, as appropriate, for the Enforcement of Rules, including the investigation and processing of the matter and the application of the Rules. Where a hearing is requested it shall be conducted by the Central Hearings Committee.

(b) Where a Council or Committee considers that a Member or Unit from outside its area of jurisdiction has committed any infraction or breach of Rule within its area of jurisdiction, it shall where a Hearing has been requested report the matter for decision to its Provincial Council if the Member or Unit is under the jurisdiction of the same Provincial Council, or to the Central Council in all other cases.

(c) Any penalty imposed shall be operative throughout the Association, including any penalty imposed by an International Unit.

(d) The Disciplinary Jurisdiction of Match Officials in relation to Control of Games on the Field of Play is separate from the provisions of these Rules.

(e) A Juvenile (Under 16) Competitions Control Committee shall have the right to initiate Disciplinary Action against an Adult Member, but where a Hearing is requested by a Defending Party it shall be heard by the parent Hearings Committee under whose direct jurisdiction the member is subject.

7.2 Infractions

The following shall constitute Infractions to which the Disciplinary Jurisdiction of the Association applies:

(a) **Any breach of the Rules and Bye-Laws including** Codes, Regulations, Guidelines and Directives made under them.

Penalties:

As provided for in the relevant Rules and Bye Laws including Codes, Regulations, Guidelines and Directives made under them.

(b) **Misconduct at Games by Players,** which consists of seven Categories of Infractions which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play, and which occur immediately before, during or after a Game:

Category I

Being ordered off on foot of infractions that follow the issuing of two Yellow or Black Cards of any sequence or combination.

Penalty:

(i) Fixed Penalty: Debarment from playing for the remainder of the Game, to include any extra-time;

(ii) Fixed Penalty on a second Repeat Infraction (i.e. a third ordering-off) - A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next game in the Competition in which the third ordering-off occurred, even if that game occurs in the following year's competition.

Exception to (ii):

This Penalty shall not apply to Infractions committed in the National Leagues or the Inter-County Senior Championships for which alternative Provisions and Penalties apply as follow:

In Football, as outlined in Category II, Penalty (3) below.

In Hurling, Fixed Penalty for the accumulation of three orderings off for Infractions that follow the issuing of two Yellow or Black Cards of any sequence or combination committed in the same year in the National Hurling League, the Inter-County Hurling Championship or in a combination of both Competitions:

A One Match Suspension applicable to the next game in the combination of the National Hurling League/ Inter-County Senior Hurling Championship, even if that game occurs in the following year.

The Penalty of serving a ten-minute period in the Sin-Bin for a breach of Playing Rule 5.45 shall not count as an 'ordering off' under this provision of Rule.

Category II

Being ordered off for a Cynical Behavior Infraction (in Football)

(i) Deliberately pull down an opponent.
(ii) Deliberately trip an opponent with the hand(s), arm, leg or foot.
(iii) Deliberately collide with an opponent after that opponent has played the ball away or for the purpose of taking that opponent out of the movement of play.
(iv) Deliberately prevent or restrict, or to attempt to prevent or restrict, an opponent from moving or from playing the ball, by holding up an opponent.
(v) Contributing to a melee while being the third or subsequent player into a melee except where that player enters the melee and solely engages in the removal of a team-mate.
(vi) Remonstrating in an aggressive manner with a Match Official.
(vii) Threatening or to use abusive or provocative language or gestures to an opponent or team-mate.

Penalties:

(1) Fixed Penalty for first Infraction - the offender shall serve ten minutes in the Sin- Bin.
Exception: If the offender has previously in the game received a Yellow Card for committing a Cautionable Infraction, the offender shall be debarred from playing for the remainder of the game, including any Extra-Time when played.

(2) Fixed Penalty - If on resuming play after serving ten minutes in the Sin-Bin, a player commits a further Cynical Behaviour or a Cautionable Infraction, the player shall be debarred from playing for the remainder of the game, including any Extra- Time when played.

(3) Fixed Penalty for the accumulation of three ordering-offs for Cynical Behaviour/ Playing Rule 5.41 or Second Cautionable infractions committed in the same year in the National Football League, the Inter-County Senior Football Championship or in a combination of both Competitions:
A One Match Suspension applicable to the next game in the combination of the National Football League/Inter-County Senior Football Championship, even if that game occurs in the following year.
The Penalty of serving the ten minutes in the Sin-Bin shall not count as an "ordering off" under this provision of Rule.

Category III

(i) Striking or attempting to strike with arm, elbow, hand or knee with minimal force.
(ii) Striking or attempting to strike with a hurley, with minimal force.
(iii) Kicking or attempting to kick, with minimal force.
(iv) Behaving in any way which is dangerous to an opponent, including deliberately pulling on or taking hold of a faceguard or any part of an opponent's helmet (in hurling).
(v) Spitting at an opponent.
(vi) Contributing to a melee (in Hurling).
(vii) Minor physical interference (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling) with an Opposing Team Official either on or off the Field of Play.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum - A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next game in the same Competition, even if that game occurs in the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction - A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition in which the Repeat Infraction occurred, even if one or both games occur(s) in the following year's competition.

Exceptions to (1) and (2) above:

In cases arising from the National Leagues, the Inter-County Senior Championships or from a combination of both Competitions in the same code and in the same year, the above Penalties shall be substituted by:

(1) Minimum: A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next game in the combination of the National League/ Inter-County Senior Championship, even if the game occurs in the following year.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:
A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, even if one or both games occur(s) in the following year.

Category IV

(i) Striking or attempting to strike with arm, elbow, hand or knee either with force or causing injury.
(ii) Striking or attempting to strike with the head.
(iii) Striking with hurley, either with force or causing injury.
(iv) Attempting to strike with hurley, with force.
(v) Kicking, either with force or causing injury.
(vi) Attempting to kick, with force.
(vii) Stamping.
(viii) Inflicting injury recklessly by means other than those stated above.
(ix) Any type of assault on an Opposing Team Official.
(x) Abusive language towards a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum: A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, even if one or both games occur(s) in the following year's competition;

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction: A Three Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition in which the Repeat Infraction occurred, even if one or more of the games occur(s) in the following year's competition.

Exceptions to (1) and (2) above:

In cases arising from the National Leagues, the Inter-County Senior Championships or from a combination of both Competitions in the same code and in the same year, the above Penalties shall be substituted by:

(1) Minimum: A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/ Inter-County Senior Championship, even if one or both games occur(s) in the following year.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:
A Three Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, even if one or more of the games occur(s) in the following year.

Category V

(i) Minor physical interference (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling) with a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

(ii) Threatening language to a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

(iii) Threatening or abusive conduct towards a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Twelve weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) Two-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the 12 weeks or outside in the current or the following year's competition;

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Twenty-four weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) Three-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the 24 weeks or outside in the current or following year's competition.

Category VI

Acting by Deed, Word or Gesture in a Racist, Sectarian or Anti-Inclusion/Diversity nature towards an opponent or Match Official.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum: 48 weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate;

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction within 96 weeks: 96 weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate. (See Rule 7.4 (q)).

Category VII

Striking or attempt to strike, or any type of assault on, a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum: 96 weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate;

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction within 192 weeks: 192 weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels, with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate.

Alternative Penalty to non-applicable Match Suspensions

When a Match Suspension arising from Rules 7.2 or 7.4(k) cannot be applied in full or in part on a player in the specified Competition, arising from such (non- exhaustive) circumstances as:

(i) A player exiting an Under-Age Grade,

(ii) A Tournament - having been completed or an inadequate number of games to be played,

(iii) A Challenge Game,

An equivalent Match Suspension shall be proposed/ imposed in the same Code and at the same Level.

In the case of a player exiting a Level (e.g. Second Level Schools, third Level Colleges), the Committee-in-Charge shall refer the case to the relevant Competitions Control Committee at County Committee, Provincial Council or Central Council levels for adjudication. An equivalent Match Suspension shall be proposed/imposed at Club Level. Directive re. Alternative Penalty

Definition of "Repeat Infraction"

"Repeat Infraction" in the Section of Rule above means a second or subsequent occurrence of any Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction in the same Category within a 48-week period (or in the same year where such provision is within a Rule), within a 96-week period in the case of a Category VI Infraction or within a 192-week period in the case of a Category VII Infraction.

In relation to Categories I, III and IV, only an Infraction committed in the same Code and at the same Level as the previous occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction.

In relation to Categories V, VI and VII, a second occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction irrespective of the Code or Level of the previous occurrence.

(c) Misconduct at Games by Team Officials consists of five Categories of Infractions which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play, and which occur immediately before, during or after a Game:

Category Ia

Being ordered from the Pitch Enclosure on foot of a second Cautionable Infraction.

(1) Fixed Penalty*:* Debarment from the Pitch Enclosure for the duration of the remainder of the game including Extra Time, when played, and may not be replaced.

(2) Fixed Penalty on a second Repeat Infraction (i.e. a third ordering off)*:* One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next game in the Competition in which the third ordering- off occurred, even if that game occurs in the following year's competition.

Category IIa

(i) Abusive language towards a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

(ii) Disruptive Conduct.

Penalties - Notwithstanding provisions in other Rules:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Four weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all levels

and

(ii) A One-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next game in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the four weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Eight weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Two-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the eight weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

Exceptions to (1) and (2) above:

Arising from the National League, the Inter-County Senior Championship or from a combination of both Competitions (all in the same Code), the above Penalties shall be substituted by:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Four weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next game in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the four weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Eight weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the eight weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

Category IIIa

Interference with the playing of the Game.

Penalties - Notwithstanding provisions in other Rules:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Eight weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Two-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the eight weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Sixteen weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Three Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the sixteen weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

Exceptions to (1) and (2) above:

Arising from the National League, the Inter-County Senior Championship or from a combination of both Competitions (all in the same Code), the above Penalties shall be substituted by:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Eight weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the four weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Sixteen weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Three Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level applicable to the next games in the combination of the National League/Inter-County Senior Championship, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the eight weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

Category IVa

(i) Minor physical interference with (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling), threatening or abusive conduct towards, or threatening language to, a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

(ii) Any type of physical interference with an Opposing Player or Team Official.

Penalties:

(1) Minimum:

(i) Twelve weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Two-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the twelve weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

(2) Minimum on Repeat Infraction:

(i) Twenty-four weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels

and

(ii) A Three-Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, which, depending on schedule, may occur within the twenty-four weeks or outside that period in the current or the following year's competition.

Category Va

Any type of assault on a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire 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 Codes and at all Levels.

Alternative Penalty to non-applicable Match Suspensions

When a Match Suspension cannot be applied in full or in part on a team official in the specified Competition, arising from such (non-exhaustive) circumstances as:

(i) The team concerned not being future involved in the specified competition,

(ii) The team official not continuing to be involved with the team concerned:
a two weeks Suspension for each non-applicable One Match Suspension shall be proposed/imposed in the same Code and at same Level (or if not applicable, at an alternative appropriate Level at which the member concerned is involved as a team official).

Infractions of above Rule by Team Officials at Under 17 and Younger Grades

In the case of a Team Official officiating at Games in Under 17 or Younger Grade Competitions committing an infraction of Rule 7.2(c) Category IIa, IIIa, IVa or Va, the minimum time suspension imposed shall be double the minimum specified in the respective category of this Rule.

Definition of "Repeat Infraction"
"Repeat Infraction" in the Section of Rule above means a second or subsequent occurrence of any Misconduct at Games by Team Officials Infraction in the same Category within a 48- week period (or a 192-week period in the case of a Category Va Infraction).
In relation to Categories Ia, IIa and IIIa, only an Infraction committed in the same Code and at the same Level as the previous occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction. In relation to Categories IVa and Va, a second occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction irrespective of the Code or Level of the previous occurrence.

(d) Disruptive Conduct at Games by Players, Team Officials or Supporters, which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play and which occur immediately before, during or after a Game:

(1) Premature Termination of a Game-
By reason of Serious Disruption by Players, Officials or Supporters of a Team.
Penalties: Team – Forfeiture of the Game and Award to the Opposing Team (unless both Teams are responsible), save where there are exceptional mitigating factors involved.
Other Penalties: at the discretion of the Council or the Committee-in-Charge, subject to a Penalty being of a form provided for in Rules 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 or Codes 16.1 to 16.5. inclusive.

(2) Premature Termination of a Game –
By reason of:
(i) A Player(s) refusing to leave the Field when ordered off, or rejoining the Game having been ordered off.
(ii) A Team or Player(s) leaving the Field without the Referee's Permission or Refusing to continue Playing.
Penalties: Team and other Penalties – as in (1) above.
Player(s) who caused Termination – 24 weeks suspension, in addition to any suspension for an Infraction committed in the Game.

(3) Disruptive Conduct by Players, Team Officials or Supporters (not causing the Premature Termination of a Game).

Penalties: shall be at the discretion of the Council or Committee-in-Charge, subject to a Penalty being of a form provided for in Rules 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 or Codes 16.1 to 16.5 inclusive.

(4) The Council or Committee-in-Charge may direct that Units refuse admittance to the Property owned or controlled by the Association to any person, whether or not a member of the Association, if that person is considered to be guilty of Disruptive Conduct at Games.

(e) Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association
This shall include breaches of Rule 1.10 Official Guide Part 1.
Penalties:
Member - A minimum 8 weeks suspension. Debarment and Expulsion from the Association may also be considered.
Team/Unit - Where suspension is deemed appropriate - a minimum of 8 weeks. Expulsion from the Association, Disqualification, a Fine, Deduction of Points in League Competitions (not Championship) may also be considered.

7.3 ENFORCEMENT OF RULES & CODES

Procedures for Disciplinary and Related Hearings

Initiation of Disciplinary Action

(a) The investigation and processing of matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes shall be dealt with by:
   (i) In the case of matters arising from Competitions or Games, the Competition Control Committee of the Council or Committee-in-Charge, and
   (ii) In the case of matters arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games, the Management Committee.

   The Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee may appoint one or more of their number to carry out certain of its functions in connection with any Disciplinary Action.

(b) References in this Rule to the Competitions Control Committee shall be construed as references to the Management Committee in cases of Disciplinary Action arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games.

(c) The Hearings Committee shall adjudicate in all instances where a Hearing is requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes, other than Objections and Counter-Objections.

(d) Disciplinary Action shall commence where:
   (i) a Referee's Report discloses an alleged Infraction,
   (ii) the Competitions Control Committee decides that Disciplinary Action is appropriate arising from Competitions or Games, subject to Rule 7.3 (f), or
   (iii) the Management Committee decides that Disciplinary Action is appropriate arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games.

(e) The Competitions Control Committee may make a written Request for Clarification from a Referee:
   (i) where there is any ambiguity in the Report;
   (ii) where the Competitions Control Committee is in the course of investigating a possible Infraction not stated in the Report (even if the incident itself is disclosed); or
   (iii) Where the Investigation of a possible Infraction as stated in (ii) above arises from a request from a Unit involved in a game, such request shall be received within three days from the official starting time of the game.

(f) Disciplinary Action alleging an Infraction as having occurred on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play, immediately before, during or after a game may only be commenced by the Competitions Control Committee where:
   (i) The Referee's Report discloses the alleged Infraction; or
   (ii) The Referee has failed to submit a report within a period of five days after the Game concerned; or
   (iii) Clarification of the Referee's Report is received stating that the Referee did not adjudicate upon the subject matter of the Request.

(g) The procedural Rules following shall not apply in the cases of the imposition of a specified minimum fine in Rule, Code or Match Regulation or loss of points for failure to fulfil a league fixture, in which cases the Unit concerned shall be entitled only to written notice of the imposition of the penalty, and not to a Hearing from a Hearings Committee.

(h) No Member of the Association may communicate with a Match Official with a view to influencing the contents of a Referee's Match Report. Unauthorised communication in breach of this Rule shall be considered as misconduct discrediting the Association.

Preparation of Charge

(i) Where Disciplinary Action is commenced, the Competitions Control Committee shall investigate the matter in such manner as is expedient, interview such persons (including Match Officials) as they deem appropriate, accumulate such relevant evidence as is made available to it (whether suggestive of the commission of an Infraction or exonerative of the Members or Units concerned), and prepare a Report ("the Disciplinary Report").

A formal Disciplinary Report is not necessary where sufficient detail is contained in a Referee's Report and a copy of the Referee's Report or the applicable part thereof is supplied to the Defending Party, with a covering letter stating the Rule(s) or Code(s) concerned.

In the event that the Competitions Control Committee omits from the Disciplinary Report evidence that is subsequently shown to be relevant, this shall not of itself affect the validity of the Disciplinary Action.

(j) The Disciplinary Report shall contain:

- (i) The identity of any person(s) or Unit(s) against whom Disciplinary Action is being taken ("the Defending Party"),
- (ii) A statement of the alleged infraction quoting the Rule(s), Code(s) and/or Bye- law(s) it is alleged have been breached,
- (iii) Copies of all relevant documents available to the Competitions Control Committee (including, where appropriate, any Referee's Report or the applicable part thereof, and any Clarification received insofar as it contains reference to the Infraction alleged), and
- (iv) A list of witnesses, if any, who will be required to attend the Hearing on behalf of the Competitions Control Committee. This list may be updated at any stage up to 24 hours before any Hearing.

Urgent Cases

(k) In urgent cases, where a Player or Team Official believes that they may be the subject of Disciplinary Action, but has not received Notice of Disciplinary Action, a Player or Team Official may request the Competitions Control Committee to clarify their position. The Competitions Control Committee shall make emergency arrangements on receipt of such a request to check and direct on the position of the Player or Team Official concerned.

Notice of Disciplinary Action

(l) The Hearings Committee may, at any stage of Disciplinary Action, allow any document submitted by any party to that Disciplinary action to be amended. Where a document used in the course of Disciplinary Action prior to a Hearing requires amendment, the party requiring its amendment should notify the other party at the earliest reasonable opportunity of the proposed amendment, and the Hearings Committee shall be entitled to give retrospective effect to any amendment as befits the circumstances.

(m) Where Disciplinary Action is commenced, Notice shall be given to the Defending Party. Central Council shall prescribe Forms of Notice for the assistance of Competitions Control Committees.

(n) Notice shall be given in the manner prescribed for service of Notices under Code 5.3 - Communications.

(o) The Notice shall contain a copy of the Disciplinary Report and shall propose a penalty (not less than the minimum) which in the opinion of the Competitions Control Committee is appropriate under the Rules and Codes of the Association ("the Proposed Penalty").

(p) The Notice shall also advise the Member/Unit of the right to a Hearing, and of the right to call witnesses.

Reply

(q) The Defending Party shall reply within two days from the date and time of receipt by the Defending Party of the Notice and may:

(1) accept the Proposed Penalty, or

(2) request a Hearing, by sending a written Reply.

Central Council shall prescribe Reply Forms for the assistance of Members and Units.

Exceptions: Where the Fixed Penalty for Debarment,

(i) In the case of a Player from playing for the Remainder of the Game, to include any extra-time, set down for non-repeat Category I and II infractions is concerned, or

(ii) In the case of a Team Official from acting in that capacity for the Remainder of the Game, to include any extra-time, set down for a Category Ia Infraction, the member involved shall be entitled only to written notice of the Confirmation of the Penalty initially.

A member may seek a Hearing on any or all Category I or II Infractions (Player) or on a Category Ia Infraction (Team Official) involved only at the point when a Match Suspension, or its time equivalent, is proposed but may request Clarification of the Referee's Report, as provided for in Rule 7.3 (t), at any time from the time of being notified of an alleged Category I or II infraction (Player) or Category Ia Infraction (Team Official) contained in the Referee's Report up to the time of seeking a Hearing on a proposed Match Suspension or its time equivalent.

(r) Where the Defending Party accepts the Proposed Penalty, that Penalty shall be imposed. The Competitions Control Committee shall confirm imposition of the Penalty to the Defending Party by Notice, quoting the Rule(s) or Code(s) under which the Penalty is imposed.

(s) Failure to reply to a Notice of Disciplinary Action within two days from the date and time of receipt of the Notice shall constitute acceptance of the Proposed Penalty.

If it is later proved to the satisfaction of the Hearings Committee that service of the Notice of Disciplinary Action was not effected by the Competitions Control Committee in accordance with this Rule, the Hearings Committee shall direct re- service of the Notice of Disciplinary Action and the matter shall proceed accordingly.

(t) Where the Defending Party requests a Hearing:

(i) The Defending Party shall indicate in their Reply any special requirements with regard to the Hearing (e.g. video playing equipment).

The Defending Party may also submit a written Request for Clarification of the Referee's Report, subject to guidelines issued by Central Council, and that Request and the Clarification received shall be furnished by the Competitions Control Committee to the Hearings Committee and the Defending Party.

Such a request may also be submitted in relation to an alleged Category I or II Infraction, as provided for in Rule 7.3 (p).

(ii) The Competitions Control Committee shall pass a copy of the Notice and the Reply, with all references therein to the 'Proposed Penalty' deleted, to the Secretary of the relevant Hearings Committee, who shall arrange the Hearing and, as soon as possible thereafter, notify the Defending Party and the Competitions Control Committee of the place, date and time of the Hearing, and of any other relevant matters.

Hearings

(u) The Hearings Committee shall preside over any Hearing. The Hearing shall require a quorum of three members of the Hearings Committee, however not more than five members shall preside where the Defending Party is a Youth Member (under 16 years of age). Not more than two members of the Competitions Control Committee shall attend the Hearing to present the evidence contained in the Disciplinary Report.

(v) A member of the Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee, who is a member of any Unit or has a role in relation to any Member, Team or Unit, involved in the proceedings, shall stand down from prosecuting or adjudicating the case.

(w) No Member of the Association may communicate with any member of the Competitions Control Committee or the Hearings Committee with a view to influencing the outcome of the Hearing. Unauthorised communication in breach of this Code shall be treated as Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association. This Rule shall not, however, prevent any witness giving relevant evidence at a Hearing.

(x) Save as provided in Rule 6.6, a Club, Committee or Council shall be represented at any Hearing by a maximum of two of its Full Members.

An Adult Member shall attend personally and may be accompanied by one Full Member of their Club/Unit.

A Youth Member may attend personally and be accompanied by one Full Member of their Club/Unit together with their parent(s) or guardian(s); or can be represented by their parent(s) or guardian(s) accompanied by one Full Member of the Youth Member's Club/Unit.

(y) Where the Defending Party who has requested a Hearing fails to attend it without reasonable explanation, the Proposed Penalty shall be imposed, together with a Fine of €100 in the case of a Club or €300 in the case of a County Committee or Provincial Council.

(z) The Hearings Committee will decide on all matters of procedure and may adjourn Hearings and take such steps as are necessary and appropriate to the Hearing.

(aa) The following Rules of Evidence shall apply:

(1) In general, evidence at a Hearing shall be oral, except that:

(i) Agreed matters of fact may be stated in writing;

(ii) The Hearings Committee shall attach to documentary evidence (including video evidence) such level of reliability as befits it in the circumstances of the Hearing;

(iii) Video evidence introduced by any party shall be admissible provided that:

(a) a copy has been furnished to all other parties within a reasonable period prior to the Hearing, and

(b) the Hearings Committee is satisfied that the video evidence is reliable and unedited;

(iv) Age may be proved with a valid Birth Certificate or valid Passport. The obligation to prove age shall be on the person whose age is in dispute, or the person's Club or other representative Unit;

(v) Where the Defending Party is in the exclusive or best position to prove or disprove a disputed allegation (e.g. for a Club to prove the identity of one of its members) and does not take the opportunity to give evidence on the matter, the Hearings Committee may draw adverse inference from that failure;

(vi) A Referee's Report, including any Clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it;

(vii) A Referee or other Official shall not be required to give oral evidence or to appear for cross-examination;

(viii) After the Hearing, the Hearings Committee may, in its sole discretion, seek Clarification in writing of any matters in the Referee's Report. Any written Clarification or comment by the Referee shall have the same status as the Referee's Report itself but may only be used for the purposes of exoneration of the Defending Party or mitigation of any allegations made against the Defending Party. Such Clarification may not be challenged in any way or made the subject matter of any further Hearing.

(2) The Defending Party may call witnesses to give evidence on its behalf, and it is its own responsibility to secure the attendance of such witnesses. Permission to call an Under 18 witness to give oral evidence in person or remotely, may only be granted where the following have been satisfied:

(i) The Committee must be informed, in advance of the meeting, of the intention to call an Under 18 witness;

(ii) The Committee, hearing the case, deems that the evidence of the Under 18 witness cannot reasonably be brought before the hearing by any other means; or

(iii) The Committee, hearing the case, is satisfied that the parents/guardians of the Youth witness have provided written permission for the witness to give oral evidence, either in person or remotely at a hearing.

(3) No evidence shall be given or submissions made in the absence of any party to the Disciplinary Action unless they fail to attend at the Hearing without reasonable explanation. If evidence is so given through inadvertence, it shall be repeated in the presence of all parties, so that no prejudice is caused to the party previously absent.

(4) A Member deliberately giving false evidence or otherwise misleading a Hearing, whether orally or in writing, on any matter of fact, shall be guilty of Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association and:

(i) If that Member is the Defending Party and the Hearings Committee makes a finding of the Defending Party having misled it on foot of the Hearing itself, the applicable penalty under Rule 7.2(e) shall be imposed by the Hearings Committee without a further Hearing, in addition and consecutive to any other penalty imposed on foot of the Hearing; and

(ii) In all other such cases, Disciplinary Action arising from such infraction shall be commenced and prosecuted under Rule 7.2(e) by the Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee, as applicable under Rule 7.3 (a) (1) and (2).

(5) Evidence or information shall not be accepted or considered unless applicable to a period not longer than 96 weeks prior to the date of the notice of Disciplinary Action.

Exceptions to this provision shall be:

(i) Copy Extracts of Official Records

(ii) Proof of Age

(iii) Where a matter is considered to be of exceptional seriousness by the Hearings Committee concerned for reasons to be set out in writing by that Hearings Committee.

(6) Any 'Proposed Penalty' shall not be disclosed to a Hearings Committee, but if disclosed mistakenly, such disclosure shall not invalidate the Hearing, and it shall be disregarded by the Hearings Committee.

Decision

(bb) The Hearings Committee has the final power to determine all matters of fact and all sources of evidence submitted to the Hearing shall be considered. An Infraction shall be treated as proved if, in the opinion of the Hearings Committee, the Infraction alleged is more likely to have occurred than not to have occurred.

The Hearings Committee may remit a matter for reprocessing to the relevant Committee, with or without recommendations as to procedure.

(cc) Where the Infraction alleged is proven to the satisfaction of a Hearings Committee, the Hearings Committee shall be entitled to impose such penalties as it deems fit, subject to Rule or Code, and with due regard, where appropriate, to Rules 7.2(b) and (c) (as these relate to 'Repeat Infraction') and/ or 7.4(b), and without being bound in any respect by the terms of the Proposed Penalty.

Potential Increase in Penalty

(dd) In the case of any infraction of Rule 7.2 (b) Category III and IV and Rule 7.2 (c) Category IIa and IIIa which is deemed Proven at a requested Hearing, the Hearings Committee, at its sole discretion, may determine that any one of the following positions be applied:

(i) The Hearing had no prospect of success or

(ii) The Hearing request was an abuse of process.

Penalty

An additional One Match Suspension

or

An additional four-week Term of Suspension.

(ee) Subject to the Rules of Evidence above, the Hearings Committee may make a finding that the facts proven disclose an infraction but either:

(i) One less serious than that alleged in the Notice of Disciplinary Action or

(ii) One that differs from that alleged in the Notice of Disciplinary Action but is in the same Category of Infraction.

and may make a decision accordingly.

(ff) Where a player or Team Official who is involved in/with either:

(1) An Inter-County team in a current Championship or National League

or

(2) A Club Team in a current Provincial or All-Ireland Club Championship is reported, within the player's County, as having committed

(i) A Category V Misconduct at Games by Players Infractions or a Category IVa Misconduct at Games by Team Official Infraction and that Player or Team Official, when notified of the commencement of Disciplinary Action against that Player or Team Official, seeks a Hearing, that Hearing shall be conducted by the Provincial Hearings Committee or the Central Hearings Committee, as appropriate, and not the County Hearings Committee or a Divisional/ Other Sub-Committee Hearings Committee.

(ii) A Category VII Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction or a Category Va Misconduct at Games by Team Officials Infraction and that Player or Team Official when notified of the commencement of Disciplinary Action against that Player or Team Official, seeks a Hearing, that Hearing shall be conducted by the Central Hearings Committee, and not the County Hearings Committee or a Divisional/Other Sub-Committee Hearings Committee. Save for these procedural changes, such Disciplinary Action cases shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule 7.3.

(gg) A decision shall be made by a majority of the members of the Hearings Committee presiding over the Hearing. The decision and the Rule(s) or Code(s) under which it was taken shall be recorded and shall be notified to the Competitions Control Committee and the Defending Party. In the event of a Penalty being imposed, the Competitions Control Committee shall record the Penalty.
In the event of an Infraction not being proven, the Hearings Committee shall provide a reason for its decision.

(hh) No decision made on foot of any Hearing shall affect the validity of any decision of the Referee with regard to the allowance or disallowance of a score or award of any free or the playing time allowed, or the validity of any Suspension served prior to the Hearing.

Directive re Non compliance with Disciplinary Rules.docx

7.4 Suspensions

Interpretation of Terms

(a) For the purpose of interpretation of Suspensions and in Rule generally:

(i) "Level" shall mean the representative level at which the Suspension concerned was incurred e.g. Inter- Provincial, Inter-County, Club, Third-Level, Schools etc. Where a Team of one Level is playing a Game or Competition at another Level, e.g. Third-Level College v. County, a Level-specific Suspension incurred by a Player shall apply at the Level of the Team the player was playing with on the occasion of the Infraction.

(ii) "Code" shall mean either Football or Hurling. Handball or Rounders shall likewise be specific Codes.

(iii) "Player" shall mean a person whom the Council or Committee-in-Charge considers to have been a member of a Team panel involved in the Game in question.

(iv) "Team Official" shall mean a person whom the Council or Committee-in-Charge considers to have been a Team Official involved in the Game in question.

(v) "Term of Suspension" is a time-based, in weeks, penalty.

(vi) "Match Suspension" is a suspension,

(a) In the case of a player, from playing in a game in a specified competition, including extra-time when played, or

(b) In the case of a team official, from acting in any capacity at a game(s) in a specified competition, including extra-time when played. This involves the team official concerned being debarred from the Pitch Enclosure before and during the game and from managing, directing, assisting, or communicating with the team in any way before or during the game.

(vii) "Pitch Enclosure" is the area including the Field of Play reserved for players, match officials and team officials.

Gravity

(b) Where a minimum Suspension is prescribed in relation to an Infraction, the Council or Committee-in-Charge shall have due regard for the gravity of Infraction in each case. Where the Council or Committee-in-Charge in their absolute discretion, consider that it is appropriate, they shall impose either:

(i) Additional Match Suspension(s) or a longer Term of Suspension

(ii) A Term of Suspension for a 7.2 (b) Cat III or IV Infraction together with Match Suspension(s).

The Council or Committee-in-charge shall provide reasons for the imposition of a penalty in excess of the minimum.
In exceptionally serious cases the penalties of Debarment from playing or Expulsion may be imposed.

Next Game in Competition

(c) A walk-over shall not constitute the next game in a competition.
A game or competition, the sole purpose of which is to determine qualification or relegation in respect of a following year's Championship or League, shall be deemed to be the 'same Competition' as that of the current year's Championship or League, as applicable.

Effect of a Suspension

(d) A Term of Suspension arising from Category I, III or IV Misconduct at Games Infraction by Players means a Suspension from playing in Games (including Tournaments and Challenge Games) as specified, and from acting as a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.
A Match Suspension involves only, in the case of a player, being suspended from playing in or, in the case of a team official, being suspended, from acting as such at, a game in a specified competition.

(e) A Suspension for all other Infractions provided for in Rule, Code or County Bye-Laws means Suspension from all functions, privileges and Competitions under the Association's control, but not from membership of the Association. In the case of a Team Official, this also includes managing, directing, assisting, or communicating with the team in any way during the period of the time-based suspension.

(f) In the case of disciplinary proceedings involving a member who is in receipt of remuneration under a contract of employment with the Association or with any unit or agent of the Association, a penalty imposed under these Rules shall not prevent the member from fulfilling duties required to be performed under the terms of contract.

(g) In any case where a Suspension has been imposed by a Council or Committee-in-Charge, but the existence of a prior Suspension for a Misconduct at Games Infraction within 48 weeks, 96 weeks or 192 weeks, as appropriate, which would affect the penalty applicable, has not in the first instance been brought to the attention of the Council or Committee- in-Charge, the Council or Committee-in-Charge shall impose such additional penalty as applies to the case.
An additional Term of Suspension imposed shall commence at the date of expiry of the suspension already imposed or from the date of the last Game played, whichever is the later.
An additional Match Suspension(s) imposed shall be applicable to the next games in the specified competition, even if the games occur(s) in the following year's competition.
Where the Council or Committee-in-Charge is satisfied that the failure to disclose the prior Suspension was by reason of deliberate concealment, and that the suspended Player played in any games during the period when the player ought
to have been suspended, the Council or Committee may impose such additional penalty, including Forfeiture of the games (without Award to the Opposing Team, except on a proven Objection) and/or further Suspension, as it deems appropriate.

Term of Suspension

(h) A Term of Suspension shall commence:

(i) In the case of a player sent from the field of play or a Team Official sent from the pitch enclosure, immediately upon the player or Team Official being sent off;

(ii) In the case of illegal participation in a game by a player, the player incurs immediate suspension upon so participating. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Rule, any penalty subsequently imposed on a player arising from such proven illegal participation shall be applicable in all Codes and at all Levels and shall apply from the date of the player's last game played.

Exception: Breach of Code 4.2 does not carry a Penalty on the individual player.

(iii) In the case of a player or Team Official reported by the Referee as having committed a Category V, VI or VII Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction or a Category IVa or Va Misconduct at Games by Team Officials Infraction after the conclusion of the Game, immediately from the time of the Infraction, subject to the player or Team Official being notified in writing forthwith of the report having been made;

(iv) In any other case of Misconduct at Games by a player, from the date of the player's last Game played. Where a Category I (second Repeat Infraction), III or IV Misconduct at Games Infraction is concerned, this shall refer to the last Game in the Code and at the Level in which the Infraction was committed);

(v) In the case of a non-player or any other case of Misconduct at Games by a Team Official, from the date of acceptance of the Proposed Penalty or the expiration of the two days specified in Rule 7.3 (s), whichever is the earlier; or where they seek a Hearing, from the date of the decision of the Hearings Committee.

(i) A Term of Suspension shall be in consecutive weeks except:

(i) Where a Suspension is extended pursuant to part (g) of this Rule after the expiration of the period first imposed;

(ii) Where a period of Suspension has already been served by the Defending Party for the particular infraction which is the subject of the Suspension being imposed, in which case credit shall be given for the period of Suspension already served.

(j) Where a Term of Suspension has been imposed, it shall terminate at the end (12 midnight) of the last day of the term calculated from the day of commencement inclusive.
For example, a Suspension terminates at 12 midnight on a Saturday when the Suspension period commenced on a Sunday.

(k) Match Suspension

(i) Where a Match Suspension (or Alternative Penalty when a Match Suspension is non-applicable as outlined in Rule 7.2, is specified for a particular Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction/Misconduct at Games by Team Officials Infraction), it shall be operative immediately on respectively the player being sent off or the team official being sent from the Pitch Enclosure.

(ii) In the case of a player reported by the Referee as having committed a Category III or IV Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction after the conclusion of the game, the Match Suspension (or Alternative Penalty when a Match Suspension is non-applicable, as outlined in Rule 7.2) shall be operative immediately, subject to the player being notified in writing forthwith of the report having been made.

Penalty for Breach of Suspension

(l) The penalty for illegal participation while under a Term or Match Suspension shall be:

For a Member/Player /Team Official: 24 weeks Suspension
For a Team playing a suspended Player:

(a) Arising from proven Objection-Award of Game to Opposing Team
(b) Arising from an Inquiry by the Council or Committee-in-Charge: Forfeiture of Game without Award of game to the Opposing Team, or Fine, within the discretion of the Council or Committee-in-Charge and depending on the circumstances.

Juvenile Suspensions – Special Rules

(m) Juvenile players participating in Under 16 or younger Grade Competitions shall be subject to penalties for Infractions occurring at Games on the same basis as under the General Rules above, except that:

(i) the minimum Time Suspension imposed for a Rule 7.2(b) Category V, VI or VII Infraction shall be one-half of that otherwise applicable; and
(ii) the penalty for a breach of Playing Membership Requirements (Code 8) or for playing while under Suspension (Rule 7.4(l)) shall be a minimum 4 weeks suspension.

(n) Where a Club is suspended, the Suspension shall not apply to its Juvenile (Under 16 and younger) Section unless specifically included by the Council or Committee-in- Charge.

(o) In the case of a Team Official officiating at Games in Under 17 or Younger Grade Competitions committing an infraction of Rule 7.2(c) Category IIa, IIIa, IVa or Va, the minimum time suspension imposed shall be double the minimum specified in the respective Category of this Rule.

Reduction of Suspensions and other Penalties

(p) A Council or Committee which imposes a Suspension or other Penalty which is more than the minimum provided for, shall have the power on one subsequent occasion to reduce the penalty imposed on application of the Unit or Member affected, subject to as follows or a provided in (q)
below:

(i) It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the said Council or Committee that the Penalty imposed is unduly harsh;
(ii) The Council or Committee may not reduce the Penalty below the minimum provided for in Rule or Bye-law;
(iii) This Rule shall not authorise any Council or Committee to exonerate the penalised Unit or Member, or treat the Unit or Member as having committed any different Infraction; and
(iv) If the original Suspension or other Penalty was varied on an Appeal, the Review Application must be made to the Appellate Committee concerned.

(q) A Council or Committee which imposes a Suspension or other Penalty for a Category VI Infraction shall have the power, on one subsequent occasion, to reduce the penalty imposed on application of the Player affected, where the Player can satisfy the Council or Committee concerned that the player has completed an appropriate course of training or education.
Central Council shall prescribe and provide such appropriate courses of training or education for the assistance of Members and Units (effective September 2025).

Any such reduction shall result in a penalty of not less than

(i) where the Player is over 18 years, a 24 Weeks Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels together with a Four Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, even if one or more games occur(s) in the following year's competition.

(ii) where the player is 18 years or under, a 12 Week Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels together with a Two Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same Level, applicable to the next games in the same Competition, even if one or more games occur(s) in the following year's competition.

7.5 Objections

Submission

(a) An Objection to the award of a Game may be made on behalf of a Team that participated in the Game concerned by the relevant Secretary. An objection may not be made otherwise by a member or any third party.

(b) Objections and Counter-Objections shall be heard by the Competitions Control Committee of the Council or Committee-in-Charge.

(c) An Objection shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee not later than three days after the official starting time of the Game the subject matter of the Objection. A Counter-Objection shall be lodged within three days of the date and time of receipt by the Counter-Objecting Unit of the Objection.

(d) An Objection or Counter-Objection shall:

(i) Set out the grounds for the Objection, with reference to the Rules, Codes and/ or Bye-laws and the numbers thereof, which it is alleged have been breached;

(ii) Be signed by the Secretary of the Club, Committee or Council making the Objection or Counter-Objection; and

(iii) Be accompanied by a fee of €100 in the case of a Club, and €300 in the case of a County Committee or Provincial Council.

(e) In the case of any Objection or Counter-Objection, on being lodged

(i) Referring to an incorrect Rule or Code number where it is clear from the contents what Rule or Code is involved, the Competitions Control Committee, which may act by its Secretary, shall deem it in order;

(ii) Not complying with Code 5.2, the Competitions Control Committee, which may act by its Secretary, shall afford the Objector or Counter-Objector one opportunity to repair the defect(s), in advance of the Hearing. The time allowed to have the documents corrected shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Control Committee, subject to it not being in excess of three days from the time the Objector or Counter-Objector is informed, not necessarily in writing, of the documents not complying.
Other than securing compliance with Code 5.2, no other alterations shall be made to the documents.

(iii) If the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee considers that an Objection or Counter-Objection is out of order, other than as specified in (1) and/or (2) above, the Secretary shall, as a preliminary issue, circulate the document concerned to the Committee for a decision on this issue, without the necessity of convening an 'in person' meeting for this purpose.

(f) In the Gaeltacht, or where Bye-Laws stipulate, Objections and Counter-Objections shall be written, and where feasible, or where stipulated in Bye-Laws, discussed, in the Irish language.

Notice to other parties and Replies

(g) A Copy of the Objection or Counter-Objection shall be sent to the Unit Secretary of the Opposing Team in the Game by the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee as soon as possible and advisedly within three days of receipt of the Objection or Counter-Objection. Failure of the Council or Committee-in-Charge to adhere to this advised time limit shall not invalidate the Objection or Counter- Objection.

(h) The Director-General, Provincial or County Secretary or the Council or Committee- in-Charge shall where possible facilitate access to copies of Official Records (or extracts thereof) relevant to the Objection, on written application of any party specifying the Official Record(s) required.
Application must be made when the Objection or Counter-Objection is submitted.
In Underage Competitions such Copies of Official Records (or extracts thereof) shall be furnished prior to submission of Objection/Counter Objection.

Hearing of Objection

(i) The Competitions Control Committee shall provide a Hearing to the parties to the Objection or Counter-Objection unless a written admission(s) submitted by either or both parties and the Hearing shall be conducted as follows:

(i) The parties to the Objection/Counter-Objection shall be given such notice of the date, place and time of the Hearing as is necessary, having regard to the urgency of the case.

(ii) A Unit shall be represented by up to two of its Full Members.

(iii) No evidence shall be given or submissions made in the absence of any party to the Objection/Counter-Objection unless they fail to attend at the Hearing without reasonable explanation. If evidence is so given through inadvertence, it shall be repeated in the presence of all parties, so that no prejudice is caused to the party previously absent.

(iv) The Rules of Evidence applicable to Disciplinary Hearings shall apply and the Competitions Control Committee shall have the powers and functions ascribed to the Hearings Committee in Rule 7.3 (aa).

(v) The Competitions Control Committee may adjourn, postpone or reschedule the Hearing as it sees fit.

(j) A member of the Competitions Control Committee, who is a member of any Unit or has a role in relation to any Team or Unit involved in the proceedings, shall stand down from the Committee adjudicating the proceedings.

(k) No Member of the Association may communicate with any member of the Competitions Control Committee with a view to influencing the outcome of the Hearing. Unauthorised communication in breach of this Rule shall be treated as Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association. This Rule shall not, however, prevent any witness giving relevant evidence at a Hearing.

(l) Where it is not reasonably possible to proceed with the Hearing of the Objection or Counter-Objection before the date of any fixture in the Competition that could be affected by the outcome of the Objection or Counter-Objection, the Competitions Control Committee shall postpone the fixture.

Decision

(m) A decision shall be made by the Competitions Control Committee on foot of the Hearing. The decision shall be notified to both parties.

(n) An Objection or Counter-Objection may only be upheld on the grounds

(i) that an Infraction has been proven that renders a Party liable to the Penalty of Forfeiture, with Award of the Game to the opposing Team

or

(ii) That it is proven that a score allowed during the course of the Game was either not recorded or incorrectly recorded by the Referee and that error had affected the result of the Game.

An Objection or Counter-Objection based on the Grounds that the Referee had incorrectly allowed or failed to allow a score during play shall be deemed to be out of order.

(o) The Competitions Control Committee may, arising from the Objection or Counter-Objection, commence any Disciplinary Action as in its discretion it deems appropriate.

(p) Where an Objection or Counter-Objection is successful, the fee paid shall be refunded. Where a successful party to an Objection or Counter-Objection is put to cost in proving age for the purpose of the Hearing, the cost shall be refunded by the unsuccessful party.

7.6 Appeals

Right of Appeal

(a) Subject to Rule 7.6(d) and (e) below, a Member or Unit directly involved in any decision made by a Council, Committee-in-Charge or County/Provincial Convention (the Decision-Maker) shall have a right of one Appeal (and one Appeal against the rejection of an Appeal for non- compliance with formalities) as follows:

(i) In respect of decisions of a Divisional Committee or other Sub-Committee formed under Rule 3.17(l), to the County Hearings Committee or as otherwise specified in County Bye-Laws;

(ii) In respect of decisions of a County Committee or a Sub-Committee formed under Rule 3.18 exercising plenary powers, to the Provincial Hearings Committee;

(iii) In respect of decisions of a Provincial Council, to the Central Appeals Committee; and

(iv) In respect of decisions of the Central Council Sub-Committees, to the Central Appeals Committee.

(b) A County Committee (through its Decision-Making Sub-Committee, as appropriate) shall in all cases have a right of Appeal to the Central Appeals Committee against all decisions to which they were a party.

(c) All parties to any original Hearing shall have the right to be present at and participate in the hearing of an Appeal.

(d) International Units (other than Britain) shall make provision for an appeals process within their internal structures. Only in exceptional circumstances, determined by the Central Council's Management Committee, may an appeal against a decision of an Overseas Unit be made to the Central Appeals Committee.

(e) There shall be no Appeal:

(i) Against a decision of the Central Council or of any Unit in implementing such a decision;

(ii) Outside the County, against a decision of a County Committee or, as appropriate in Rule, of one of its Sub-Committees with regard to:

(i) Transfers within a County,

(ii) Grading of Clubs and Players,
(iii) The Administration and Control of County Teams, and
(iv) A decision of a County Hearings Committee in relation to Disciplinary Action initiated by the Executive Committee of a Club; or

(iii) Against a decision of a Competitions Control Committee with regard to arrangements for the date (provided that required notice is given) and venue of a Game, or the appointment of Referees;

(iv) Against a decision of any Competitions Control Committee in the course of the commencement, investigation and preparation of Disciplinary Action. (A grievance relating to any such matter may be raised at a Hearing, and a Decision of the Hearings Committee on such matter may be the subject of an Appeal); or

(v) Against a Decision of a Unit or a Sub-Committee of a Unit by that Unit or another Sub-Committee of the same Unit (e.g. a County Committee or its Management Committee/Competitions Control Committee, may not appeal against a Decision of its own Hearings Committee, and similarly at Provincial and Central levels), except as provided in Rule 3.17(m).

Submission of Appeal

(f) An Appeal shall be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the appellate Hearings Committee, to be received within three days from the date and time of notification of the decision, or, where notification of the decision is not required in Rule, within three days from midnight following the meeting at which the decision is made. Any penalty which has been imposed shall remain in effect notwithstanding the submission of an Appeal.

(g) An Appeal shall be signed by the Appellant, or in the case of an Under 18 Member by a parent or guardian, or in the case of a Club, Committee or Council, by its Secretary, and shall:

(i) Set out the grounds of appeal including (i) the specific Rule(s) claimed to have been infringed or misapplied, and (ii) the facts alleged in support of the grounds;

(ii) Specify whether an Oral Hearing is requested; and

(iii) Be accompanied by a fee of €100 in the case of a Club, an individual Member, or a family unit and €300 in the case of a County Committee or Provincial Council.

(h) In the case of an Appeal, on being lodged:

(i) Referring to an incorrect Rule where the context makes clear what Rule is concerned, the appellate Hearings Committee, which may act by its Secretary, shall deem it in order;

(ii) Not complying with Code 5.2, the Appellate Hearings Committee, which may act by its Secretary, shall afford the Appellant one opportunity to repair the defect(s), in advance of the Appeal Hearing. The time allowed to have the Appeal corrected shall be at the discretion of the Appellate Hearing Committee, subject to it not being in excess of three days from the time the Appellant is informed, not necessarily in writing, of the Appeal not complying. Other than securing compliance with Code 5.2, no other alterations shall be made to the Appeal.

(iii) If the Secretary of the Appellate Hearings Committee considers that an Appeal is out of order, other than as specified in (1) and/or (2) above, the Secretary shall, as a preliminary issue, circulate the document concerned to the Committee for a decision on this issue, without the necessity of convening an 'in person' meeting for this purpose.

(i) In the Gaeltacht, or where Bye-Laws stipulate, Appeals shall be written, and where feasible, or where stipulated in Bye- Laws, discussed, in the Irish language.

Notice of the Appeal and Replies

(j) A Copy of the Appeal, together with notification of the place, date and time of the Appeal Hearing, shall be sent by the appellate Hearings Committee as soon as possible to:

(i) the Decision-Maker;

(ii) in the case of an Appeal arising from an Objection or Counter-Objection, the successful party to the Objection or Counter-Objection.

(k) A copy of any minutes of any relevant Hearing shall be sent by the Decision-Maker to the appellate Hearings Committee.

(l) Where no Oral Hearing is sought by the Appellant, the Decision-Maker and the successful party (in the case of an Objection or Counter Objection) may each send either a Written Reply or a request for an Oral Hearing within three days of their receipt of the Appeal. In the event of an Oral Hearing being sought by any party to the Appeal, then an Oral Hearing shall be held.

(m) Where an Appellant who has submitted an appeal either refuses to take up dates offered for their Appeal or fails to attend at a hearing of the Appeal without reasonable explanation or where the Appellate Committee is of the opinion that the failure to take up dates or attend is for an ulterior purpose benefitting the appellant, the original penalty imposed shall stand.

(n) The Director-General, Provincial or County Secretary or the Council or Committee-in-Charge shall where possible facilitate access to copies of Official Records (or extracts thereof) relevant to the Appeal, on written application of any party specifying the Official Record(s) required.

In the case of any Appeal from Disciplinary Action or an Objection, the only Official Record supplied shall be the official minutes of the Hearing and Decision, the subject of the Appeal, and these shall not include any private deliberations of the Decision- Maker.

Scope and Hearing of Appeal

(o) The Appeal shall be heard as soon as reasonably convenient and the Rules of Procedure set out in Rule 7.3 (u) to (aa) shall apply to the Appeal Hearing, as relevant. However, the Appellant may only call witnesses who gave evidence at the first Hearing.

(p) An Appeal shall be limited to the matters raised in the Appellant's Appeal as originally lodged and shall be upheld only where:

(i) there has been a clear infringement or misapplication of Rule by the Decision-Maker or

(ii) the Appellant's right to a fair hearing has otherwise been compromised to such extent that a clear injustice has occurred.

No determination of fact by the Decision-Maker shall be set aside unless shown to be manifestly incorrect.

Decision

(q) A decision shall be made by the appellate Hearings Committee on foot of the Appeal and such decision shall be notified to the Appellant, the Decision-Maker and any other relevant party. In the event of an Appeal being upheld, the appellate Hearings Committee shall either:
   (i) annul the decision appealed against and direct that no further action be taken by the Decision-Maker,
   (ii) remit the matter for re-hearing or re-processing (with or without recommendations as to procedure), or
   (iii) substitute its own decision on the matter.

(r) The decision shall become effective on the expiry of the period allowed for an appeal against the decision, if applicable, or if a valid appeal is submitted, on the making of a decision on that appeal.

(s) In the event of an appeal being upheld, the fee paid shall be refunded.

Games and Competitions affected by Appeals

(t) It is at the discretion of a Council or Committee-in-Charge to postpone a Game on the basis that an Appeal, not arising from a decision on an Objection or Counter-Objection, is lodged with a higher Body by a Unit involved in the Game.

(u) If a Game involving the Appellant is not played on the scheduled date/time, pending the Hearing by an appellate Hearings Committee, not arising from a decision on an Objection or Counter-Objection, and the Appeal fails, the Game shall be declared lost by the Appellant Unit.

(v) In the event of a Knock-Out Competition proceeding, pending the Hearing of an Appeal, not arising from a decision on an Objection or Counter-Objection, by a Unit, and if the Appeal is successful, the following procedure shall apply:
   (i) The results of Games played in the interim shall stand.
   (ii) The successful Appellant shall play the Opposing Team (unless the latter is disqualified by the Appeal decision) that was involved in the Game not played pending the Hearing of the Appeal. If successful in this Game, the Appellant Team shall progress to the stage that was reached in the Competition, with the Appeal outcome pending.

7.7 Reinstatements

Central Council shall consider and adjudicate on the recommendations made by the Central Appeals Committee for the re-instatement or otherwise of players/members serving a suspension imposed in accordance with Rule.

The Central Appeals Committee shall have absolute discretion in exercising this function but may only consider cases which meet each of the following criteria:

(i) It is not a case of Misconduct at Games or any Infraction committed against a Referee, a Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

(ii) It is a case where strict application of the Rules has resulted in hardship; and

(iii) It is a case that is recommended to it by the Council or Committee which imposed the original penalty.

7.8 Arbitration

(a) In the event of any dispute or difference between any member or unit of the Association with any other member or unit of the Association, as to the legality of any decision made or procedure used by any unit of the Association in pursuance of the Rules, Codes and Bye-Laws of the Association, which cannot be settled by amicable means within the Rules of the Association, such dispute may be referred by either party to Arbitration under the Disputes Resolution Code annexed to these Rules. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Official Guides, the Disputes Resolution Code may be amended from time to time by the Disputes Resolution Authority with the approval of Ard Chomhairle.

(b) Such Dispute Resolution shall be conducted in accordance with that Code and the Arbitration Acts 1954 and 1980 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof. The Rules of the Association and the Laws of Ireland shall govern such Dispute Resolution.

(c) No member or unit of the Association may issue proceedings relating to any such Dispute in any Court of Law in any jurisdiction.

(d) No member or unit of the Association shall refer such Dispute to Dispute Resolution until all available avenues of Appeal under the Rules of the Association have been exhausted.

(e) Disputes arising from or concerning doping control under the Rules of the Association, any rules of the Irish Sports Council or under general law shall not be the subject of any Arbitration under this Rule.

(f) Arbitration shall only apply to Disputes raised by Members/Units from Ireland or Britain. (See Appendix 5).

7.9 Remitted Cases - Constitution of Committees

The Committee/Council concerned (or its respective Management Committee) may appoint temporary members to the Competitions Control Committee and/or Hearings Committee, as necessary, to facilitate the case being dealt with in the following scenarios:

(a) Where a case is remitted for rehearing or reprocessing, with an additional directive that the case be dealt with by a differently constituted Committee(s).

(b) Where a committee by virtue of being unable to reach a quorum, due to conflicts of interest, requires temporary members.

Appendix 1 Interpretations and Definitions

"Rule" shall include, where the context requires, any of the Association's Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations, the Club Constitution, as well as Central Council Codes, Regulations, Directives and Guidelines all of which shall be enforceable in all respects as if their provisions were embodied in the Official Guide, provided however that should any conflict arise between such provisions and the text of the Official Guide, the text of the Official Guide shall prevail.

"Committee" shall include, where the context requires, any particular duly constituted Sub-Committee.

"Penalty" - Where a Penalty is specified is shall mean a minimum penalty.

Singular and Plural - A word importing the singular shall be read as also importing the plural, and a word importing the plural shall be read as also importing the singular.

Gender - A word importing one gender shall, where the context admits or requires, be read as also importing all genders.

Appendix 2
All-Ireland Minor Football Draw/Rotas

2026
Quarter-Finals

Connacht Winners	v	Ulster Runners-Up
Ulster Winners	v	Connacht Runners-Up
Leinster Winners	v	Munster Runners-Up
Munster Winners	v	Leinster Runners-Up

Semi-Finals

Connacht	v	Munster
Leinster	v	Ulster

2027
Quarter-Finals

Connacht Winners	v	Munster Runners-Up
Ulster Winners	v	Leinster Runners-Up
Leinster Winners	v	Ulster Runners-Up
Munster Winners	v	Connacht Runners-Up

Semi-Finals

Connacht	v	Leinster
Munster	v	Ulster

2028
Quarter-Finals

Connacht Winners	v	Leinster Runners-Up
Ulster Winners	v	Munster Runners-Up
Leinster Winners	v	Connacht Runners-Up
Munster Winners	v	Ulster Runners-Up

Semi-Finals

Connacht	v	Ulster
Leinster	v	Munster

Appendix 3
Counties allowed by Central Council to avail of Rules 6.5 (b) (iii) and 6.8 (b) (iii).

(1) Liatroim	(2) Sligeach	(3) Longfort
(4) Ceatharlach	(5) Fear Manach	(6) Cill Chainnigh*
(7) Laois	(8) An Cabhán	(9) Ros Comáin
(10) Cill Mhantáin	(11) An Clár*	(12) Uibh Fhailí*
(13) Tiobraid Árann*	(14) An Iarmhí	(15) Port Láirge*
(16) Ciarraí**	(17) Maigh Eo **	(18) Tír Eoghain**
(19) Ah Mhí**	(20) Doire**	(21) Londain
(22) Luimneach*		

* Denotes Football Only
** Denotes Hurling Only

Appendix 4
THE CLUB CONSTITUTION

Format No. 1 -
Applies to all Clubs - without Licensed Bars Incorporating Articles 1 to 18 Inclusive

Format No. 2(A) -
Applies to all Clubs in the 26 Counties which own/ operate Licensed Bars. Incorporating Articles 1 to 18 inclusive, and additionally Article 19 (as applicable to the 26 Counties).

Format No. 2(B) -
Applicable to all Clubs in the 6 Counties which own/ operate Licensed Bars. Incorporating Articles 1 to 18 inclusive with additions to Rules 3 and 5 as specified, and additionally Article 19 (as applicable to the 6 Counties).

Regulations - Regulations issued to Clubs in the Six Counties and Britain by Central Council.

Format No 1.

1. In these Articles:

"**The G.A.A.**" means the National Governing Organisation for the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes, known as the Gaelic Athletic Association.

"**The Club**" means the Club as set out in Article 2 hereof. "**The Official Guide**" means the

Official Guide of the G.A.A.

"**Executive Committee**" means Officers and ordinary Committee Members together.

"**Secretary**" means the Secretary for the time being, or any person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Club.
"**Real Property**" means the property of the Club of an immovable nature, comprising any Playing Pitches, 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 the Club of a movable nature, comprising all Playing or Sporting equipment of the Club, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets of the Club not already classified as fixtures or fittings on "Real Property", as heretofore defined.

"**Singular and Plural**" A word importing the singular shall be read as also importing the plural, and a word importing the plural shall be read as also importing the singular.

"**Gender**" A word importing one gender shall, where the context admits or requires, be read as also importing all genders.

NAME

2. The official Name of the Club shall be AN CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL _____the English version of which shall be _____G.A.A. Club.

OBJECTS

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

COLOURS

4. The Club Colours shall be_____

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 There shall be four types of Membership of the Club:

5.1.1 FULL MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Over 18 years (i.e. shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A. Honorary Membership may be granted to persons Over 18 years, as defined above, who have rendered exceptional service to the Club or the games or activities of the G.A.A. An Honorary Member shall have the rights of a Full Member, but shall be exempt from paying the Club's Annual Membership Fee.

5.1.2 YOUTH VOTING MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Under 18 and Over 16 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 18th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 16th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A.

5.1.3 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Under 16 and Over 12 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 16th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 12th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A.

(Notes - Child Membership of the Association is for children Under 12years (i.e. shall celebrate their 9th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date)
On expiration of a Child Membership of the Association, a person may apply for Youth Membership of the Association only through a Club for which the Child is eligible to play.)

5.1.4 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Over 18 years, as defined above, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A., but who do not seek full voting rights and rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the G.A.A.

5.2 Full Members (including Honorary Members), Youth Voting Members and Youth Members of the Club will also become Members of the G.A.A.

5.3 Once granted, Full Membership of the Club and the G.A.A. shall continue for life, Youth Voting Membership shall continue to the end of the year in which the Members celebrate their eighteenth birthday, at which time their next membership payment will automatically be as a Full Member, Youth Membership shall continue to the end of the year in which the Members celebrate their sixteenth birthday, at which time their next membership payment will be automatically as a Youth Voting Member, unless in any case the member has been expelled or their resignation in writing has been accepted, in accordance with this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide or Codes.

5.4 The rights of any member of the Club shall be conditional upon the member complying with the provisions of this Constitution and the Official Guide, including payment of any annual membership fee and levies.

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

5.6 An application for Full or Social Membership must be made in the manner prescribed by Central Council and signed by the applicant. The application request must be submitted to the Club Secretary.

5.7 An application for Youth Voting or Youth Membership must be made in the manner prescribed by Central Council and signed by the applicant and one of their parents/guardians. The prescribed electronic Application Form may be completed by one of the Applicant's parents or Guardians and submitted to the Club Secretary, complete with accompanying electronic payment for the prescribed fee.

5.8 An application for Child Membership must be made on the Prescribed Form and signed by the applicant and one of their parents/guardians. Alternatively, a prescribed electronic Application Form may be completed by one of the Applicant's parents or Guardians and submitted to the Club Secretary, complete with accompanying electronic payment for the prescribed fee.

5.9 Applications for Full Membership shall be brought by the Club Secretary to a meeting(s) of the Club Executive for approval. Applications for membership shall be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. In accordance with Rule 2.1(b) of the Official Guide, membership of the Association shall only be granted by a club, to persons who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Gaelic Athletic Association, as stated in the Official Guide. A list, in alphabetical order, of the names and addresses of all club members shall be retained by the Club Secretary and/or kept safely on the club premises. Only a full member who has satisfied the condition of Rule 4.1 of the Official Guide may be nominated for or elected to any Elective Office referred to in the Official Guide.

5.9.1 Persons shall not be admitted to any of the privileges of Membership until after their election by the procedures stated in this Article.

5.10 If and when the Application for Membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the new Member's particulars shall be submitted by the Club Registrar to the Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration, for Registration and allocation of a personal membership number.

DISCIPLINARY POWERS AND PROCEDURES

5.11.1 The Executive Committee shall have the power to investigate and process matters relating to alleged breaches of this Constitution or the Official Guide by Club members in the same manner as a Competitions Control Committee or a Management Committee in Chapter 7 of the Official Guide. It shall follow the procedures set out in Rule 7.3. Where a Defending Party seeks a Hearing, it shall be provided by the County Hearings Committee. There shall be no appeal against a decision of Hearings Committee in relation to Disciplinary Action initiated by the Executive Committee.

5.11.2 A penalty imposed by the Executive Committee applies within the Club only. Where the Executive Committee decides to initiate Disciplinary Action and to propose a penalty which would apply outside of the Club, the matter shall be transferred to the County Management Committee or the County Competitions Control Committee, as appropriate, for further processing, following receipt of the Reply to Notification of Disciplinary Action or the expiration of the two days provided in Rule for receipt of same.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1 The Annual Subscription to be paid by members of the Club shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

6.2 The determined Annual Subscription shall be payable on election and thereafter annually, in advance of the date and in the manner decided by the Executive Committee. The date set shall be on a date on or before March 31st each year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of an Executive Committee, and it shall be the controlling body of the Club.

7.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Registrar, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Communications Officer, Children's Officer, Coaching Officer, one Players' Representative, and at least five, but not more than ten other Full Members.

7.3 Nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be by any two Full Members or Youth Voting Members (which may include the nominee) whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with article 6.2 and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide or Codes.

7.4 The Executive Committee, shall be elected by the Full Members and Youth Voting Members, present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Exceptions: The Children's Officer, Coaching Officer and the Officer for Irish Language and Culture, and the Players' Representative, who shall have participated as a player with the Club within the previous 48 weeks, shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the outgoing Executive Committee. In default of such a selection, the Executive Committee shall select the Players' Representative for recommendation to the Annual General Meeting.

7.5 Only Full Members and Youth Voting Members, whose Membership Fees are paid up to date in accordance with Article 6.2 and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution, Rules of the Official Guide or Codes, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

7.6 The outgoing Executive Committee shall conduct the Annual General Meeting.

7.7 The Executive Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting.

7.8 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each quarter, and four members present shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

7.9 The Chairperson, when present, shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; in their absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside.

7.10 If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent, the Committee shall appoint a member present to preside at the Meeting.

7.11 The Secretary shall record the Minutes of each Meeting. If the Secretary is absent, the Committee shall appoint a member present to record the Minutes.

7.12 The Minutes shall specify the date of the Meeting, those present, and a brief account of the Meeting, and shall be read to the next Meeting.

7.13 Such Minutes, if agreed as being accurate or having been appropriately amended, shall be signed by the Chairperson and Secretary, having been first proposed, seconded and adopted.

7.14 The Executive Committee shall have the sole right to appoint Sub-Committees and Managers/Coaches/Selectors of teams as required.

7.15 The Executive Committee shall define the duties of such Sub-Committees, and retain control in all matters and activities which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Club, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such Sub-Committees.

7.16 The Executive Committee shall have power to nominate the Chairperson of such Sub Committees.

7.17 The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be ex- officio members of all Sub-Committees.

7.18 The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such Regulations as they deem necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Club, and in particular, but not exclusively, they may by such Regulations set out:

(a) The terms and conditions upon which guests, children of members of the Club and visitors shall be permitted to use the premises and property of the Club;

(b) The times of opening and closing the Pavilion Grounds and Premises of the Club, or any part thereof;

(c) The conduct of members of the Club in relation to one another;

(d) The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Club's premises for any particular time or times, or for any particular purpose or purposes subject to the consent of Central Council;;

(e) And generally all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of this Constitution.

7.19 Motions to County Convention shall be submitted as per Rule 3.12 of the Official Guide.

7.20 The Executive Committee shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient, to bring to the notice of members of the Club all such Regulations and all alterations and repeals.

7.21 All such Regulations so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding upon all members of the Club, provided nevertheless that no Regulations shall be inconsistent with or shall affect or repeal anything contained in this Constitution, Rules or the Official Guide and Codes, and that any Regulations may be set aside by a special resolution of a General Meeting of the Club.

7.22 Each Full Member shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon any complaint or representation sent by the Full Member, in writing, to the Secretary.

7.23 A Special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called:

(a) by the Secretary or

(b) by the Secretary, for a date not more than seven days from the date of the receipt by the Secretary of a requisition duly signed by four members of the Executive Committee.

(c) Such requisition shall set out the purpose for which the special meeting is required.

7.24 Any Member of the Executive Committee who shall have absented themselves from three consecutive meetings, without reasonable explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

7.25 Should any Member of the Executive Committee resign, be deemed to have resigned, or their position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall, at their discretion, have the power to fill the vacancy, by co-opting a replacement from the body of the Full Membership.

7.26 The service of any Member so co-opted on to the Executive Committee shall not be reckoned in calculating the length of service such Member, if subsequently elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The Club shall in each year hold a general meeting as its Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other General Meetings in that year and shall specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it.

8.2 All General Meetings, other than Annual General Meetings, shall be called Special General Meetings.

8.3 An Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee. The Annual General Meeting shall not be held later than 30th November without the prior approval of the County Committee.

8.4 The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

(a) Adoption of Standing Orders.

(b) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.

(c) Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary.

(d) Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s).

(e) The Chairperson's Address.

(f) Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

(g) Notices of Motion.

(h) Other Business

Note: "Other Business" does not include the appointment of Managers/Coaches/Selectors of teams which is the business of the Executive Committee of the Club.

8.5 The Annual General meeting of the Club shall be called in the following manner:

8.5.1 The Executive Committee shall decide upon a date, time and place for the meeting, allowing adequate time to meet the time limits set out hereunder.

8.5.2 Once the date of the Annual General Meeting has been fixed, the Secretary shall give at least twenty-one days notice in writing, electronically and/or otherwise, to the members of such date, at the same time inviting nominations for election to the Executive Committee for the following year and motions for consideration at the Annual General meeting, also specifying that such nominations and motions shall be received by the Secretary by a date not less than fourteen days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

8.5.3 The Secretary shall then, on or after the date specified for return to the secretary of such Nominations and Motions, but so as to give the members seven days clear notice before the meeting, circulate, electronically and/or otherwise, to the members the following documentation:

(a) Copy of the Agenda for the meeting.
(b) Copy of the Annual Report of the Secretary.
(c) Copy of the Financial Statements, including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s)
(d) Details of the Nominations for election to the Executive Committee.
(e) Copies of any motions for consideration at the meeting.

8.6 In the event of the number of Nominees for any particular Executive Committee position being equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, such Nominees shall be declared elected, and any positions left unfilled, due to the lack of Nominees or Nominees withdrawing, shall be filled by the new Executive Committee, as soon as practical after the Annual General Meeting.

8.7 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time, provided ten days clear notice, in writing, shall be given to the members, specifying the purpose of such Special General Meeting,

8.8 The Executive Committee shall call a Special General Meeting for a date not more than twenty one days from the receipt by the Executive Committee of a requisition, in writing, signed by twelve members of the Club, and ten clear days' notice, in writing, shall be given to the Members.

8.8.1 Such Requisitions by members of the Club shall set out the purpose for which the Special General Meeting is required, and shall be lodged with the Secretary.

8.8.2 If the Special General Meeting is not called for a date within the twenty one days stipulated, then the Requisitoners may themselves convene a Special General Meeting. If requested, the County Secretary shall assist the Requisitioners in convening the Special General Meeting.

8.9 No other business, outside that specified in the Notice, shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.

8.10 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
Save as herein otherwise provided, 20 Full Members and Youth Voting Members eligible to vote shall be a quorum at a General Meeting for any club with a membership of 100 or less. The quorum shall increase by 1 for every 20 members thereafter, up to membership of 1,200. The quorum for clubs with a membership above 1,200 shall be 75.

8.11 If within half an hour after the time appointed for a General Meeting, a quorum of members is not present, the meeting if convened on the requisition of members shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned and be rearranged at a date and time to be decided by the Executive Committee, provided the reconvened meeting takes place within 14 days of the original meeting; and if at the reconvened meeting a quorum of members is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the members then present shall be a quorum.

8.12 The Chairperson, and failing the Chairperson the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside as Chairperson at every General Meeting of the Club.

8.13 If there is no such Chairperson, or if at any meeting the Chairperson is not present within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, the members then present shall choose someone of their number who is a member of the Executive Committee to be Chairperson of the meeting, and if there shall be no

Member of the Executive Committee present, then the members shall elect any one of their number to be Chairperson of the Meeting.

8.14 The Chairperson may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any reconvened meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

8.15 Failure to comply strictly with the time limits set out in this Constitution, Rules and Codes or the non-receipt of Notice of a Meeting by any persons entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting, but shall entitle the majority of members present to seek and be granted an adjournment of the meeting to such date by which they would be given an adequate time to be furnished with and consider the contents of any relevant documentation.

VOTING

9.1 Only Full and Youth Voting Members whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with article 6.2, and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution, Rules or the Official Guide and Codes, shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting. The onus shall be on the member to prove that the member has paid their subscription.

9.2 A Chairperson of a General Meeting, Executive Committee meeting or any Sub-Committee meeting shall, in the event of a tie, whether on a
show of hands or on a ballot, have a casting vote in addition to their vote as a member, irrespective of whether or not the member had originally voted on the issue, other than for the election to any position, when the outcome in the event of a tie shall be decided by lot. The first person chosen shall be deemed the winner of the tie.

9.3 At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless, before or on the declaration of the result of the show
of hands, a ballot is demanded:

(a) by the Chairperson

(b) by at least five members present and entitled to vote.

9.4 Unless a ballot is so demanded, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has on the show of hands been carried, or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, shall be final, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the Club shall be conclusive evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes in favour of or against such resolution.

9.5 If a ballot is so demanded, the same shall be taken in such manner as the Chairperson directs, and the result of the ballot shall be deemed to be the decision of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.

9.6 A Secret Ballot shall be carried out to decide the result of any contest for any elective position.

ASSETS AND TRUSTEES

10.1 All property owned by a Club is held upon Trust for the benefit of the Club concerned. The Trust is subject to and governed by the provisions of the Official Guide and the Code on Trusts of Property, both as amended from time to time.
All such property shall be vested in the Corporate Trustee and/or a number of full members as Trustees.

10.2 The powers of the Club in relation to Real, Personal and Intellectual Property are set out in Rule 5.2 of the Official Guide.

10.3 The powers of the Trustees are set out in the Code in relation to Trusts of Property adopted by Central Council in accordance with Rule 5.3 (c) of the Official Guide.

BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS

11.1 The Executive Committee shall open an Account (or additional Accounts that are approved by the Club Executive) with an approved Financial Institution on behalf of the Club, and all cheques and or electronic transfers authorised in writing drawn on the said account shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by one of either the Chairperson or Secretary. Only the Executive Committee may open account(s) on behalf of the club.

11.2 The Executive Committee shall cause proper Books of Account to be kept in respect of:

(a) All sums of money received and expended by the Club, and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditures take place; and

(b) All Sales and Purchases of goods by the Club; and

(c) The Assets and Liabilities of the Club.

11.3 The Books of Account shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Committee shall think fit, and shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the members of the Executive Committee.

11.4 The Executive Committee shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places, and under what conditions and regulations, the Accounts and Books of the Club, or any of them shall be open to the inspection of Full Members of the Club not being an Executive Committee member, and no member (not being an Executive Committee Member) shall have any right of inspection of any Account or Book or Document of the Club except as authorised by the Executive Committee.

11.5 An independent suitably qualified Person or Persons shall be appointed as Accountant(s) or as Auditor(s) to report on the Accounts/Financial Statements of the Club for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. Where gross annual income exceeds €250,000/£250,000 the Accounts/Financial Statements are required to be audited. A copy of the Accounts/Financial Statements, as adopted and approved, shall be submitted to the Cunty Committee within four weeks of the date of the Annual General Meeting.

11.6 The Books and Accounts of the Club shall be presented to such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) by the Committee in sufficient time to enable the Report of such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) to be available and considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

11.7 The Financial Statements shall be approved by the Executive Committee, and signed by two of three Officers – Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer – on behalf of the Executive Committee.

11.8 The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared and laid before the Annual General Meeting an Account of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet made up to a date not more than six months before such meeting.

11.9 Annual Accounts/Financial Statements shall be kept and made available to the relevant tax authorities.

11.10 The end of the Club Financial year shall be September 30th.

11.11 Similar provisions to the above shall apply to Clubs entitled to and availing of the provisions of Article 15 below.

INCOME AND PROPERTY

12.1 No portion of the Income and Property of the Club shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit, dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever to the Members of the Club.

12.2 No Officer shall be appointed to any Office within the Club paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club in respect of such Office, provided however nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of:

(a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any Member or Officer of the Club for any services rendered to the Club (other than as an Officer);

(b) reasonable and proper remuneration to any company of which a Member or Officer of the Club is a director or shareholder, for any services rendered to the Club;

(c) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% per annum on money lent by Officers or other Members of the Club to the Club;

(d) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by Officers or other Members of the Club (including any Officer) to the Club;

(e) reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club;

(f) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member, holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

WINDING UP

13.1 A resolution to Wind Up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

13.2 Any decision to Wind Up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the County Committee.

13.3 If upon such Winding Up, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate County Committee of the G.A.A., to be used or disposed of as such County Committee shall direct, but shall in no instance pay or distribute such property amongst Officers, Members or Employees of the Club. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to the extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under the virtue of the Income and Property clause thereof.
Final accounts shall be prepared and submitted that shall include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.

ADDITIONS TO AND ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLES

14.1 Additions to and Amendments of this Constitution may be made at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, providing that the Resolution proposing same is carried by a vote of three-fifths of the members present, entitled to vote and voting, that same do not conflict with the Official Guide, and that approval is given by the County Management Committee for the change(s).

14.2 Members wishing to propose Additions to or Amendments of this Constitution must send notice of the proposed Additions or Amendments in writing to the Secretary not later than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting as provided by Article 8.7 hereof.

14.3 Where appropriate, no Addition, Alteration or Amendment shall be made to or in the provisions of the Main Object(s) (3), Books and Accounts (11), Income and Property (12) and the Winding-Up (13) Clauses in this Constitution for the time being in force, unless the same shall have been previously approved, in writing, by the relevant tax authorities.

LARGE CITY OR URBAN CLUBS

15. A large City or Urban Club with major commercial and property interests may have a Club Committee Structure at variance from the standard structures outlined in this Constitution, to ensure proper organisation and governance of its commercial, property and allied financial activities.

Such structure shall be subject to Club General Meetings of Full and Youth Voting Members in:

(a) The Appointment of Committee Members who have responsibility for commercial property and allied financial activities.

(b) The submission for approval of Annual Reports.

(c) Like provisions of Article 11 above being applicable, including Annual Financial Audited Accounts of the commercial, property and allied financial activities being prepared and laid before an Annual General Meeting.

(d) The provisions of Articles 10 and 12 of this Constitution being complied with. A Club Structure, as envisaged by this Article, shall have the approval of the County Management Committee in advance of it being implemented.

COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF OFFICIAL GUIDE

16. This Constitution shall be read in conjunction with and subject to the Official Guide.

INTERPRETATION OF CLUB CONSTITUTION

17. A Club's General Meeting of members may appoint a Committee with the sole responsibility for the Interpretation of the Club's Constitution (with the exception of Articles 5.11.1 and 5.11.2) and of any bye-laws and regulations made herein. It shall be named - "The Club's Interpretation of Club Constitution Committee"
If the absence of the appointment by a General Meeting of members of an Interpretation of Club Constitution Committee, the Executive Committee shall by default have this responsibility. A decision of the Interpretation of Club Constitution Committee or the Executive Committee, as applicable, upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for, shall be final and binding on the members, subject to appeal to the Hearings Committee of the County Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 5.11.1. Beyond this, a member, or the club may exercise its right in accordance with Rule 7.8 of the Official Guide.

GENERAL

18.1 A Notice may be given by the Club to any Member in accordance with Code 5.3.

18.2 The failure to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

18.3 This Constitution shall be taken as an amendment of and in substitution for any existing Constitution of _____G.A.A. Club as of the_____ day of _____

As part of Format No. 2(A)
FOR THE ADOPTION OF CLUBS WHICH OWN/ OPERATE LICENSED BARS IN THE 26 COUNTIES

DISTRIBUTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR

19.1 No Member, Officer, Committee Member, Manager or Employee of the Club shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquors therein, or in the profits arising from such sale.

19.2 Except in the case of a group visiting the Club, as provided for by Section 30 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2000, a visitor shall not be supplied with excisable liquor in the Club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member of the Club, and that such member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the Club Premises or immediately upon their being supplied with such liquor enter their own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book kept for that purpose, and which shall show the date of each visit.

19.3 No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied for consumption outside the Premises of the Club except to members of the Club between the hours of 8 o'clock in the morning and 10 o'clock at night.

19.4 No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied on the Club Premises to any person under eighteen years of age.

19.5 (1) Subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph (2) of this Article, no excisable liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club Premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) or be consumed on the club premises by any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) -

(a) at any time on Christmas Day;

(b) on any other day, as specified hereunder, outside the times so specified in respect of it-

(i) Saint Patrick's Day: between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;

(ii) the 23rd December: if it falls on a Sunday, between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m;

(iii) Christmas Eve: between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.;

(iv) the eve of any public holiday (other than Christmas Eve):

(I) if the eve falls on a weekday, between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day, or;

(II) if it falls on a Sunday, between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;

(v) any other Sunday (except a Saint Patrick's Day which falls on a Sunday): between 12.30 p.m. and 11 p.m.;

(vi) any other Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday: between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.; and

(vii) any other Friday or Saturday: between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day.

Notes:

(1A) The hours specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) in respect of any day specified in that paragraph are in addition to the period between midnight and 12.30 a.m. on that day, where that period is included in the hours so specified in respect of the eve of that day.

(1B) In subsection (1), 'public holiday' has the meaning given to it by the Organisation of Working time Act, 1997.

19.6 Nothing contained in the Registration of Clubs Acts, 1904 to 2003 or contained, by virtue only of the operation of paragraph (1) of this Article, shall operate to prohibit the supplying for consumption on the Club Premises of excisable liquor to any person or the consumption of excisable liquor on the Club premises by any person:

(a) on Christmas Day, between 12.00 midday and 10.00 p.m. or

(b) on any other day, for one hour after the expiration of any period

(c) in respect of that day during which it is lawful for the Club, by virtue of subsection (1) (b), to supply any excisable liquor for consumption on the Club premises.

If in each case the excisable liquor is-

(i) ordered by or on behalf of that person at the same time as a substantial meal is ordered, and

(ii) consumed by that person during the meal or after the meal has ended.

19.7 Notwithstanding the previous provisions of Article 19, any sale, supply and consumption of excisable liquors in the building or grounds of the Club permitted under the Intoxicating Liquor Acts or any amendments thereto shall be lawful and not a breach of the Rules of this Club.

As part of Format 2(B)
FOR THE ADOPTION OF CLUBS WHICH OWN/OPERATE LICENSED BARS IN THE SIX COUNTIES

Amendments to Articles 1-19 inclusive

Add as Article 3.1.2

The Club is defined as a Sporting Club within the terms of the Registration of Clubs (N.I.) Order 1996 (or as amended from time to time) which states 'Sporting Club' means a Club occupying a hereditament to which Article 31 of the Rates (N.I.) Order 1997 applies (Rates Relief) being a hereditament which is used solely or mainly for the purposes of physical recreation.

Add to Article 5.1.1

No persons shall be allowed to become Honorary Members of the Club or be relieved of the payment of the regular entrance fees or subscription, except those possessing the qualifications defined in this Rule, and subject to the conditions and regulations specified in the Rules.

Add as Article 5.1.4

Persons shall not be admitted in such numbers to membership not carrying rights of voting in relation to the affairs of the Club as will result in the number of members not having such rights being three times the number of members having such rights.

Distribution of Intoxicating Liquor

19.1 No Member, Officer, Committee Member, Manager or Employee of the Club shall have any personal interest in the supply of intoxicating liquor therein, or in the profits arising from such supply of intoxicating liquor.

19.1.1 No person shall be paid at the expense of the Club any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to the purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club.

19.1.2 No person shall, directly or indirectly, derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club, or members or guests, apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole.

19.2 Except in the case of a group visiting the Club, as provided for by paragraph 19.10, a visitor shall not be admitted to or supplied with intoxicating liquor in the Club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member of the Club, and that such member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the Club Premises enter their own name and the name and address of the visitor in a

book kept for that purpose and which shall show the date of each visit.

19.3 No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for consumption outside the Premises of the Club.

19.4 No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied on the Club Premises to any person under eighteen years of age.

19.5 Subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph 19.2 of this Constitution, no intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club Premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises) or be consumed on the Club premises by any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club Premises)

19.5.1 Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied, obtained or consumed in the Club premises except during permitted hours.

19.5.2 Any bar on the premises of the Club shall be kept closed except during permitted hours.

19.5.3 Permitted Hours:

(i) On weekdays, other than Good Friday and Christmas Day, from 11.30 a.m to 11.00 p.m.

(ii) Good Friday from 5.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

(iii) Sundays and Christmas Day from 12.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

19.5.4 Exception: As provided in Article 25 of the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 (or as amended from time to time), the Club shall not prohibit the consumption of intoxicating liquor during the first 30 minutes after the conclusion of permitted hours.

19.5.5 The Club shall not supply intoxicating liquor outside permitted hours unless it has obtained the necessary permission as described in Article 26 of the Registration of Clubs Order (NI) 1996 (or as amended from time to time).

19.6 The same person, except where that person is a parent, husband, wife or child of a member, shall not be admitted as a guest of a member to the Club premises on more than 20 days in any period of 12 months.

19.7 A person, on the payment of a fee to the Club in respect of any day may use on that day such facilities as the Executive Committee or the governing body of the Club may determine and paragraph 19.2 shall not apply to that person in respect of that day.

19.8 Intoxicating liquor shall not, in a registered Club, be supplied or obtained or consumed by, any person other than a member or a guest of a member or an employee of the Club.

19.9 A member shall be responsible for their guest strictly observing the rules and shall not leave the club premises before their guest and a guest, shall not be supplied with intoxicating liquor in the Club premises unless upon invitation and in the company of a member.

19.10 Admission of visiting teams etc:

(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs 12 and 14 of Schedule 1 Registrations of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 (or as amended from time to time) or any rule required to be made by those paragraphs by the Club, where a team or a body of persons who are, as members of another club (whether registered or not), society or organisation, visiting the Club for the purpose of taking part in or in the organisation of or arrangements for, any pastime, sport, game or recreation at the Club, an official of the Club may enter in the book required to be kept by that paragraph 12 the name of the club, society or organisation visiting the Club and number of persons without specifying their names and addresses, and

intoxicating liquor may be supplied to such persons at the request and in the presence of an official of the Club on the occasion of that visit.

(2) The admission of persons to whom paragraph (1) applies shall be disregarded for the purposes of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Registration of Clubs Order (NI) 1996 (or as amended from time to time).

19.11 Any supply or consumption of intoxicating liquor in the buildings or grounds of the club permitted under the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 (or as amended from time to time) and any extensions and amendments thereto shall be lawful and not a breach of the Rules of the Club.

19.12 A list, in alphabetical order, of the names and addresses of every official and member shall be kept on the premises of the Club.

Regulations Issued to Clubs in the Six Counties and Britain by Central Council.

(1) Issued under Rules 2.1 and 2.2 Official Guide to clarify Article 5 Club Constitution:
"Membership, under Articles 5.1.1 to 5.1.3 inclusive of the Club Constitution, shall be open to the community as a whole, without discrimination, except insofar as is a necessary consequence of the requirements of the Games of Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders, and such other Games as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress, for promotion and control by the Gaelic Athletic Association, and Articles 5.1 to 5.1.3 shall be interpreted accordingly."

(2) Issued under Rule 3.5 Official Guide to clarify Article 13 Club Constitution:
"Under Article 13.3 Club Constitution, the County Committee shall direct that only property remaining after Winding Up of a Club, upon satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be applied for one of the purposes listed at paragraph 5 (a) to (c) of Schedule 18, Finance Act 2002."

(3) Issued under Rule 1.8 Official Guide to clarify Article 12 Club Constitution:
"The Club is amateur and non-profit making in status. Any surplus income or gains shall be reinvested in the Club, and there shall not be any distribution of Club assets, in cash or in kind, to members or third parties."

Appendix 5

Disputes Resolution Code

1. The Disputes Resolution Authority and Jurisdiction

1.1 An Authority known as The Disputes Resolution Authority shall be established. It shall be independent of the Association and be bound only by the Provisions of this Code. It shall consist of a Secretary, who shall be appointed for a term or terms, none of which shall exceed three years, by Congress on the nomination of Central Council. If a vacancy occurs between Congresses, it shall be filled by the Central Council, and the appointment shall be ratified at the following Congress.

The Secretary shall have power to appoint Deputies and/or Assistants.

The Secretary shall maintain a Panel of not fewer than 30 persons, made up of not fewer than 15 persons who have qualified as solicitors or barristers or arbitrators (Group 1), and not fewer than 15 persons without such qualification, who, by virtue of their experience and expertise in the affairs of the Association, are properly qualified to resolve disputes relating to the Rules and of the Association (Group 2).

The Secretary's selection of Members of the Panel shall be ratified by Central Council. No serving Officer at County, Provincial or National level shall be eligible for the panel.

1.2 The Disputes Resolution Authority shall be indemnified in respect of all costs, expenses and liabilities by the Association and shall lay an account of its business before Central Council (or its appointed subcommittee) on an annual basis. The Disputes Resolution Authority shall not be liable for anything done or omitted in the discharge or purported discharge of its functions unless the act or omission is shown to have been in bad faith.

1.3 The Rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association (including Codes, Bye-Laws, Regulations, and Interpretations of Rules by Central Council applicable to the decision, the subject matter of the dispute) ("the Rules") and the Laws of Ireland shall govern and be applied to any issue between disputing parties. The Tribunal (as defined in Section 5) shall make such enquiries, seek such opinions and evidence, and make such orders as it considers fit, subject to this Code and to Law.

1.4 In all matters in which the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority has a function under this Code, he/she may appoint a deputy to act in the Secretary's place where, for reasons of practicality, he/she is not in a position to act. Such Deputy shall have all the powers and functions of the Secretary when acting with Secretary's authority.

2. Request for Dispute Resolution

2.1 Any party to a dispute governed by this Code who seeks a determination ("the Claimant") must submit to the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority

a written request for dispute resolution proceedings ("the Claim") containing the following details:

(a) the names and addresses of all parties to the dispute and their dates of birth if under the age of eighteen;

(b) a brief statement describing the nature and circumstances of the dispute, and specifying the remedy claimed;

(c) copies of any rules, codes, regulations, bye-laws, rulings or legal authority relevant to the claim;

(d) a statement of any matters on which the parties have already agreed in relation to the conduct of the dispute resolution proceedings, or proposals (if any) in relation to such conduct;

(e) Confirmation that all available avenues of appeal under the Official Guide have been exhausted; and

(f) A statement that the contents of the Claim are true and accurate. A prescribed form is set out at the end of this Code, and the Secretary may publish updated prescribed forms for Claims under this Rule.

2.2 The Claim shall be notified to the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority as soon as possible after all available appeals within the Rules have been completed, and in any event within 7 days of the last decision, and no Claim shall be entertained after that date, unless the Secretary is satisfied that there is good reason for extending the time.

2.3 The Claim shall be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of €1,000 towards the expenses of The Disputes Resolution Authority, which amount shall be reviewed by the Secretary on an annual basis and notified to Central Council in the audited accounts. At the end of any Dispute Resolution proceedings, the total expenses of The Disputes Resolution Authority in the proceedings shall be calculated and the Tribunal (as defined in Section 5) may direct that the expenses be paid by such party or parties as it deems appropriate, and for this purpose may require that any successful Claimant be reimbursed in respect of the deposit by any unsuccessful parties.

2.4 The Claimant must serve a copy of the Claim together with copies of any documents supplied to the Secretary on the other party or parties ("the Respondent") as well as on the Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The Claimant shall confirm in writing to the Secretary when submitting the claim that such documents have been duly served. The date of receipt by the Secretary of the claim shall be the date the dispute resolution proceedings commenced ("the Commencement Date").

3. Response by Respondent

Within 7 days, or such extended, or in cases of special urgency, reduced, time limit as the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority may impose and notify to the Respondent, of the Commencement Date, the Respondent may send to the Secretary a response ("the Reply") containing the following details:

(a) a response by way of admission or denial of each statement in the Claim;

(b) a brief statement of the nature and circumstances of any applicable counterclaim being made;

(c) comment in response to any statements contained in the Claim on matters relating to the conduct of the dispute resolution proceedings;

(d) confirmation that all available avenues of appeal under the Official Guide have been exhausted; and

(e) a statement that the contents of the Reply are true and accurate. and shall confirm in writing to the Secretary that a copy of the Reply together with copies of any documents supplied to the Secretary have been duly served on the Claimant, on any other Respondents and on the Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association. A prescribed form is set out at the end of this Code and the Secretary may publish updated forms for Replies under this Rule.

4. Mediation

4.1 The Disputes Resolution Authority shall encourage mediation and negotiations where practical, and shall, if requested and otherwise at the Secretary's discretion, notify the parties of the names and contact details of persons willing and able to assist in the amicable resolution of disputes within the Rules of the Association.

4.2 Mediation and negotiation shall be without prejudice to the dispute resolution proceedings and may take place and continue at any time during the dispute resolution proceedings.

5. The Tribunal

Authority shall be decided by a Tribunal ("the Tribunal") of three persons selected from The Disputes Resolution Authority's Panel, at least one of whom shall be selected from Group 1 and at least one of whom shall be selected from Group 2 of the Panel.

5.2 Every person conducting dispute resolution proceedings under this Code must be independent and impartial, and must never act as advocate for any party.

5.3 The Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority shall provisionally select the Tribunal from The Disputes Resolution Authority's Panel and shall notify the parties of the names of the Tribunal members as soon as practicable after they have been selected. The Tribunal shall be so constituted, unless the Secretary receives an objection from one or more parties to any person provisionally selected within three days of notification (or such shorter period as may be set in the event that the hearing is set for an earlier date), and is satisfied that such person has a genuine conflict of interest.

5.4 If all parties to the dispute agree that the Tribunal shall consist of only one person nominated by them from The Disputes Resolution Authority's Panel, they must notify the Secretary accordingly, and the Secretary, provided that he/she is satisfied that the nominated person is independent of the parties to the dispute, shall appoint that one person, and that one person shall constitute a valid Tribunal.

5.5 If any member of the Tribunal refuses, or in the opinion of the Secretary becomes unable or unfit to act, the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority shall appoint another person to the Tribunal in that member's place.

5.6 The Tribunal members shall select one of their number to act as Chairperson, and in default of agreement, the Secretary shall select the Chairperson.

5.7 The Tribunal may decide on its own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence or validity of the particular referral to arbitration in accordance with the Official Guide. For that purpose, this Code shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the Rules of the Association.

6. Communications

6.1 The parties shall not communicate with the Tribunal except through the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority, unless so directed by the Secretary.

6.2 The Secretary may communicate with any party directly to confirm receipt of Documents, and may send copies of any Documents to them.

6.3 Correspondence from one party to the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority shall be accompanied by three extra copies, and a further copy of such correspondence must be sent by that party to every other party to the dispute.

6.4 All communications shall be either hand delivered or sent by post, email or facsimile transmission to the parties at the addresses set out for each in the Claim, or at such address as any party may have previously notified The Disputes Resolution Authority, the Tribunal and the other parties. Any such communication shall be deemed to be served:

(a) if hand delivered, at the time of delivery,

(b) if posted, at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing the same shall have been put in the post, and

(c) if sent by email or facsimile transmission, at the expiration of 12 hours after receipt of the same has been automatically acknowledged to the sender thereof, and in proving such service, it shall be sufficient to prove that

delivery was made or that the envelope containing the communication was properly addressed and posted as a prepaid letter, or that the email or facsimile transmission was properly addressed, dispatched and acknowledged as the case may be.

6.5 In cases of special urgency, the Secretary, the Tribunal and (provided that permission from the Secretary has been obtained) the parties may use telephone or such other methods as are necessary in order to give notice.

6.6 The Tribunal may deem communications to be adequate notwithstanding a failure of compliance with this Section 6, if the same were sufficiently effective.

7. Conduct of the Proceedings

7.1 The Tribunal shall conduct the dispute resolution proceedings in such manner as it considers fit and may follow any arbitral procedure agreed by the parties if it is in the Tribunal's opinion reasonably practicable so to do.

7.2 The Tribunal or its Chairperson may hold a preliminary meeting with the parties at which the parties may be given directions as
to time limits and procedures, including time-tables in respect of steps to be taken.

7.3 If directed to do so by the Tribunal, the parties shall make written submissions to the Tribunal giving further details of their Claim and Reply.

7.4 In cases of special urgency, the Tribunal (or, if the Tribunal has not yet been constituted, the Secretary of The Disputes Resolution Authority) may, on the application of either party, direct that a hearing be held on a specific date and that any time limits set out in this Code be varied, as so directed.

7.5 Each party must submit to the Secretary within such time as the Tribunal shall direct, copies of every document on which that party will rely, unless that document has previously been submitted to the Secretary. Copies shall also be sent by that party to all other parties to the proceedings.

7.6 The Tribunal may proceed with the dispute resolution procedures and make its decision even if the Respondent has failed to serve a Reply.
A Respondent who does not complete and serve a Reply in accordance with Section 3 may not, without the leave of the Tribunal, contest any Claim.

7.7 If any party deliberately or recklessly misleads the Secretary or the Tribunal as to any facts relevant to the dispute or referral, the Tribunal may dismiss their Claim or strike out their Reply and make punitive awards as to costs.

8. Interim Rulings

8.1 A Claimant may apply to the Tribunal for interim temporary remedies where necessary in order to preserve the status quo ante pending the Hearing. If any claim for any interim remedy is being made, then subject to Section 7.4, it must be set out on the Claim.

8.2 Subject to Section 8.3, such applications shall be heard on a day and at a place and time suitable to the Tribunal, with at least 3 days' notice to the Respondent(s). The Tribunal shall have the same powers as a Court of Law in legal proceedings
alleging a breach of contract.

8.3 In cases of special urgency, the Tribunal (or, if the Tribunal has not yet been constituted, the Secretary of The Disputes
Resolution Authority) may (i) shorten the time required for notice or (ii) dispense with notice, and grant such temporary interim remedy as is appropriate, if the Claimant shows that it has been impossible or impracticable to meet the notice requirements.

8.4 No interim remedy shall be granted in the event that the Tribunal or the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority, as the case may be, finds that the Claimant has unreasonably delayed in bringing the application for temporary interim remedy.

8.5 If an interim order is made and at the Hearing it is subsequently found that such interim order was inappropriate, the Tribunal may affix the Claimant with liability for any loss or damage thereby incurred by the Respondent(s), unless one or more exceptional countervailing factors are found to exist by the Tribunal.

8.6 All parties shall comply with the interim orders of the Tribunal, in default of which the Claim or the Reply (as the case maybe) may be struck out without consideration of the substantive Claim.

9. Hearings

9.1 The Tribunal shall fix the date, time and place of any hearings in the dispute resolution proceedings and shall give the parties as much notice as practicable of same. All such hearings shall be in private.

9.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the Tribunal may direct that the parties should make written submissions and that no evidence will be given orally.

9.3 Where the proceedings involve a matter of exceptional importance to the Association, the Tribunal in its absolute discretion may invite submissions from Central Council or any other appropriate party regarding the consequences for members and units of the Association other than those party to the dispute of any decision it might make. In any case it shall be open to Central Council to make an oral and/or written submission to the Tribunal.

10. Witnesses

10.1 The parties must notify the Tribunal and other parties as soon as practicable and within any time limits set by the Tribunal of the identity of any witnesses they wish to call, and, if the Tribunal requires it, each party shall disclose the subject matter and content of the evidence on which each such witness shall be relying and how that evidence relates to the points at issue.

10.2 The Tribunal may question a witness at any stage and shall supervise the questioning of a witness by the parties.

11. Decisions

11.1 If in the opinion of the majority of the Tribunal, one member of the Tribunal has refused or failed to comply with this Code or any applicable law relating to the making of the decision and/ or award, having been given a reasonable opportunity to do so, the other members may remove that member, and the remaining members shall proceed in that member's absence.

11.2 The Tribunal shall decide on any issue by majority. The final decision shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by the reasons on which it is based. The decision shall bear the date on which it was agreed by the Tribunal, and shall be signed by each member of the Tribunal, though it shall not be necessary for each Tribunal member to sign the decision on the same date. Save in exceptional circumstances, to be set out in writing by the Tribunal, the Party deemed by the Tribunal to have been successful in the disputes resolution proceedings shall, on application, be entitled to its reasonable costs. If requested by either party, the Tribunal shall measure costs.

11.3 The Tribunal may direct any party to the dispute resolution proceedings to take, or abstain from taking, any steps, within the Rules of the Association and with due regard to the rights of third parties, including, but not limited to, the re-hearing of any disciplinary or other decision-making process, with or without directions as to the proper procedures to be applied.

11.4 In the event of a decision or procedure being quashed, and with agreement of both parties, the Tribunal may conduct a full hearing as if it were an appellate

body of last resort under the Rules of the Association, with power to fully conduct the procedure which has been quashed. No decision made by the Tribunal in this context shall be susceptible to appeal or review by any body.

11.5 In the event that the parties in dispute agree a resolution of the dispute at any stage in the referral prior to the delivery of the decision, the Tribunal, if satisfied that such proposed resolution is within the Rules of the Association and does not occasion any breach of contract or other act whereby any third party is prejudiced, may ratify the resolution, in which case it shall have the same force as if it were a decision of the Tribunal.

11.6 The Chairperson of the Tribunal shall arrange for the decision to be delivered to the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority, and the Secretary shall notify the parties and the Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association accordingly.

12. General Rules

12.1 If, notwithstanding the fact that any provision or requirement of this Code has not been complied with, a party proceeds with dispute resolution proceedings without promptly stating its objection, that party shall have waived its right to object.

12.2 Save in respect of decisions made prior to the constitution of a Tribunal and the election of its Chairperson, any decision of the Secretary of the Disputes Resolution Authority may be appealed to the Tribunal.

Form 1: Request for Arbitration ("the Claim")

1 Name: (of Person/Committee/Council/ Other Body):_____
("the Claimant") Address:

_____

_____

Telephone No. (1): _____
Telephone No. (2): _____
Fax No: _____
Email address: _____
Date of Birth: (if under 18): _____
Signature of parent/legal guardian (if under 18): _____

Print Name:_____
If the Claimant is a Unit of the Association please nominate a person, or persons, to be legally responsible on behalf of that unit:

_____

_____

2 Person(s)/Committee(s)/Council(s)/Other Body (Bodies) against whom Claim is made ("The Respondent(s)"): _____

(First Respondent) Address:

_____

_____

Telephone No. (1): _____
Telephone No. (2): _____
Fax No: _____
Email address: _____
If the Respondent is a Unit of the Association, please nominate a person, or persons, to be legally responsible on behalf of that unit:

_____

_____

(Second Respondent) Address:

_____

_____

Telephone No. (1): _____
Telephone No. (2): _____
Fax No: _____
Email address: _____
If the Respondent is a Unit of the Association, please nominate a person, or persons, to be legally responsible on behalf of that unit:

_____

_____

(Use additional page for further Respondents)

3. Names and addresses of any further persons/ committees/bodies concerned or affected.

(1) : _____

Telephone No.: _____

Fax No: _____

Email address: _____

(2) : _____

Telephone No.: _____

Fax No: _____

Email address: _____

(use additional sheet for any further names)

4 Brief statement of the facts upon which the claim is based (use additional sheet if required):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5 a) Date(s) of decision(s) being disputed (enclose copy, if in writing):

_____

b) Date of Decision of Final Appeal under the Rules of the GAA (enclose copy, if in writing):

_____

c) Date of Receipt of Decision:

_____

6 Is an extension of time sought for the submission of the Claim under Section 2.2 of the Disputes Resolution Code? If the answer is Yes please set out reasons.

_____

_____

_____

7 List the Rules of the Association or laws or entitlements of which it is claimed the Respondent(s) is/are in breach (use additional sheet if required):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

8 Brief statement explaining why the Respondent(s) are in breach of the rules/laws/ entitlements (use additional sheet if required):

1. _____
_____
2. _____
_____
3. _____
_____
4. _____
_____

9 List what Remedy or Remedies is/are claimed (use additional sheet if required):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

10 List any Interim Temporary Remedies sought and state reasons why:

1. _____
2. _____

11 Have any matters been agreed in relation to the dispute? If yes, please specify:

_____
_____
_____

12 Does the Claimant have any proposals for the carrying out of the hearing (e.g. whether an urgent hearing is necessary, what location is suitable etc.)? Yes*/No*
(*delete as appropriate) If yes, please specify:

_____
_____
_____

13 Do you require copies of any documents in the possession or power of the Respondent(s) or any other parties concerned?
Yes*/No*
(*delete as appropriate)

If 'Yes', list the documents or categories of documents sought (use additional sheet if required):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I/We hereby confirm that I/we have exhausted all available avenues of appeal under the Official Guide.

I/We hereby certify that the facts stated above are true and I/we acknowledge that if any of these facts is proved to be false, my/our Claim may be dismissed immediately without further consideration:

Signed (in Irish): _____
(Claimant or on behalf of the Claimant)

Date: _____

1. Attach a copy of any Rules of the Association relevant to the Claim to the original and each copy of the Claim Form.
2. Send original Claim to the Secretary of the DRA together with a deposit of €1,000 paid by
   a) Cheque
   b) Cash
   c) Electronic Transfer or Lodgement to Disputes Resolution Authority, Bank of Ireland, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. A/C No. 92285815 Branch No. 903437
3. Attach a blank Reply Form to each copy of the Claim being sent to a Respondent.

To the Respondent
If you dispute any of the contents of this Claim, or deny any of the reliefs sought by the Claimant then you should complete the attached Reply, send a copy of it to the Claimant and to each Respondent as well as to the Director General of the G.A.A., and send the original to the Secretary of the DRA. If you do not complete and serve a Reply in this manner you may not be permitted to contest the Claimant's Claim which may be allowed by default.

Confirmation of Service
I hereby certify and confirm that I served a true copy of the within Claim on the
1st Respondent by

_____

(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting
etc.) to

_____

(insert name of Person to whom Claim was
sent) on

_____

(insert date of service)

_____

and on the 2nd Respondent by

_____

(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting
etc.) to

_____

(insert name of Person to whom Claim was
sent) on

_____

(insert date of service)
and on the Director General of the G.A.A. by

_____

(insert method of service, e.g. handline, posting etc.)

to

_____

(insert name of Person to whom Claim was sent)

on

_____

(insert date of service)

Signed_____

Date: _____

FORM 2: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION
("the Reply")

1 Name: (of Person/Committee/Council/ Other Body):_____
("the Respondent") Address:

_____

_____

Telephone No. (1): _____
Telephone No. (2): _____
Fax No: _____
Email address: _____

If the Respondent is a Unit of the Association does it wish to nominate different nominee(s) to those in the Claim? If Yes, please give the following details:
Name (1): _____
Telephone No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Email address: _____

Name (2): _____
Telephone No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Email address: _____

2 Names and addresses of any further persons/committees/ bodies concerned or affected:
(1) _____
Telephone No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Email address: _____
(2) _____
Telephone No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Email address: _____
(use additional sheet for any further names)

3 Date Claim Received:_____

4 Does the Respondent confirm or deny the facts stated in the Claim? If denied, please explain why (use additional sheet if required):

_____

_____

_____

5 Does the Respondent object to furnishing the Claimant with any of the documents sought and, if so, why?

_____

_____

6 State whether the Respondent is agreeable to all or part of the Remedy claimed, including any Interim Temporary Remedy claimed:

_____

_____

_____

7 Have any matters been agreed in relation to the dispute? If Yes, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

8 Does the Respondent have any proposals for the carrying out of the hearing?
If Yes, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

9 Do you require copies of any documents in the possession or power of the Claimant(s) or any other parties concerned? Yes* / No* (*delete as appropriate)

If Yes, list the documents or categories of documents sought (use additional sheet if required):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I hereby acknowledge/deny that the Claimant has exhausted all available avenues of appeal under the Rules of the Association.

I hereby certify that the facts stated above are true and I acknowledge that if any of these facts is proved to be false, my response to the Claim may be struck out immediately without further consideration

Signed (In Irish):

_____ (Respondent or on behalf of the Respondent)

Date: _____

Attach: _____

A copy of any Rules of the Association relevant to the Reply.

Confirmation of Service

_____

I hereby certify and confirm that I served a true copy of the within Reply on the Claimant by

_____

(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)

to _____

(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)

on _____

(insert date of service)

_____

(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)

on_____

(insert date of service)

and on the Director General of the G.A.A. by

_____

(insert method of service, e.g. handing, posting etc.)

to _____

(insert name of Person to whom Reply was sent)

on _____

(insert date of service)

_____

Signed:

_____

Date: _____

Disputes Resolution

Authority An Córas

Eadrána

CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary- Mr. Eamonn Denieffe
Rúnaí An Córas Eadrána

Phone Number - (087) 6631111

E-Mail Address - secretary@sportsdra.ie

The Disputes Resolution Code, including the relevant forms, together with previous DRA decisions are available at www.sportsdra.ie

PRESIDENTS OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1884 - Muiris Ó Daimhín (Tiobraid Árann)
1887 - Éamonn Binéid (An Clár)
1888 - Muiris Ó Daimhín (Tiobraid Árann)
1889 - Peadar S. Ó Ceallaigh (Gaillimh)
1895 - Proinsias B. Ó Duinnín (Luimneach)
1898 - Micheál Díring (Corcaigh)
1901 - Séamus Ó Nualláin (Cill Chainnigh)
1921 - Dónal Mac Carthaigh (Baile Átha Cliath)
1924 - Pádraig D. Ó Braoin (Loch Garman)
1926 - Liam P. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)
1928 - Seán Ó Riain (Baile Átha Cliath)
1932 - Seán Mac Carthaigh (Corcaigh)
1935 - Riobaird Ó Caoimh (Laois)
1938 - Pádraig Mac Con Midhe (Aontroim)
1943 - Séamus Gáirnéar (Tiobraid Árann)
1946 - Dónal Ó Ruairc (Ros Comáin)
1949 - Micheál Mac Eochaidh (Loch Garman)
1952 - Micheál U. Ó Donochadha (Port Láirge)
1955 - Séamus Mac Fearáin (Aontroim)
1958 - An Dr. S. S. Stiobhairt (Baile Átha Cliath)
1961 - Aodh Ó Bróin (Cill Mhantáin)
1964 - Alf Ó Muirí (Ard Mhacha)
1967 - Séamus Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann)
1970 - Pádraig Ó Fainín (Port Láirge)
1973 - An Dr. Dónal Ó Cianáin (Ros Comáin)
1976 - Conchúr Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)
1979 - Pádraig Mac Floinn (An Dún)
1982 - Pádraig Ó Bogaigh (Cill Chainnigh)
1985 - An Dr. Micheál Ó Lochlainn (Maigh Eo)
1988 - Seán Ó Dubhlainn (Uibh Fhailí)
1991 - Peadar Ó Cuinn (Fear Manach)
1994 - Seán Boothman (Cill Mhantáin)
1997 - Seosamh Mac Donncha (Gaillimh) 2000 - Seán Mac Thaidhg (Muineacháin)
2003 - Seán Ó Ceallaigh (Ciarraí)
2006 - Nioclás Ó Braonáin (Cill Chainnigh)
2009 - Críostóir Ó Cuana (Corcaigh)
2012 - Liam Ó Néill (Laois)
2015 - Aogán Ó Fearghail (An Cabhán)
2018 - Seán Ó hÓráin (Baile Átha Cliath)
2021 - Labhrás MacCarthaigh (Nua Eabhrach)
2024 - Iarlath Ó Broin (Ard Mhacha)

GENERAL SECRETARIES/DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1884 -1885	Micheál Cíosóg (An Clár)
1884-1885	John McKay, Corcaigh
1884-1887	John Wyse-Power, Cill Dara
1885-1887	J. B. O'Reilly, Baile Átha Cliath
1885-1889	Timothy O'Riordan, Corcaigh
1887-1888	James Moore, An Lú
1888-1889	William Prendergast, Tiobraid Árann
1889-1890	P. R. Cleary, Luimneach
1890-1892	Maurice Moynihan, Ciarraí
1891-1894	Patrick Tobin, Baile Átha Cliath
1894-1895	David Walsh, Corcaigh
1895-1898	Richard T. C. Blake, An Mhí
1898-1901	Frank B. Dineen, Luimneach
1901-1929	Luke J. O'Toole, Baile Átha Cliath
1929-1964	Padraig S. Ó Caoimh, Corcaigh
1964-1979	Seán Ó Síocháin, Corcaigh
1979-2008	Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, An Longfort
2008-2018	Páraic Ó Dufaigh, Muineachán
2018-	Tomás Ó Riain, Ceatharlach

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