

Fo-Dhlithe Coiste Chontae Phort Láirge

Waterford GAA Bye Laws

2024

These Bye-Laws shall be read in conjunction with the current Treoraí Oifigiúil.

(Approved by An Coiste Bainistíochta, on behalf of Ard Comhairle, 26 Eanáir 2024)

1. COUNTY CONVENTION (Rules 3.8 to 3.15 T.O. 2023)

- 1.1 County Convention, convened in accordance with Rule 3.13, shall elect/appoint Officers and Representatives in accordance with Rule 3.9 and Delegates in accordance with Rule 3.10 following nomination in accordance with Rule 3.11:
Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer and shall appoint, a Planning and Training Officer, a Demographics Officer and a Children's Officer as recommended by the outgoing County Committee.
It shall further elect two representatives on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council.
It shall elect or authorise selection of Delegates to Annual Congress and Provincial Convention In accordance with Rule 3.10.
- 1.2 Before publication of Convention motions submitted in accordance with Rule 3.12 these shall be examined by the Management Committee. Motions considered out of order should be returned to the submitting Unit indicating reasons and affording opportunity to re-submit.
- 1.3 A Full-Time Secretary appointed for a period in excess of one year shall not have voting rights and is not subject to re-election (Rule 3.9 (b), (1))
- 1.4 The County Treasurer is not subject to the maximum period of office of five years.

2. COUNTY COMMITTEE (Rules 3.16 to 3.21 T.O 2023)

The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed pursuant to Bye-Law 1, the Two Provincial Council representatives, and the One Central Council representative, (elected pursuant to Bye Law 1 above who shall be ex-officio members), The Two Divisional Committee Chairpersons, Secretaries and Treasurers (representing the East and West Divisional Boards), one named Representative from each affiliated adult club, the County Referees' Administrator, Safety and Facilities Officer, the I.T. Officer, the Demographics Officer, the Chairperson of Bord Na nÓg, and one named Representative from County Primary Schools Committee and County Post Primary Schools Committee.

With the exception of the County Officers, Central and Provincial Council representatives all other members shall have the power to appoint proxies. Such proxies must produce written authorisation.

In accordance with Rule 3.18 and subject to Rules 3.19 and 4.2 T.O. 2023 the County Committee shall appoint the following sub-committees whose powers and functions shall be as detailed therein and, in these Bye-Laws where appropriate. The membership of each shall be determined as follows: *All members of sub-committees shall be named.*

- (a) Management Committee:** It shall consist of the Officers of the County Committee, representatives to Central and Provincial Council, Divisional Chairpersons and Secretaries, the Chairperson of Bord Na nÓg and the I.T. Officer.
Five members shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) Competitions Control Committee:** It shall consist of the County Vice-Chairperson who shall be Chairperson of the CCC, the County Chairperson, the County Secretary, the County Treasurer, the County PRO, the Fixtures Analyst, the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the two Divisional

Committees and the County Referees Administrator, who shall vote only on the appointment of referees.

- (c) Fixtures Analyst:** One Fixtures' Analyst shall be appointed as per Treorai Oifigiuil
- (d) Hearings Committee:** It shall consist of a Chairperson and six other named members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (e) Safety and Facilities Committee:** It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified, in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in 3.18 (v) T.O. 2023.
- (f) Referees' Administration Committee:** It shall consist of the County Referees' Administrator, who shall act as Chairperson, and four other members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (g) Coaching and Games Development Committee:** It shall consist of the County Coaching Officer, as Chairperson, Games Development Manager (who shall act as Rúnaí), and eleven other members nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (h) Cultural Committee:** It shall consist of the Officer for Irish Language & Culture, who shall act as Chairperson, and six other members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (i) Public Relations/Marketing Committee:** It shall consist of the County Public Relations Officer, who shall act as Chairperson, and six other members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (j) Deise Óg / Youth Committee:** It shall consist of the County Children's Officer, who shall act as Chairperson, and 9 members namely two representatives of Coaching and Games, Bord Na Nóg, Primary and Secondary Schools and one representative from the Development Squads (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee
- (k) Finance Sub Committee:** It shall consist of the County Treasurer, who shall act as Chairperson, and six members nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (l) Information Technology Committee:** It shall consist of the I.T. Officer, who shall act as Chairperson, and four other members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (m) County Teams' Management & Panels' Committee:** The membership of the County Teams' Management and Panels' Committee shall be as outlined in the Charter for County Committee / Player Relationships and as approved by Árd Chomhairle from time to time and shall be nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

- (n) **Health and Wellbeing Committee:** It shall consist of the Children’s Officer, who shall act as Chairperson, and eleven other members (one of whom shall act as Rúnaí), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- (o) **Planning and Training Committee:** It shall consist of 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 National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.
- (p) **Audit and Risk Committee:** It shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member
- (q) **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

3. In accordance with Rule 3.17(m) the County Committee shall form Divisional Sub-Committees and other Sub-Committees as follows:

(a) East and West Divisional Sub-Committees:

- I. the boundary between Eastern and Western Divisions shall be a line from the source of the Mahon River to the sea, denoting the Western boundaries of Bearn na Gaoithe, An Charraig Bheag, Rath o gCormac, Cluain Fhiaidh Paorach, Choill MhicThomais Fhinn, An Baile Nua, agus Chill Mhór.
- II. The Divisional Sub-Committees shall consist of: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer (P.R.O.) and one representative from each affiliated club within the Division.
- III. Divisional Sub-Committees shall, subject to the approval of Choiste Condae, control of the Intermediate, Junior and Under 21, Hurling and Football Championships in their area, except the County Finals in those grades subject to approval by Choiste Condae. Subject to approval of Choiste Chontae they shall have power to nominate a team to represent their Division in the County Final of competitions where Divisional Championships have not been completed.
- IV. Divisional Sub-Committees shall maintain a Competitions Control Committee with the same functions within the Sub-Committees jurisdiction as those of the C.C.C. Choiste Chontae. Hearings will be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

(b) Bord Na nÓg:

- I. It shall be nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.
- II. Subject to the approval of the County Committee it shall be responsible for all the arrangements and administration of games at U-13, U-14, U-15 and U-16 Hurling and Football.
- III. It shall establish a Competitions Control Committee which shall have the same functions within its jurisdiction as those of a CCC at adult level and determined by the Official Guide

and County Bye-Laws. Disciplinary Hearings will be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

- IV. The committee may subject to the approval of the County Committee delegate the administration of some competitions to Divisional Bord Na nÓg committees.

5. Attachment to First Club:

A person seeking to become a member of the Association shall have an unfettered choice as to which Club he wishes to join.

6. Transfers:

- a) A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another Club must apply to the County Committee for a transfer. The CCC shall only consider applications received during the period of December 1st to the second Friday of January inclusive.

Exceptions:

The CCC may consider an application outside of the above time frame from a player who has not participated in any official competition in the previous 96 weeks or in the case of an under 17 or younger player in the previous 48 weeks.

- b) Section (a) of this Bye Law shall apply to players over the age of 17
c) The following criteria shall govern applications for a transfer for members under the age of 17:

1. A player who has played with a club at any grade from under 12 or over (including Go Games) to under 17 (minor) grade in championship or league may only transfer to another club if the player's family residence has changed to the area of the club he wishes to be transferred. (Age grades as defined by Rule 6.11 T.O.2023)

Exceptions:

- I. A change of address is not required in the case of a player whose family residence is already in the area of a club to which he wishes to be transferred, and who is presently a player of a club outside the club area of his family residence.

- II. An application for a transfer may be considered and granted in exceptional circumstances where a case involving a member is on file with both the County Children's Officer and the GAA National Child Welfare Manager. An application shall only proceed following consultations with the County Children's Officer and the GAA National Child Welfare Manager.

2. A player whose family residence is changed to an area common to two or more clubs and is presently a player of a club other than those in the area of his family residence, shall be entitled to transfer to a club of his choice in the area of his family residence.

8. Grading of Clubs and Players:

- a) All applications for regrading shall be forwarded to the Rúnaí Choiste Chontae on or before the first Friday in June.

- b) A club is entitled to regrade a maximum of seven players to its next Championship Level.

Exception:

Clubs participating in the Junior B Football Championship may regrade 10 players to that level.

- c) A player shall not lose his current Championship status by playing in his first game of a higher-grade Championship. Should the player participate in a subsequent game of the same higher

Championship then his status shall be of that higher grade for the remainder of the Championship Year.

- d) Where adult Championships are organised on a League/Knockout format an 18-year-old player (first year out of the under 17 Grade) shall have controlled free grading during the League stage of the Championships allowing a player to participate at a higher grade and return to a lower Championship status during this period. The following conditions shall apply:
 - i. A player shall not return to a grade by more than one level.
 - ii. Should a player avail of this concession once he participates in a knockout game at a higher grade then his status shall be that of the higher grade for the remainder of the year.
 - iii. This concession does not apply where adult Championships are organised on a knockout or other format
- e) A club who wishes to affiliate an additional Intermediate or Junior team at a lower level shall submit a list of 18 players who shall be eligible to play for the higher graded team only.
- f) A player who is graded Junior may not play in a lower Junior Championship grade than that of his last Junior Championship game unless he is regraded to that level.
- g) The winners of the Premier Intermediate Championship shall be promoted to the Senior Championship for the following year.
- h) Penalties for breach of this Bye-Law are as follows:
 - Player - twelve weeks Suspension.
 - Team - On a proven Objection -- Award of Game to Opposing Team.
On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

9. Playing Restrictions:

- a) A player from a Hurling only club may apply to the County Committee for permission to play Football with a Football only club.
A player from a Football only club may apply to the County Committee for permission to play Hurling with a Hurling only club
- b) A player from a Club that does not have a hurling/football team as his age grade, may apply to the County Committee for permission to play hurling/football in that grade with an alternative club in the County
- c) The County Committee shall delegate the consideration of applications to the CCC.
- d) The closing date for the receipt of applications shall be the second Friday in January.
- e) Permission shall be granted for the year of application – a twelve-month period only.
- f) All players revert to their original Club once the playing season is over.
- g) A Player aggrieved by the decision of the CCC shall have the right to a hearing at the Co. Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final.
- h) The initial application shall be to a neighbouring club. In the event of a neighbouring club not being able to accommodate such a request the option shall be open for the player to apply to another club within the county.
- i) The CCC shall consider all applications in the interest of the promotion of hurling /football.