

COMHDHÁIL 2025 NA RÚIN



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- Motions 1-2** **Playing Rules Motions submitted by units pursuant to Rule 3.38 (d)**
- Motions 3** **Playing Rule Motion submitted by Central Council pursuant to the Exception to Rule 3.38 (d)**
- Motions 4-16** **Motions submitted by County Convention/County Committees pursuant to Rule 3.38 (a) (i) & (ii).**
- Motions 17** **Motion submitted by Provincial Councils pursuant to Rule 3.38 (a) (iii).**
- Motion 18** **Motion submitted by Central Council pursuant to Rule 3.38 (a) (iv) (2)**
- Motions 19-37** **Motions submitted by Central Council consequent upon Central Council Sub-Committee Reports pursuant to Rule 3.38 (a) (iv) (3).**
- Motions 38-40** **Motions submitted by Central Council pursuant to Rule 3.38 (a) (iv) (6).**



COMHDHÁIL 2025 NA RÚIN

(1)

Amend Rule 4.2 (b) Playing Rules of Hurling (Technical Fouls) Page 27 Official Guide (Part 2) to read:

To handpass the ball, **from the same hand that is holding the ball**, or without it being released and struck with a definite striking action of a hand.

Rules affected Rule 1.7 (b) Playing Rules of Hurling (The Play) Page 22 and Important Terms and Definitions 10 (b) Page 59.

Nenagh Éire Óg (Tiobraid Árann)

(2)

That Rule 2.3 (i) Rules of Specification - The Players - Official Guide - Part 2 be amended by the addition of the following:

Exception:

A Council or Committee in charge may adopt Regulations permitting additional substitutions at U18 or younger grades for league or other non-championship competitions.

Clan na Gael (Ard Mhacha)

(3)

That Rule 3.5 Rules of Specification – Official Guide Part 2 (page 8) be amended to read:

- (a) The Central Council shall approve a system to determine the result of games which finish level after extra-time as provided for in Rule has been played, without a replay - 'Winner on the Day'. The regulations for 'Winner on the Day' shall be determined by the Central Council.
- (b) Unless the Management Committee of the Central Council, on application by the relevant Competitions Control Committee, permits otherwise, knockout games in all Inter-County hurling and football competitions, Provincial and All-Ireland club competitions and 3rd level championships shall be decided by 'Winner on the Day':

Exceptions:

- (i) **Provincial inter-county Senior Hurling (Tier 1) and Senior Football Championship (Tier 1) finals which will have extra-time in the original fixture and will be decided by 'Winner on the Day' in the event of a Replay only.***
- (ii) **All-Ireland Senior Football (Tier 1) and Hurling Finals (Tier 1), which will go directly to a replay if level at full time in the original fixture and will be decided by 'Winner on the Day' in the event of a replay only.**

***Note to Congress: Central Council agreed at its meeting on 7ú Meán Fomhair that the provision for Provincial Finals would only be put to Congress if the new football championship proposal is passed.**

Central Council /CCCC

(4)

Rule 2.1 Chapter 2 Membership and Registrations – Memberships – Official Guide Part 1 (Page 6) be amended to read as follows:

- (a) There shall be **four** types of Membership of the Association:
 - (i) Full Adult 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 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 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 reapply 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 of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall run from 1st January to the 31st December each year.
- (g) 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.

(5)

That Rule 3.9 (a) – County Convention – Official Guide Part 1 (page 9) be amended to read:

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, Public Relations Officer, and Hurling Officer, if desired; and shall appoint a Planning and Training Officer, Demographics Officer, **Health & Well Being Officer** and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee

Coiste Chontae Iar Mhí

(6)

That Rule 3.18 (iv) (a) – Sub-Committees (Page 14) be amended by adding an Exception (ii):

- (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 request shall be conducted by the Provincial Hearings Committee.**

The remainder of the Rule to remain unchanged.

Rules possibly affected: Rule 3.30 (a) (iii) O.G. Part 1, Rule 7.1 O.G. Part 1 and Code 16.1 GAA Codes

Mainistir Leathrátha (Longfort)

(7)

That Rule 3.38 (d) – Congress – Motions – Official Guide Part 1 (page 26) be amended to read:

- (d) Motions to revise Playing Rules may be tabled in any year.

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. All other rules are unchanged.

Cloonacool GAA (Sligeach)

(8)

That Rule 3.46 – Development Competitions Control Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 32) be amended to include the following as a section (f) to read:

- (f) To fall in line with the split season policy in place at inter-county level the Development CCC should ensure the hurling inter-county competitions including blitz tournaments such as the Arrawbawn, Tony Forristal, Eugene Carey finish no later than the second Saturday in August. The football equivalents should finish no later than the third Saturday in August.

Maghthulaí – Muckalee (Cill Channigh)

(9)

That rule 3.50 – The Central Games Development Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 33) be amended by the adding the following as section (e):

- (e) It shall have responsibility to promulgate the playing rules for all GAA Participants.

Boherlahan Dualla (Tiobraid Árann)

(10)

That Rule 5.1 Use of Property – Official Guide Part 1 (page 38) be amended by the addition of the following:

- (d) GAA Clubs in accordance with Central Council policy may at their discretion permit the use of their ancillary facilities to other community based sports, health and well-being groups, community based activities of their community for recreational purposes.

Dún Fearta, Danesfort (Cill Channigh)

(11)

That Rule 6.5 (F) Inter-County Transfers – Official Guide Part 1 (page 43) be amended to read:

Where an objection is lodged 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
- (iii) The County of the club the player proposes to join

CLG Gleann Uisce (Gaillimh)

(12)

That Rule 6.8 – Playing Restrictions (County and Province) – Official Guide Part 1 (page 45) be amended by adding the following as Rule 6.8 (F):

- (f) In order to be eligible to play adult (excluding minor and under 20 grades) inter-county championship, a player shall have played a minimum of 4 competitive league games with his own club in the same calendar year (in either his County or his First County) and this requirement will be contingent on the following considerations:
- (i) In exceptional circumstances (including injury), as defined by Central Council, this eligibility requirement will be reduced or waived
 - (ii) Inter-county and club league games will be scheduled in a way that allows this eligibility requirement to be met
 - (iii) A player who is a dual player for County may satisfy the club league game requirement by aggregating club league games played in football and hurling.

This amendment will take effect on 1st January 2026.

Cluain Tairbh, Áth Cliath

(13)

Part 1

That a new Rule be inserted into Chapter 6 - Games and Competitions – Official Guide Part 1 to read:

Every Club shall field at least one Hurling Team at Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 and/or Under 10 Age Grades and every County shall organise hurling games on the 'Go Games' model for Under 7 or Under 8 and Under 9 or Under 10 Age Grades. Clubs shall be deemed exempt from this rule by their County Committee in the following circumstances:

- (i) any exclusively football Club that can demonstrate that its Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 and/or Under 10 Players are afforded hurling at an exclusively hurling Club or dual code Club; or
- (ii) any Club that, by sheer demographics, can demonstrate it does not have the numbers to comply.

Penalty for Breach: Fine of €250 for the first year of non-compliance by any Club, with the fine to double for each consecutive year of non-compliance.

Part 2

That Rule 6.11 – Age Grades – Official Guide Part 1 (pages 46-48) be amended to add the following definitions for the age grades mentioned above:

- Under 10: A Player shall have celebrated their 7th birthday prior to January 1st. and their 10th birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.
- Under 9: A Player shall have celebrated their 6th birthday prior to January 1st. and their 9th birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.
- Under 8: A Player shall have celebrated their 5th birthday prior to January 1st. and their 8th birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.
- Under 7: A Player shall have celebrated their 5th birthday prior to January 1st. and their 7th birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

(14)

Amend Rule 6.12 (C) Tier 5 Page 53 Official Guide (Part 1) to read:

Tier 5: Lory Meagher Cup Participating Counties

The following Counties shall be eligible to participate in this Championship in **2026**:

* Longford, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Lancashire, Warwickshire and **Europe**.

Format

To be approved on an annual basis by Central Council following proposals from the CCCC.

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.

** NOTE: 2025 Tier 5 Championship winners to be replaced by the bottom placed team in 2025 Tier 4 Championship "Round-Robin"*

Maastricht GAA, Eorap

(15)

That Rule 7.3 (q) - Reduction of Suspensions and other Penalties – Official Guide Part 1 (page 67) be amended to read:

- (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.

Any such reduction shall result in a penalty of not less than:

- (i) Where the Player is over 18 years, a 24 Week suspension in all Codes and at all Levels together with a Four Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same level 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.

Buffers Alley (Loch Garman)

(16)

That Rule 7.5 - Appeals – Notice of Appeals and Replies - Official Guide Part 1 (Pages 70-74) be amended by the addition of a new section (m) and re-letter all remaining sections:

- (m) Where an Appellant who has submitted an appeal either refuses to take up dates offered for his 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 benefiting the appellant, the original penalty imposed shall stand.**

Mainistir Leathrátha (Longfort)

(17)

That Rule 3.36 - Special Congress - Official Guide Part 1 (page 25) be amended to read:

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).

Central Council shall be entitled to determine the Representation for any Special Congress.

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.

Comhairle Laighean/Comhairle Chonnachta/Comhairle na Mumhan

(18)

That a new Rule 1.12 Adult Safeguarding (Over 18 years of Age) - Official Guide Part 1 be enacted to read:

- (a) The Association shall safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of all Adults (Over 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 and Code 16 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.

Central Council

(19)

(Part 1)

That Rule 6.12 (A) INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - Organisation – Official Guide Part 1, (page 49 – 51) be amended to read:

(a) All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Tier 1: Sam Maguire Cup

(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

(iii) 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.

(iv) Round 3

The four losing teams from Round 2a will be drawn to play the four winning teams from Round 2b, with the first team drawn having home venue. 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.

(v) 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.

(vi) All-Ireland Semi-Finals

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

(vi) 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

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Round 3

The four losing teams from Round 2a will be drawn to play the four winning teams from Round 2b, with the first team drawn having home venue. The draw will be subject to the avoidance of repeat pairings from Round 1 where possible.

(iv) Preliminary Quarter-Final

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

(v) 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.

(vi) Tailteann Cup Semi-Finals

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

(vii) Tailteann Cup Final

The winners of the All-Ireland 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.

Central Council /CCCC

(20)

That Rule 6.12 (c) ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP Tiers 2,3,4 and 5 – Official Guide Part 1 (pages 52-53) be amended, by inserting a new section as follows:

New York Participation in All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship (Tiers 2,3,4 and 5)

In 2025, New York will participate in the Tier 5 Championship. The general format outlined in Rule for that Tier will be adapted by the introduction of a Semi-final as follows:

Format:

Tier 5 shall have Six Teams in its Championship initially 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 team that finish top after the Round Robin phase shall qualify directly for the Tier 5 final. The team that finishes second will play New York in Ireland in a semi-final with the winner progressing to 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.

(Note: In future years, whichever of Tiers 2-5 New York are qualified for, will have 7 teams instead of 6. The structure outlined above for Tier 5 in 2025 will therefore apply to whichever of Tiers 2-5 New York are qualified to play in.)

Exceptions – Relegation and Promotion:

(i) *If New York are involved in Tier 2, 3 or 4 and fail to qualify for the Final in that Tier, they will play a*

Relegation play off against the bottom team from the Round Robin phase in that Tier, with the loser being the team relegated to the next lowest Tier.

- (ii) *If New York are promoted in a given year, no team will be relegated that year from the Tier New York are promoted to.*

Central Council /CCCC

(21)

That Rule 7.3 (b) - Suspensions – Official Guide Part 1 (page 65) be amended:

The following in bold to be added to Rule 7.3 (b):

- (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 the 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.

Central Council /CCCC/CHC/CAC

(22)

That Rule 7.3 - Suspensions – Official Guide Part 1 (page 64-67) be amended by the addition of a new section (r) to read:

Potential Increase in Penalty

- (r) 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 applied:

1. The Hearing had had no prospect of success
or
2. The Hearing request was an abuse of process.

Penalty:

An additional One Match Suspension
or
An additional four-week Term of Suspension.

Code Affected - Code 16.1(cc)

Central Council /CCCC/CHC/CAC

(23)

That Rule 3.9 (a), 3.18, 3.27, 3.38 (i) and 3.30 (vii) Official Guide Part 1 and in Article 7.2 Club Constitution – Official Guide Part (Appendix 4) the title ‘Public Relations’ be amended to ‘Communications’.

Central Council /Communications Committee

(24)

That Rule 3.17 (i) – County Committee – Powers – Official Guide Part 1 (page 12) be amended to read:

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

The rest of the rule to remain unchanged.

Central Council /Communications Committee

(25)

That Rule 3.17 (d) County Committee – Powers – Official Guide Part 1 (page 12) be amended to read:

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: to (i) above:

Before a competition commences and in accordance with Rule 4.3 a regulation may be amended.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(26)

That Rule 3.18 (ii) Official Guide Part 1 (page 13) be amended to read:

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, and in such cases, Appeals may be made only to the **Provincial Hearings Committee:**

- (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.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(27)

That Rule 3.41 (c) – Official Guide Part 1, Central Council - Powers and Functions (page 27) be amended to read:

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 3.54 (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 the 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 3.54 (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.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(28)

Part (1)

That Rule 3.44 – The Management Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (pages 29-31) be amended by the deletion of sections (f) and (i) with the remaining sections re-lettered accordingly.

Rules Affected: 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48, 3.49 and 3.56.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (2)

That a new Rule 3.45 be introduced as follows and all other subsequent Rule numbers amended accordingly:

3.45 Central Sub-Committee Nominations 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.

Rules Affected 3.45 – 3.56

Part (3)

That Rule 3.45 – The Central Competitions Control Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 31) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (4)

That Rule 3.46 – Development Competitions Control Committee – Official Guide Part 2 (page 32) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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 Director of Games Administration and the Director of Games Development.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (5)

That Rule 3.47 – The Central Hearings Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 32) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (6)

That Rule 3.48 – The Central Appeals Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 32) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (a) It shall consist of a Chairperson appointed **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, Central Competitions Control Committee or Central Hearings Committee may serve as a member of the Central Appeals Committee.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (7)

That Rule 3.49 – The Central Referees’ Appointments Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 33) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.**

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (8)

That Rule 3.50 – The Central Games Development Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 33) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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 Coaching and Games Development Committee from each of the four Provinces, the Director of Games Development, the Chairperson of the 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.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (9)

That Rule 3.53 – The Central Fixtures Analysis and Oversight Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 33) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (10)

That Rule 3.54 - The Rules Advisory Committee – Official Guide Part 1 (page 34) section (a) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (11)

That Rule 3.55 - The Standing Committee on Playing Rules – Official Guide Part 1 (page 34)

First paragraph be amended to read as follows:

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:

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Part (12)

That Rule 3.56 - World GAA – Official Guide Part 1 (page 35) section (c) be amended to read as follows:

- (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.**

Rest of Rule to remain unchanged.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(29)

That Rule 3.59 Educational Institutions – Official Guide Part 1 (Page 35) be amended to read:

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.

Exception: Due to the nature of the timing of 3rd 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, Code 16.1 (h), (i) (4), (p), Rules 7.4 (c), (f), (g).

Central Council /CCCC/CHC/CAC

(30)

That Rule 3.61 Deviation from Rule or Code – Official Guide Part 1 (pages 35-36) be amended to read:

- (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.**

Rule affected: Rule 3.56 World GAA – delete all references to Bye-Laws.

Application for permission as in (a) and (b) above may only be considered by the Central Council with the consent of the Management Committee at a meeting, other than its first full meeting following Congress.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(31)

That Rule 6.11 Age Grades, Official Guide, Part 1 – Penalties be amended to read:

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) 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.**

Rule Affected: Rule 2.4 (i) Rules of Specification, Official Guide, Part 2

Code Affected: 15.3

Under Penalties for Breaches – All other Panels

Amend by deletion of Persons-in-Charge of Team – 24 weeks suspension

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(32)

That Rule 7.1 (b) Enforcement of Rules/Arbitration - Disciplinary Jurisdiction - Official Guide Part 1 (page 56) be amended to read:

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.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(33)

That Rule 7.4 - Objections – Official Guide Part 1 (pages 68-69) be amended as follows:

- (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 Competition 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.
- (i) The Competitions Control Committee shall provide a Hearing to the parties to the Objection and or Counter Objection unless the case is determined by written admissions(s) **submitted by either or both parties** and the Hearing shall be conducted as follows:
 - (1) 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;
 - (2) A Unit shall be represented by up to two of its Full Members.
 - (3) 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;

- (4) 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 Code 16.1(aa);
- (5) The Competitions Control Committee may adjourn, postpone or reschedule the Hearing as it sees fit.
- (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 be upheld only on either of the following 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.

The rest of the Rule to remain unchanged.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(34)

That Rule 7.5 (g) Appeals – Official Guide Part 1 (page 71) be amended to read:

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:

- (1) 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;
- (2) Specify whether an Oral Hearing is requested; and
- (3) 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.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(35)

That Chapter 7 – Enforcement of Rules/Arbitration – Official Guide Part 1 be amended to include the contents of Code 16.1 – Procedures for Disciplinary and Related Hearings – Codes – 2024 as Rule 7.3.

Rules and Codes be consequentially re-numbered..

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(36)

That the following amendments be made to the Club Constitution – Official Guide – Appendix 4 to be amended as follows:

(A) Article 11 - BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS

In 11.5 - Delete the second sentence and replace with -
“Where gross annual income exceeds €250,000/£250,000 the Accounts/Financial Statements are required to be audited”.

In 11.9 - Amend to read -
“Annual Accounts/Financial Statements shall be kept and made available to the relevant tax authorities”

(B) Article 12 - INCOME AND PROPERTY

In 12(c) - Reference to “interest at a rate of 5% per annum” be replaced by “interest at a rate not exceeding 1% per annum”

(C) Article 13 - WINDING UP

In 13.3 - Add the following -

“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 an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Club under or by 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.

(D) Article 14 - ADDITIONS TO AND ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLES.

Firstly, provide for ALTERATIONS in the title of the Article, as above.

In 14.3 - Amend to read -

“Where appropriate, no Addition, Alteration or Amendment shall be made to or in the provisions of the Main Objects (3), Books and Accounts (11), Income and Property (12) and the Winding Up (13) Clauses or this clause in the Constitution for the time being in force, unless the same shall have been approved, in writing, by the relevant tax authorities.”

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(37)

That Article 8.10 Club Constitution – Official Guide Part 1 – Appendix 4 (page 82) be amended to read:

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 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 a membership of 1,200. The quorum, for clubs with a membership above 1,200 shall be 75.

Central Council /Rules Advisory Committee

(38)

That Rule 1.9 Non-Party Political – Official Guide Part 1, page 4 be amended as follows:

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.

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.

Central Council

(39)

That Rule 1.14 Playing Gear and Equipment – Official Guide Part 1 (page 5) be amended to read:

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.

Central Council

(40)

That Rule 2.1 (F) Membership and Registration – Official Guide Part 1 (page 6) be amended to read:

The Membership of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall run from **1st April to the 31st March each year.**

Central Council







COMHDHÁIL 2025
NA RÚIN

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