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

The John West John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na nÓg tournaments are All-Ireland Club festivals for Hurling, Football, Camogie and Handball at Under 14 years of age level. Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile, appointed by Uachtarán CLG, shall have the responsibility for the organisation of the tournaments.

This charter and the accompanying abridged version of the playing rules clearly outline the levels of good practice in terms of behaviour and participation that is required from all players, coaches and supporters at Club, County, Regional and National Féile events.

A core aim of Féile is to promote a philosophy whereby every player has the opportunity to participate and play in their respective Féile tournament at a level commensurate to their age, skills and strengths.

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

**Participation in John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg**

Teams participating at the National Finals and Regional Competitions of John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg will be nominated by their County Coisde na nÓg to represent their respective Counties. Both John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg offer every team at U14 yrs. age group an opportunity to participate in these festivals of Gaelic Games at Club, Regional or National level.

Participating teams shall be 15-a-side (unless Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile has decided that a certain Division may deviate from the 15 a-side rule), comprising of players who are over 10 and under 14 years of age on 1st January in the year of Féile.

In the case of handball a team shall consist of five players.

**Code of Behaviour**

All participating players and those attending John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peil na nÓg are obliged to adhere to and implement the *Code of Behaviour* when working with underage players.

Failure by Clubs to adhere to this Code may result in penalties and/or exclusion from John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg in accordance with the principles of the Code.

**Team preparation**

The use of additional non Club members as trainers and coaches in the preparation of John West Féile teams for John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg shall not be permitted nor shall specialist training camps or attendance at or organising of such camps by a third party on behalf of the Club/Team. Excessive training of teams in preparation for John West Féile shall not be permitted and any breach of this directive or of the above may result in the disqualification of the team from County and/or National John West Féile competitions.

County Boards are requested to monitor the excessive use of additional training sessions and challenge games by John West Féile teams, within and outside of their County. Any perceived transgressions of this Code must be reported to Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile and should such a matter be proven the Club/Team may be debarred from participation at John West Féile na nGael/John West Féile Peil na nÓg at County and/or National level.

Failure by the County Board to report such infractions may result in the exclusion of teams from that County in John West Féile na nGael and John West Féile Peil na nÓg in subsequent years.

**Panel of Players**

A playing panel for both John West Féile na nGael in Hurling and Camogie and in John West Féile Peil na nÓg for Gaelic Football and Ladies Gaelic Football shall be confined to a maximum of 24 players.

Each team shall be accompanied by 4 team mentors. Where competitions are based on reduced team numbers e.g. 11 or 13 a side Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile will stipulate a reduced maximum panel size for all teams participating in that competition. Maximum panel for 13 a side: 20 players; maximum panel for 11 aside: 17 players

In the case of handball a team shall consist of five players plus at least two mentors.

**Registration**

Each competing team must register online on the official John West Féile registration form quoting the official membership number of each panel member. The Registration Form must be submitted by the Club Rúnaí/ Registrar including the player’s full registration details. Any alteration to the original registration must be notified to the Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile prior to travelling to Féile where possible and no later than prior to the first game of the respective Féile tournament.

Amendments immediately prior to the first game will be done through the local Féile Official at the host club venue. Thereafter, no alterations shall be accepted unless authorised by the Coiste Stiúrtha Náisiúnta Féile. Amendments to registration should be made on a separate official registration form providing the full details of the substitute player. The amended registration form should also state the name of the player that they are replacing.

**Teams will not be required to bring Birth Certificates/Passport/or another form of identification as previously required. A player may be required by a National Féile Official or their nominee to give his/her date of birth at any time during Féile and random checking of official registration may take place at any time prior to or subsequent to the National Finals and Regional Competitions**

**Accommodation**

Visiting teams must stay in the accommodation provided by their host Club for as long as they remain in the National Féile tournament. Players should be accommodated in family homes and should be accommodated in pairs. No player should be left on his/her own.

Host families should be well known to club officials and are required to comply with vetting procedures. Application forms for vetting should be distributed and must be returned immediately, as all host families must be approved in advance of the Féile.

All host families should provide contact details to the host club. These details should be provided to the visiting team mentors. Host families should also be given contact details of mentors and parents for their visiting players. Host families should be kept informed of any special requirements a player may have e.g. medical conditions / dietary requirements.

**Give Respect – Get Respect**

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

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

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

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

