The Ladies Gaelic Football Association
Est 1974

Official Guide
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LGFA
PEIL na mBAN

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The Ladies Gaelic Football Association

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association was founded in Hayes Hotel, Thurles, County Tipperary on 18th July 1974. Four counties, Offaly, Kerry, Tipperary and Galway attended the meeting.

However, eight counties namely Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Waterford, Galway, Roscommon, Laois and Offaly participated in the first official All-Ireland Senior Championship of that year, which was won by Tipperary.

Today, Ladies Gaelic Football is played in all counties in Ireland. It is also played in Africa, Asia, Australia, Britain, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, South America and the USA on an organised basis. It is imperative for our Association to maintain and foster our supportive contact with our International units.

Our Association in Ireland must influence and help Ladies Gaelic Football Clubs Internationally and share the spirit of home with those who are separated physically from their homes and to introduce those who have no connection with Ireland to the enjoyment of our sporting culture and heritage. The structure of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association is similar to that of the GAA with Clubs, County Boards, Provincial Councils, Central Council and Annual Congress.

The National President is elected for one term of four years and shall not serve two consecutive terms. The Association was recognised by the GAA in 1982. In the early years of its foundation, the Association used the rules in the Official Guide of the GAA in conjunction with its own rules.

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association decided at a Central Council meeting on 7th October 1985 to publish its own Official Guide. A Committee comprising of National President Pat Quill, Vice- President Peter Rice and Chairman of the Wexford County Board Kieran Dunne were selected to carry out this task. The Committee forwarded its findings to a Special Congress on the 8th March 1986. The first Official Guide was ratified on that date.

The Association organises National Competitions for counties in Under 14, Under 16, Under 18, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. National Championships are organised for Club Champions in Junior, Intermediate, Senior and 7-A-Side, Post Primary Schools, Third Level Colleges as well as an annual Interprovincial Competition.

The Association acknowledges and appreciates the GAA for the use of its pitches and facilities.

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association is an organisation which endeavours to reach into communities in Ireland and Internationally to promote Ladies Gaelic Football and to support the Irish Language and other aspects of Irish culture. Volunteers and employees throughout Ireland and Internationally promote the ideals of the Association.

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be The Ladies Gaelic Football Association or Cumann Peil Gael na mBan.

2. Definitions

45: a 45 is awarded where the ball is played over the end-line and outside the goalposts, by one of the defending side. The opposing team shall be awarded a 45-metre kick opposite to where the ball crossed the end-line in games played on a full size regulation pitch. Where games are played on a reduced size pitch the terminology of awarding a 45 shall be used even though the kick may be of a lesser distance than 45m from the opposing goal. The distance shall be as defined by the organising committee or the referee.

Affected Party: means any party whose rights within the Association may be affected by any complaint, objection, disciplinary matter or appeal.

Ageism: means prejudice or discrimination based on a person's age.

Appeal: means an appeal validly made to the Appeals Committee, of a decision of a lower committee.

Appeals Committee: means the three persons appointed to hear an appeal of a Decision of any Unit or a Hearings Committee regarding a Complaint, Objection or Disciplinary matter at County Board and Central Council.

Appeals Panel: means the persons appointed from which the Appeals Committee shall be constituted. The Appeals panel shall consist of a minimum of 5 persons.

Appellant: means the person appealing a decision.

Appointed Officer: a person who is identified by the executive of the relevant unit and ratified at a full meeting. President nominee is exempt as per Rule 239.

Association or the Association: means the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

Bye-Laws: means rules adopted by any unit of the Association in order to regulate its own affairs and the behaviour of its members. (Such rules, in the context of these rules, may be adopted to provide solutions for local conditions, matters or situations not otherwise adequately provided for in the Official Guide. Bye-Laws, when approved by Central Council have the same force and effect as if enacted as part of the Official Guide).

Bullying: means the use of strength or power to threaten, frighten or hurt.

CCA: shall have the meaning assigned to it by and as defined in Rule 130.

City or Town: the definition of town/city boundary is that as defined by the statutory body of town or City Council or County Council.

Club: means any Club as defined in the Association's Official Guide.

Club Disciplinary Matter: means any misconduct which occurs on the grounds of the Club but outside any competition or which occurs outside the grounds of the Club where the Member was representing the Club.

Club Disciplinary Officer: means the disciplinary officer appointed by the chair of a Club as and when required to investigate or process and address any Complaint or Club Disciplinary Matter within the Club and who shall report to the Club executive committee. The Club Disciplinary Officer shall not be a current member of the executive committee.

Club Hearings Committee: means a three-person committee appointed by the chair of a Club on a case by case basis to hear a Complaint or Club Disciplinary Matter.

CODA Rules: means the complaints, objections, disciplinary and appeals rules set out in Part 3 herein.

College: as defined in the Official Guide.

Committees, Boards or Councils: means Committees of Clubs, Schools, Colleges and sub committees thereof as well as sub-committees of County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils. Boards mean County Boards. Councils mean Provincial or Central Council.

Complainant: means the person making the Complaint.

Complaint: means a complaint of a personal nature made by one Member against another Member or Club, County Board, Province or Central Council or any committee thereof in the form prescribed under the Rules.

Complaints, Objections and Disciplinary Officer ("CODA"): means the Member or Members (maximum of 3 persons) appointed by the executive committee of each County, Province or Central Council to receive investigate and process Complaints, Objections and Disciplinary Actions, and Appeals, appointed for a period of three years.

Conflict of Interest: a conflict of interest occurs when a member's personal interests' conflict with their responsibility to act in the best interests of the Association.

Counter Objection: means an Objection made by the Affected Party in receipt of an Objection from the Objector.

Decision: means any decision of any unit, Hearings Committee, Appeals Committee or sub-committee of any unit.

Delegate: is a registered member of the LGFA who is sent or authorised to represent their club or county at County, Provincial or Central Council meetings.

Direction: means any direction given, in addition to or in place of a Sanction, by the Hearings or Appeals Committee. A Direction shall be discretionary and may include the following:

- Attendance at an education, communication or other type of course
- Suspension or deferral of Sanctions pending further review or compliance with directions

Disciplinary Action: means the disciplinary procedures commenced under Section 6.1 of Part Three of the Official Guide.

Dispute Resolution Authority: means the Gaelic Games independent body which maintains a panel of arbitrators from which it appoints arbitrators to decide on disputes referred to it.

Electronic Form: any form/document/mail which is capable of being transmitted in digital form via the internet or telephone system.

Event: means any LGFA sanctioned playing or non-playing activity.

Exceptional circumstances: means any circumstance or circumstances not governed by the provisions of the rules.

Executive Committee: means the officers and designated members of a club, county board or provincial council as outlined in the Official Guide.

Ex-Presidents: one year after their term of office as President expires.

Extraordinary General Meeting: means a meeting of the members of any unit held at short notice in order to consider a particular matter.

Falsification: means the alteration, omission or fabrication of any document, record, communication or information, whether written or verbal, in a manner that misrepresents or is designed to mispresent fact.

Female Liaison Officer: a female liaison officer (FLO) is the female official required to be part of every management team. The FLO will act as a liaison between the players and the management team and with the club or county board. The County FLO should not be part of the selection process of teams and shall remain neutral. The FLO must be a registered member of the LGFA.

Financial Report: a financial report shall include the Income & Expenditure, Balance Sheet and supporting bank statements.

Financial Audit: a financial audit is an independent, objective evaluation of a unit's financial reports and financial reporting processes. The primary purpose for financial audits is to give members reasonable assurance that financial statements are accurate and complete.

Forgery: means the creation, alteration, or use of a false document, signature, which misleads or is designed to mislead another person or Unit of the Association.

Fresh Hearing: means a new hearing as if the original hearing before the Hearings Committee did not take place.

Grades:

- Adult Inter-County Grade is League and Championship
- Adult Club Grade is all adult official club competition
- School Grade is Junior and Senior
- Colleges is all HEC competitions
- Underage is confined to the age group and competition

Hearing: means a hearing of first instance before a Hearings Committee of the County Board or higher Unit.

Hearings Committee: means the three persons appointed to hear a Complaint, Objection or Disciplinary matter at County Board, Schools, Colleges, Provincial Council and Central Council. Club Hearings Committee shall mean Hearings Committee in the procedures of these rules where jurisdiction allows it.

Hearings Panel: means the persons appointed from which the Complaints, Objection and Disciplinary Committee shall be constituted. The hearings panel shall consist of a minimum of 5 persons.

High tackle: means a tackle from the chest up.

Homophobia: means dislike of or prejudice against gay people.

Illegal: contrary to established rules.

Inappropriate Language: means an offensive or obscene word or phrase.

Inappropriate Conduct: means conduct that falls below the standard ordinarily expected of a reasonable person in the circumstances.

Informal Dispute Resolution: means a flexible and informal approach to resolving a Complaint.

International Units: means International Boards.

Intimidation: means behaviour intended to frighten, coerce, or cause fear of harm.

Investigation: means a process whereby information and facts are sought and clarified by an investigator(s) who are usually the CODA or Club Disciplinary Officer.

LGFA: means the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (the "Association").

Majority: "a simple majority" shall consist of 50% +1, of votes cast by those present and entitled to vote. The presiding Chairperson shall have a vote and in the event of a tie shall have a casting vote. An exception arises where a tie occurs in an election when, if one candidate is an outgoing office holder, such person shall be elected. "A two-thirds majority" shall consist of two-thirds of the votes cast by those present, voting and entitled to vote.

Mediation: means an informal, without prejudice method of resolving a dispute (but not an Objection or Disciplinary Action) through the use of a neutral third party, called a Mediator.

Mediator: means a professionally accredited, neutral, independent third party trained in assisting parties to reach a settlement through Mediation.

Member: means a Member of the LGFA as defined in the Association's Official Guide.

Moderate Impact: means not extreme or excessive.

Objection: means an objection to the transfer of player contrary to rule or eligibility of a player.

Objector: means the person(s) making the Objection.

Officer: means the role as defined in the Association's rules.

Official: means match officials and any officers of the Association, any Sport Ireland doping control official, or any other person involved in doping control.

Parent: means the parent or guardian of a child.

Participant: means any member or person who participates in activities organised or sanctioned by the LGFA in any capacity, including but not limited to player, coach, manager, doctor, physiotherapist, match official or spectator.

Player: is a registered female member of the LGFA who participates in training and games who fulfils the eligibility playing conditions of the LGFA.

Quorum: means the minimum number of members which must be present at any of its meetings in order to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.

Racism: means prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone based on racial difference.

Real Property: means the property of the Club, County, Province or Central Council, of an immovable nature, comprising any playing pitches, grounds or buildings, whether of leasehold or freehold tenure, with all fixtures and fittings attached thereto and used therewith.

Referee's Report: means the official report completed by the referee of a match.

Respondent: means the person responding to or the subject of a complaint, objection, disciplinary action or appeal.

Rules: means the Official Guide for the time being in force.

Safeguarding: means the Association's Safeguarding Policies.

Sanction: means any fine, penalty, disqualification or suspension, including the sin bin or other form of limitation imposed on any Member of the Association as set out in Schedule 1. Any Sanction issued by a Hearings Committee or Appeals Committee must consist of a fine and/or suspension.

Set Play: a set play is used to restart play from a stoppage specifically from a free kick, 45-metre kick, sideline kick, or other placed kick.

Sexism: means prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination based on gender.

Special Case: a special case is one, subjectively interpreted by the Association, which concerns a particular matter that is unique in nature and which is not governed by any other rule of the Association.

Solo and Go: to take a free kick immediately by executing a toe-tap and playing on.

Standing Orders: mean rules adopted by the Association to govern and control procedure and the behaviour of its members at its meetings.

Team: means any team established within any club, county, province, school or college.

Team Lineouts: teams shall lineout in designated positions as follows:

15-A-Side - Goalkeeper, 3 in Full Back Line, 3 in the Half Back Line, 2 Midfielders, 3 in the Half Forward Line and 3 in the Full Forward Line.

13-A-Side - Goalkeeper, 2 in the Full Back Line, 3 in the Half Back Line, 2 Midfielders, 3 in the Half Forward Line, 2 in the Full Forward Line.

11-A-Side - Goalkeeper, 2 in the Full Back Line, 2 in the Half Back Line, 2 Midfielders, 2 in the Half Forward Line, 2 in the Full Forward Line.

9-A-Side - Goalkeeper, 3 Defenders, 2 Midfielders, 3 Forwards.

7-A-Side - Goalkeeper, 2 Backs, 2 Midfielders, 2 Forwards.

Team Official: is an individual acting in a non-playing capacity as part of a team's management or support structure. Team Officials may include, but are not limited to, managers, coaches, selectors, female liaison officers, medical personnel, water carriers and designated administrative or liaison staff.

Third Level Colleges: Universities, Higher Education Institutes and any other body providing Third Level Education and whose games are administered by the Higher Education Committee (HEC).

Transphobia: means dislike of or prejudice against transgender or transsexual people.

Underage Player: means any member under the age of 18.

Unit: means any:

- Club
- County Board
- Provincial Council
- Central Council
- School
- College

Or any committee or sub-committee thereof.

Aims and Ethos

3. The aim of the Association shall be to foster, promote, develop and control Ladies Gaelic Football.

4. The Association shall promote Ladies Gaelic Football as a means for leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

5. The Association shall endeavour to support the advancement of the Irish language and other aspects of Irish culture.

6. The Association shall assist in promoting development through its Clubs at Local, Community and International level.

7. It is recommended that the National Flag be flown in accordance with protocol. Where the National Anthem precedes a game, teams shall stand to attention, facing the flag, in a respectful manner.

8. (a) The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non-sectarian and non-political.

   (b) The Association should co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own as outlined in this Official Guide.

   (c) The Association will prioritise integration with the GAA and the Camogie Association in order to jointly ensure equal investment, recognition and opportunity for all genders to play all sports in the Gaelic Games Family.

   (d) The Association recognises the role of the Dual Player, who is a member of both the LGFA and Camogie Association, and will endeavour to facilitate them as far as is practicable.

9. 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 LGFA intellectual property rights. Players may not participate in full-time training and all preparation or completion 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 inhibit the payment of salaries or wages to employees of the Association in administrative or broader games development related coaching roles approved by Central Council.

Official Guide
Part One

General

10. The Association is a democratic organisation comprising of the following:

    (a) Members

    (b) Clubs

    (c) County/International Boards, including Schools and Colleges Committees and any other Committees under the control of the County/International Board

    (d) Provincial Councils

    (e) Central Council

    (f) Annual Congress

    The Central Council, based in Ireland, shall be the supreme governing body of the Association worldwide.

11. The Association shall adopt a Code of Conduct for Officers, Members, Players, Parents/Guardians, Mentors, Supporters, Match Officials, Teams and Units, 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.

12. The Chairperson of Central Council shall be titled President.

13. In the absence of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of Club or County Board or the President or Vice-President of Provincial Council to preside over a meeting, the members present shall choose someone in attendance to preside for that meeting or until such time as the Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson, President or Vice-President arrives at the meeting.

14. The President of each Provincial Council shall be automatically Vice-President of Central Council.

15. In the absence of the President of Central Council to chair a meeting, it shall be chaired by the President of the Provincial Council in whose Province the meeting is being held, or another Vice-President, or person nominated by the members at the meeting.

16. In the case of the death or permanent incapacity of the National President, 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.

17. All official correspondence to and from any unit in connection with any Association matters, except matters relating to the CODA Rules, must come through a designated email address and the person sending the email must enter his/her name at the end of the correspondence.

18. Any irregularities in the affairs of the Association which occurred within the previous 24 months and which fall under the purview of the CODA Rules must be investigated by the Club Disciplinary Officer and/or the relevant CODA Officer.

19. In examining any given situation the Committee, Board or Council, Club Disciplinary Officer or relevant CODA Officer shall use video evidence at its discretion. It shall not be used in relation to the result of a game. Video evidence shall be limited to relevant, authentic and unedited footage which was approved by the relevant unit.

20. Each competing Club, School, College, County or Province shall be responsible for the conduct of its members and followers.

21. Team mentors, officials or players are not allowed to smoke or vape during the course of a game while inside the pitch boundaries. Breach of the rule shall result in a fine of €100.

22. Apart from matters which fall under the CODA Rules, the Secretary/CEO shall have charge of correspondence, keeping of records and recording of minutes of meetings. Such minutes, having been proposed and adopted, shall be signed by the Chairperson/President. The Secretary/CEO shall submit an annual report at the Annual General Meeting, County or Provincial Convention and Annual Congress. Since all documentation is the property of the Club, County Board, Provincial and Central Council, the Secretary shall hand over to the incoming Executive/Management Committee all minutes and records held upon retirement at the end of the year or upon resignation at any time during the year.

    Failure to do so may be investigated by the CODA Officer of the next highest level of the Association. All documentation relating to the CODA Rules shall be retained by the CODA Officer and shall be handed over to the incoming CODA Officer.

23. Clubs and Counties must appoint a Children's Officer who should be a member of the Executive Committee and shall have voting rights.

    Children's Officers should be player-centred in focus. They should have as their primary aim the establishment of a player-centred ethos within the Club and County. The Children's Officer is the link between young players and adults in the Club or County.

    The Children's Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Child Safeguarding Policy (Underage) policies are implemented within Club or County. The Association shall have a designated Children's Officer at National level.

    A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is a mandatory requirement for Clubs and Counties. The DLP is not an elected position but one that is selected by the Executive. Where a person is not identified to the role, the chairperson automatically becomes the DLP for that unit. The Association shall also have a DLP at National level.

    The DLP is a non-voting position unless held by a member of the Executive.

24. All nominations for positions to Committees at Clubs, County Boards, Divisional Boards, Provincial Councils or Central Councils and all matters which require a proposal and seconder must be made by two separate people.

25. Clubs, County Boards, Provincial Councils and Central Council shall elect an Executive or Management Committee. They shall hold office and conduct the business thereof until the conclusion of the following AGM, Convention or Congress.

    The Executive Committee shall be answerable to the full Club membership, full County Board, Provincial and Central Council delegates.

26. Should any position on the Executive Committee at Club, County, Provincial or Central Council level fail to be filled through nominations or those present at the meeting, nomination papers shall be sent out within 7 days, seeking candidates for the vacant positions to be filled at the next meeting.

27. Should any member/s of the Executive Committee, resign, be deemed to have resigned, or his/her position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive, who shall consist of no less than three officers, shall seek a replacement through nominations from the relevant board, committee or Council within 7 days. The appointment shall be approved by the full Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council.

28. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be summoned by the Executive/ Management Committee of Club, County, Provincial or Central Council or at the signed request of 10 Full Members.

    The only business to be transacted at such meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. At least 5 days' notice shall be given of the time, place and special business of the meeting, unless in emergency situations, where shorter notice shall suffice.

29. An Emergency Meeting of the Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council may be called by the Chairperson/President or by a signed request of 10 Full Members.

30. A decision made by the Club Committee, County Board, Provincial or Central Council shall not be altered at a subsequent meeting, except on a motion supported by a two-thirds majority of those present, voting and entitled to vote.

31. The quorum for meetings of Executive Committees at all levels shall be 50% plus 1 of the members entitled to attend, and a minimum of 3 per sub-committee.

    The quorum for meetings of full County Board, Provincial and Central Councils of the Association shall be one fifth of the members entitled to attend.

    A quorum shall not apply to a Club General Meeting.

Bye-Laws

32. County Convention shall have the right to make Bye-Laws as it deems necessary for the betterment of the Association within the County.

    They must be forwarded to Central Council by the 1st March and ratified at a Central Council Meeting after Congress. Such Bye-Laws shall not become operative until approved by Central Council. The Bye-Laws shall not conflict with the rules contained in the Official Guide.

33. Any unit of the Association shall have the right to make Bye-Laws as it deems necessary for the betterment of the Association.

    Such Bye-Laws must not be in conflict with the rules of the Association and shall not place a restriction on when fixtures are played or govern postponement of fixtures.

    Bye-Laws must be forwarded to Central Council by the 1st March for ratification at a Central Council Meeting.

    Bye-Laws shall not become operative until approved by Central Council.

Finance

34. Club, School and Colleges Committees, Divisional Boards, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall have power to raise finance and to control, administer and utilise the funds at their disposal in the interests of the Association.

35. Club, School and College Committees, Divisional Boards, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall keep true and accurate accounts and records showing their financial affairs. Receipts, invoices, etc., to support all transactions shall be retained for a period of at least 5 years and shall at all times be open to inspection by the Executive Committee.

36. Any real property held by Clubs, Divisional Boards, County Boards and Provincial Councils shall not be sold, leased, transferred, conveyed, mortgaged or otherwise charged or dealt with without the consent of Central Council.

37. Club, School and College Committees, Divisional Boards, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall open their own bank accounts. Cheques and other transactions on these accounts shall be signed by the Treasurer or Joint Treasurer and either by the Assistant Treasurer, Chairperson or Secretary.

38. Club, School and College Committees, Divisional Boards, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall be responsible for authorised expenses of their officials and referees acting on their behalf.

39. County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall have the power to request any unit under their control to produce records, documents or any other evidence that may be required from time to time.

40. The Treasurer shall have charge of all financial affairs of the Club, School and College Committees, Divisional Boards, County Boards, Provincial and Central Council and operate such affairs as requested by the relevant Board, Committee or Council.

    Employed Financial Administrators of the Association shall be responsible for the day to day financial transactions to the relevant Treasurer(s) and Management Committee of the Association.

    The audited accounts must be circulated and presented at the AGM.

    A Financial Report, showing Income & Expenditure, monies owed to and by the board, shall be circulated at each meeting of the Club, Divisional Board, County Board, Provincial and Central Council and to each meeting of the Management Committee of Central Council. The reports shall also show how funds are invested.

    County Boards must submit annual statutory financial accounts by an Accountancy firm/a qualified independent Accountant giving a full report on the Accounts. Where the turnover of the County Board exceeds an amount determined by the relevant statutory authorities a full audit must be completed.

    Financial statements of Provincial Councils and Central Council must be fully audited by an independent Accountancy firm with the firm giving a full annual report on the Accounts.

    The Treasurer shall hand over to the incoming Executive/Management Committee all financial records and documents held upon retirement at the end of the year or upon resignation at any time during the year. Failure to do so may be investigated by the CODA Officer of the next highest level of the Association.

41. The Committee, Board, or Council represented by the Treasurer/Financial Administrator shall furnish a balance sheet of the accounts for the year just ended, to the Club, County Board, Provincial and Annual Congress. The Financial Year ends on 30th September each year. These must be supported by bank statements.

    Failure to do so shall result in suspension until furnished. In the absence of a County Board, the accounts shall be forwarded to Provincial or Central Council as appropriate.

42. Payment of monetary sanctions shall be made within 8 weeks of notification thereof. Failure to do so may result in suspension from Association activities.

Membership

43. Membership of the Association shall be granted by a Club to persons who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and the ethos of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, as stated in the Official Guide.

    However, officers of Central Council, the National CODAs, Provincial CODAs, County CODAs and members of the National Hearings and Appeals Panels may register with the National Registrar and become Full Members by doing so.

44. Membership shall be open to all regardless of their age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality or social/economic status.

45. Full Membership may be given to all persons, who have reached 18 years upon payment of the appropriate membership fee and who register with a Club.

46. Youth Membership may be granted by a Club only to persons who have not reached the age of 18 years, who pay the appropriate membership fee.

    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).

47. All registered female members who have paid their Registration, Development and Injury Fund Fees, and who fulfil the appropriate eligibility conditions, shall be eligible to play for a Club, County or Province.

48. Each accepted Full and Youth Member shall pay a membership fee as decided by the Club. Any such member who has not paid their membership fee by the 1st April shall cease to be a member from that date.

49. Honorary Membership may be granted by a club to persons who have given exceptional service to the Association. An Honorary Member shall not have voting rights.

50. Only a Full Member of the Association who has paid their Membership Fee and who is not suspended or disqualified, may seek election to any Committee, Board or Council.

Registrations

51. The Club Registrar shall submit to the County, Provincial and Central Council Registrars on the official electronic system the Club's list of registered members.

    Each registration shall be accompanied by a Registration fee, Development Fund fee and a compulsory Injury Fund fee as determined by County Board, Provincial and Central Council.

    (a) Under 10 membership (dates of birth must be included) (Present Fee €5.00 to Central Council + €5.00 Injury Fund + €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board and Provincial Council)

    (b) Under 12 to Under 18 membership (dates of birth must be recorded) (Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + €10.00 Injury Fund with optional €25.00 + €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board, Provincial Council)

    (c) Over 18 membership (Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + €25.00 Injury Fund + €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board, Provincial Council)

(d) Club and Team Officials, Trainers, Coaches and Selectors (Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + Injury Fund (optional) + €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board, Provincial Council)

(e) Under 14 players under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council of Britain. (Fee of €1.30 to the County Board, €1.30 to Provincial Council and €1.30 to Central Council)

(f) International units (Present fee €2 per player)

However, units which participate in All-Ireland Competitions and National Féile must pay the Full Registration Fee as outlined in Rule 51.

(g) Under 14 players under the jurisdiction of the New York County Board (fee of €1 to Central Council and €1 to the County Board)

(h) Gaelic4Mothers&Others (Present fee €6 to Central Council + €2 to Provincial Council + €2 to the County Board + €2 to the Club)

(i) Youth Non-Playing (Present fee €15.00 to Central Council + €10.00 Injury Fund (optional)+ €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board and Provincial Council)

(j) Referees (Present fee €15.00 to Central Council + €25.00 Injury Fund (optional) + €1 Development Fund + Club, County Board and Provincial Council)

(k) GAA All Stars: €2 to Central Council, €2 Provincial, €2 County Board, €2 Club

County managers, trainers, coaches, selectors, female liaison officers, team officials and water carriers must also be registered.

A player's or member's registration is valid only when processed and completed by the LGFA Registration System.

All officers of County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils must be registered members of affiliated Clubs unless exempted under Rule 43.

52. A player may only be registered as a playing member of one club at any one time.

53. HEC Present Fee €5 per player. College players must register to the HEC even though they may already be registered with a club.

54. The registration year shall be from 1st April to 31st March of the following year.

55. Any player registered between the 1st January and 31st March shall be deemed to be registered up to and including the 31st March of the following year. Players registered with a new Club will be covered until the end of their first competitive season.

56. Where any unit/team is alleged to have played an unregistered player, the matter shall be referred to CODA within seven days of the alleged offence.

57. CODA Officers and members of any Hearings or Appeals Committees must be Full Members of the Association.

Voting Procedures

58. Only Full Registered Members as outlined in Rule 43 whose membership fees are paid no later than the 1st September of the Registration Year and who are not suspended or disqualified are eligible to vote at a Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council meeting and sub-committees thereof.

    A Youth Voting member as outlined in Rule 46 who has paid their annual subscription no later than 1st September shall be eligible to vote at any following meetings of the club only.

    Where it is found that an unregistered or ineligible member voted, and their vote would have changed the outcome of the decision, that decision shall be declared null and void.

    Where it is found that their vote did not affect the outcome, the decision of the meeting shall stand.

59. Each Club and County shall be allowed three voting delegates, to County Board, Provincial and Central Council, one of whom must be a current player. This is in addition to any who may hold officership at Provincial and Central Council.

60. Should the nominated delegates to County, Central and Provincial Councils be unable to attend meetings, substitutes may attend, provided they are eligible registered members of the Club or County Board concerned.

61. Election of Officers of any unit of the Association shall be by secret ballot. Candidates for positions who are unable to attend the meeting, shall indicate in writing their intention to go forward for election and shall be added to the list of nominees.

    The candidate who obtains a simple majority of the votes cast by those present and entitled to vote shall be deemed elected. If there are more than two candidates and none has achieved a simple majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and another ballot held. The process should be repeated until a result is achieved.

    In the event of a tie where an outgoing officer or representative is involved, he/she shall be deemed to be re-elected.

    If an outgoing officer or representative is not involved, the tie shall be decided by lot.

62. Decisions may be taken by a show of hands. However, contentious issues shall be decided by secret ballot.

63. Decisions of Club and County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils, shall be taken by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the presiding Chairperson or President shall have a second or casting vote.

64. Club or County Boards, Provincial or Central Councils shall have the power to appoint full time or part-time paid officials. They shall not have the right to vote except with their Home Club, provided they are not a paid official of that Club. They shall be subject to the terms and conditions laid down by the relevant Committee, Board or Council.

    Each Committee, Board or Council shall be responsible for the payment of such officials.

    Paid officials shall not be eligible to hold an elected position on Club, County Board, School or College Committees, Provincial or Central Councils or sub-committees thereof, other than his/her Home Club, provided they are not a paid official of that Club.

Injury Fund

65. Central Council shall administer a compulsory Injury Fund. It should be clearly noted that the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) is acting in a merely gratuitous manner and this fund, is not, and shall not, be interpreted either as an insurance or indemnity, nor shall it in any way bind the Association to a legal obligation to members.

    Risk is an inherent factor in sport. When players voluntarily take part in games, they automatically accept the risks involved.

66. The Injury Fund will not provide cover to a person who develops a condition later in life as a result of a previous injury received while playing Ladies Gaelic Football.

67. No person shall be entitled to participate in the games organised by the Association without first paying the Injury Fund fee for inclusion in the fund. The fee shall be paid electronically with the Registration Fee.

    A team playing a player who has not paid the Injury Fund fee shall, subject to the rules then pertaining, be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

68. Exemptions from the Fund shall be:

    (a) Non-registered LGFA players participating in official Schools Competitions

    (b) Non-playing members of the Association whose participation in the scheme shall be optional

    (c) International Units as sanctioned by Central Council

    (d) Players participating in Gaelic4Mothers&Others. However, all participants must have their own personal injury cover to participate

    (e) Under 14 players under the control of the Provincial Council of Britain

    (f) HEC registered players where proof of insurance cover from the college can be provided

69. The subscription to the fund shall be determined by Central Council. Present rates are €25 for an adult, €10 for 11 to 18 year olds and €5 for under 10s.

    A player paying the €25 shall be entitled to be considered for a payment of wages or salary loss together with medical treatment only.

    A player paying €5/€10 shall be entitled to be considered for payment of medical expenses only.

    There is no legal obligation on the Association to provide such a Fund. All players must ensure they follow the terms and conditions of the Fund in order to benefit.

    The Fund does not entitle any member a right to reimbursement without having followed the rules of the Injury Fund as stated in the Injury Fund Guide.

70. The Registration and Injury Fund shall commence on 1st April each year and terminate on the 31st March of the following year.

71. A player or club registering or affiliating to the Association after 1st January in any year, shall be included in the fund up to and including the 31st March of the following year, except in the formation of a new club as provided in Rule 55.

72. Where a player is registered with an existing club between 1st January and 31st March, she shall also be included on the registration system for the new Registration Year i.e., registration, which takes effect from 1st April.

73. It is not envisaged that the Injury Fund will fully compensate, nor does it attempt to fully compensate individuals. Priority consideration shall be the payment of medical expenses as outlined below:

(a) Medical expenses to a maximum of €5,500

Physiotherapy, which shall be limited to a maximum of 6 sessions. If subsequent sessions are required, a full report outlining the reasons must be submitted by the registered physiotherapist or registered physical therapist. Further payment will only be considered on receipt of this report.

(b) Dental treatment to a maximum of €3,000

(c) Loss of wages or salary to a maximum of €200 per week for 20 weeks

Central Council shall from time to time decide and fix a sum, which shall be referred to as the "Maximum Payment" in respect of treatment, salary or wages, for which injured parties shall be considered.

Only one LGFA Injury Fund claim can be opened per injury sustained. The maximum medical benefit permitted under the Fund per injury is €5,500.

74. In determining the amount to be paid to an injured party, the Association shall take all and every matter it considers relevant into account in coming to its determination.

This may include benefits from Social Welfare, Hospital Services, Medical Cards, Private Medical Insurance and any other benefit of any nature whatsoever accruing to the injured party. Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to imply any legal right to the applicant, either in terms of amount of entitlement or to be considered for payment.

75. Any player that returns to the sport will be considered to have completed the treatment necessary to be fit to return to the sport, and this will close their claim.

Where a player is directed to return to sport as part of their rehabilitation and wishes their claim to remain open, she must submit a medical letter advising of this direction from their medical practitioner, following the same protocol as the prior approval requirements.

76. All applications for payment of money from the Injury Fund, shall be signed by the County Secretary or other authorised officer, on an Official Full Injury Claim Form and shall be accompanied by original receipts, medical certificates where applicable, and any other documentation as required by Central Council.

(a) The Full Injury Claim Form must be signed by the Club Secretary and the County Secretary or their authorised Officers.

(b) County Secretaries or other authorised officers shall set up a Register of Claims showing the date of injury, date of Foireann notification and date of Foireann approval by County officer.

77. In order to be considered for payment, all claims must be lodged with Central Council within 8 weeks from the date of the injury, unless otherwise approved by Central Council.

Where claims are received late by Central Council, and where the delay is due to the Club or County Secretary or other authorised officers, the Club or County Board may be held responsible for the payment of the claim.

78. Should an applicant fail to lodge a claim application in accordance with the rules or give incorrect particulars on the Foireann Injury Fund notifications portal or Full Injury Claim Form, s/he shall not be considered for payment.

79. Claims must be notified on the Foireann Injury Fund notifications portal within 8 weeks of the date of injury.

    Where a claim form has been notified, a report and update on the claim must be submitted by the injured party within one year from the date of Foireann Injury Fund notification, to validate the claim.

80. All claims, of which notifications have been received must be lodged and validated within 2 years of the original Foireann Injury Fund notification, except in exceptional circumstances.

81. An application without the necessary documentation will be declared void.

82. An application made by a member which, in the opinion of Central Council is not a bona fide application, or which is made for the purpose of obtaining payment to which s/he is not entitled, shall be declared void.

    Central Council shall be at liberty to suspend both the applicant and the persons who countersigned the application form, for an indefinite period and make an order for repayment of any monies that may have been paid on foot of the application.

83. A member shall not seek payment from the Injury Fund for private treatment unless:

    (a) Prior sanction is received from the National Injury Fund Co-Ordinator by following the prior approval process as laid out in the Injury Fund Guide

    (b) In an emergency situation – where treatment has occurred within 5 days of the injury date and a medical letter is provided confirming the requirement for the emergency treatment

    Any request for private treatment must be supported by documentary evidence from a medical practitioner or physiotherapist, to show the reason why private treatment is necessary. This must be on business headed paper and, where the letter is from a physiotherapist, must state their registration to the ISCP (Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists) or HCPC (UK Health & Care Professionals Council).

    Prior approval is required for all treatments outside of:

    a. 90% of 6 Physiotherapy Sessions

    b. GP Visits

    c. Public Hospital Fees

84. Applicants shall submit themselves for examination by Medical Practitioners appointed by the Association, when and where the Association shall require. Strict compliance with this rule is fundamental to consideration to benefit from the Injury Fund.

85. The Central Council of the Association shall be the sole and final arbiter of all matters connected with the fund and the scheme. However, in the case of a dispute on any matter, without prejudice to the rights of the Association to decline, an arbitration procedure will be available.

86. The above rules govern the Injury Fund and it is a condition precedent of entitlement to consideration under the Injury Fund that members, prior to their joining, are fully acquainted with its terms and conditions and agree to be bound thereby.

It is also a condition precedent of the Injury Fund, that members who have not read or do not understand or have not had the Injury Fund explained to them, are deemed to be fully aware of its contents in its entirety.

Injury Fund Arbitration Procedure

87. An Arbitration Board shall be appointed in a case where arbitration is warranted. It shall consist of one person nominated by Central Council and a member of the Association nominated by the claimant, together with an independent professional person nominated by Central Council.

88. Decisions of the Arbitration Board shall be conclusive, final and binding on all parties, and under no circumstances shall either party appeal to any Court of Law in respect of any matter arising out of the Injury Fund. It is a condition precedent of this Injury Fund that the finding of the Arbitration Board be accepted as final and binding.

Affiliation

89. Payment of an affiliation fee by Clubs, Schools, Colleges or County Boards shall be as decided by the Club, School, College, County Board, Provincial and Central Councils.

Teams shall not compete in official competitions until such affiliation fees have been paid.

All International Units shall pay an affiliation fee to Central Council and shall provide a list of registered players to Central Council.

Safeguarding

90. 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 (Underage) 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 that Policy) and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provision of the Policy from time to time. That Policy shall provide for the manner in which it is determined whether the procedures under the Policy or the provisions of disciplinary rules shall be invoked in any particular case.

(d) Central Council shall have in place the Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations 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 provisions of these Rules or under the Club Constitution and Rules.

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

91. Notwithstanding Rules 130, 131, 132 and 133, a player, parents or guardian may apply in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from Rule 130 following a hearing/investigation under the Child Safeguarding Policy (Underage) and seek permission to play with another club. Such permission may be granted where findings are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council.

92. (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 the CODA Rules 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 Gaelic Games 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.

Anti-Doping

93. The Anti-Doping Rules of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association are the same as the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.

Sponsorship

94. The rules governing sponsorship shall be as defined by Central Council.

95. The Management Committee of Central Council shall have the power to negotiate and administer sponsorship and naming rights and submit to Central Council for approval.

96. The Association's logo must be displayed on all jerseys worn by players during official Inter-County games.

97. Club, School, College, Divisional Board, County Board and Provincial Committees shall have authority to negotiate sponsorship in accordance with the regulations drawn up from time to time by Central Council. The sponsorship must be approved by the relevant Committee, Board or Council.

The Association shall allow sponsorship of playing attire, trophies, competition tournaments, functions and other areas, provided such sponsorship is not in contravention of, and does not pose any threat to, the aims and objectives of the Association.

No brand name(s), distinctive marks of logo or other advertising material relating to alcohol companies, public house, or off licence premises shall be displayed on the player gear or any additional gear equipment belonging to or relating to teams catering exclusively for young people under 18 years of age.

Sponsorship of teams catering exclusively for young people under 18 years of age by alcohol companies is prohibited.

98. Sponsorship of playing attire shall be accepted, provided presentation is made to the officials of the appropriate unit of the Association, that there is no obligation to wear the attire in any particular game or team photographs, and it conforms to the guidelines of Central Council.

99. Playing attire may also bear the name of the team or any appropriate crests.

100. Markings allowed on jerseys, tracksuits, kit bags, etc., shall be the manufacturers or sponsors brand name, crest or logo. The sponsor's brand name or logo is allowed on the front of the jerseys and on the sleeves, which shall not exceed 350 square centimetres. The calculation of the size does not refer to the area covered by the individual letters of a name or logo, but to the total area. Additional branding on the back area of jersey will be allowed throughout League and Championship games but must be replaced by main competition sponsor for National Finals or on other area(s) of jerseys shall be allowed as per specifications approved by Central Council.

101. Any unit of the Association which breaches the above sponsorship rules shall be liable to a fine, disqualification and/or loss of expenses. Individuals in breach of the rules shall be liable to suspension.

102. Units of the Association must also be aware of the GAA Rules governing sponsorship while using their property.

International

103. Where there is not an independent International Ladies Football Board, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association recognises the GAA Boards and their structures for the administration of Ladies Gaelic Football.

However, the rules as outlined in the Official Guide of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association shall apply to all areas of the playing rules.

104. All International Units except Britain shall submit via the electronic registration system to the Ladies Gaelic Football office in Croke Park, the names of their Ladies Gaelic Football Clubs, the female players and mentors thereof accompanied by a Registration Fee of €2 per person by the 1st June each year with the exception of the Australasian Board/ USGAA who will pay an agreed Annual Fee to Central Council.

However, Units which participate in All-Ireland competitions must pay the Full Registration Fee as outlined in Rule 51.

Units in the USA and Canada must provide a list to Central Council on or before 30th April. Players who are resident in the USA or Canada on that date shall be deemed to be home based players.

105. International affiliated Units of the Association shall be entitled to two delegates to Central Council and Annual Congress.

106. A player wishing to transfer to a USGAA or Canada GAA club, from any jurisdiction outside the USGAA or Canada GAA control, must complete the Official transfer form or through an application on Foireann and submit this form to the Ladies Gaelic Football Association by 31st March of the current year.

A player wishing to play in the Middle East GAA, Asia GAA and Australasian GAA Boards

either in a temporary or permanent basis must complete the Official transfer form or through an application on Foireann and submit this form to the National LGFA office in Dublin.

The closing dates and other eligibility conditions shall be governed by the regulations of the relevant governing bodies of those GAA Boards.

Should a player wish to return to her previous club, home club or a new club she must seek a transfer, and re-register with her club to ensure that her injury fund fee is included in order for her to play Ladies Gaelic Football.

She continues to be eligible to play county football as outlined in Rules 184 and 185.

A player wishing to play in Britain requires a transfer if she has played club football elsewhere.

107. The final date for transfers to New York shall be 31st March.

108. Players who intend to play on a temporary basis in our affiliated units in New York LGFA, USGAA and Canada GAA must complete an official permit form and have it signed by the Club and County Secretaries and submitted to the National LGFA Office for signature and approval.

Permits for players wishing to play under the control of the USGAA shall be issued at the grade of the last championship match played in the current or preceding year.

The permit shall allow the players to play from the 31st March to 30th September, and shall not be granted later than the 1st July in any year. These players may play with their Home Club or County in their respective Championships.

On a players return to Ireland she will be entitled to resume playing with her Club in Ireland, provided she sends notification to the Ladies Gaelic Football office of her return. She is not eligible to go again and play in New York, Canada or the USGAA areas in the same year.

109. The number of permit players permitted for any Club in the USGAA shall be as follows:

(a) A Club with 1 team – a maximum of 10 players

(b) A Club with a 2nd team – a further 8 players

(c) In the case of the Canadian Board Area the maximum number of permit players per Club shall be 10

(d) In the case of New York, the maximum number of permit players per team shall be 3

Clubs may also avail of the services of players who have a valid current J1 Visa, provided a J1 Permit has been obtained.

110. Players seeking permits to the USA and Canada, must have the appropriate GAA insurance policy covering injuries sustained while playing Ladies Gaelic Football. This policy shall indemnify the Ladies Gaelic Football Association against all claims arising from injury sustained while playing abroad. They must produce a copy of this policy when applying for the permit.

111. A player may play with her Home Club in Ireland and a Club in her European Country of study and vice versa, provided she is participating in a recognised programme of study in that European Country, or Ireland, for at least 10 weeks duration, and she obtains permission from Central Council on an annual basis. These players may play with their Home Club or County in their respective Championships or other competitions.

However, in accordance with Rule 139 these players can only play in one club 15-A-Side championship in any year.

This does not apply to Home Club players studying in Ireland or Britain.

112. County Boards and Councils of the Association outside of Ireland may apply in writing to Central Council for permission to deviate from specific rules where exceptional circumstances warrant it.

Clubs

113. An application for the affiliation of a New Club shall be made to the County Board on the official New Club Application Form.

The form shall be signed by at least fifteen females who wish to play and three adult officials, one of whom must be a female, seeking membership of the New Club having first complied with the relevant rules on Eligibility and Transfers contained in the Official Guide, where applicable.

Where any of the fifteen females are underage, the application shall be signed by their parent/guardian.

The County Board may approve the application for affiliation or may reject the application if, in the opinion of the County Board, the approval of the affiliation does not comply with the rules of the Official Guide.

114. A Club must have at least 15 playing members that are eligible to play in the age group or grade of football in which the Club intends fielding a team and 3 registered adult officials, at least one of whom must be female, before it can affiliate to the Association.

Only a properly registered and affiliated Club, as outlined above, can take part in Divisional, County, Provincial or National Competitions, or be entitled to representation on Committees, County Boards or Councils.

115. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year on or before 1st December. Members shall receive at least 2 weeks' notice of the date and venue of the club AGM, together with nomination and motions papers. These papers must be returned to the Club Secretary at least 1 week before the Club AGM. Members should receive a copy of the Agenda, List of Nominees and Motions at least 4 days prior to the AGM.

The Annual General Meeting shall elect:

(a) Chairperson

(b) Vice Chairperson

(c) Secretary

(d) Registrar

(e) Treasurer

(f) Children's Officer (by appointment)

(g) Delegates to County Board and County Convention

(h) Club Coaching Officer (by appointment)

(i) Positions of Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, PRO, Development Officer, and Culture and Language Officer may also be elected.

(j) An Executive or Management Committee, which shall comprise the above officers and any other members that the club may decide. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by the Executive Committee which shall be answerable to the Full Club membership. The Club and Executive Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees.

These shall hold office until the conclusion of next Annual General Meeting. All Clubs shall notify the County Board of the date of their AGM at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

116. A report of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the County/International Board within 10 days of the meeting.

117. A Club shall not be named after a living person or any existing political or semi-political organisation.

118. Each affiliated Club shall make themselves familiar with the rules of the Official Guide and shall be bound by the rules and regulations contained therein. Every affiliated Club and registered member shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the rules of the Association.

119. A club may refuse membership to any applicant in the interests of the Association. Such refusal should only be determined following an investigation, disciplinary procedure, criminal investigation or vetting disclosure.

120. Each Club shall annually register its players, officials, team mentors, (managers, selectors, trainers, coaches), female liaison officers (FLO) and water carriers on the official electronic system as per Rule 51.

121. Where a Club has two teams competing in Championship games within the County, it must submit the names of its 15 best players for the Higher Grade team (A Team) to the County Board before the Championship commences.

Should any other player outside of this list play in the Higher Grade Championship, they cannot play in the remainder of any Championship in the Lower Grade within the County, Province or All-Ireland series.

122. A Club that wins the Junior or Intermediate County Championship, must move up a grade within the County for the Championship the following year.

123. A Club that finishes runner-up in the County Senior, Intermediate or Junior Championship cannot be downgraded for the following year's Championship unless in exceptional circumstances as decided by Central Council.

124. In the event of a clash of colours in an Inter-Club game, the away team must wear jerseys of a different colour. Should the game be played at a neutral venue, both teams must change or come to a mutual arrangement.

In all games a goalkeeper must wear distinctive attire. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of €15.

125. In the event of a Club acquiring its own property, at least three Trustees shall be appointed.

126. A request to amalgamate two or more Clubs shall be made to the County Board. Such request shall be passed only at an EGM, held by each Club concerned, specially summoned for the purpose of such request. Two weeks' notice shall be given of the time, place and special business of the meeting.

The request must be supported by three quarters of those present, voting and entitled to vote. The outcome of the meeting shall be submitted to the County Board for approval. The County Board shall then forward to Central Council for ratification.

If approved, the members of the Clubs involved shall be deemed members of the amalgamated Club.

127. Should a Club be expelled from the Association and if any funds or assets remain after all debts and liabilities have been paid, these shall not be distributed amongst members, but shall be held in trust for the appropriate County Board to be disposed of as the County Board shall direct.

128. A resolution to disband a Club shall be passed only at a Club EGM specially summoned for that purpose. It must be supported by a two- thirds majority of those present, voting and entitled to vote.

If a Club is disbanded, any funds or assets remaining, after debts and liabilities have been discharged, shall be held in trust by the appropriate County Board to be disposed of as such County Board shall direct or shall be disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation of the Country in which the club is based.

Player Eligibility for Club, County and Province

129. A player may not play for more than one club except:

(a) An Underage player may play for an exclusively Underage Club and a Club in Senior, Intermediate or Junior grade, with permission from the County Board subject to approval under Rule 132.

(b) An Underage player who has played with a solely Adult Club may only play Underage football with another Club that may have Adult and Underage teams, subject to County Board approval.

(c) In exceptional circumstances, where Clubs are not in a position to field a specific underage team from their own resources, permission may be obtained from the County Board, for the players of not more than two Clubs in this position, to form a combined team at that specific age group.

Applications to form a combined team in a specific age group, must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by the County Board, whichever is earliest. The application shall set out the circumstances and details for such a request in full and receive approval of the County Board in charge.

Each Club Executive must agree on team mentors who are registered members and compliant with safeguarding regulations. Each Club Executive must also nominate and ratify one of the Club Children's Officers to act as Children's Officer for the combined team from AGM to AGM.

Club Executives may agree to put arrangements in place to change or rotate this appointment as appropriate as long as it is ratified annually by each Club Executives. The Clubs may decide to have the same individual or the same Club continue holding these positions if it suits the Clubs as long as that decision is both taken and ratified annually.

The combined team may not apply under Rule 129 (d) for permission for any player or players from another Club to play with the said combined team.

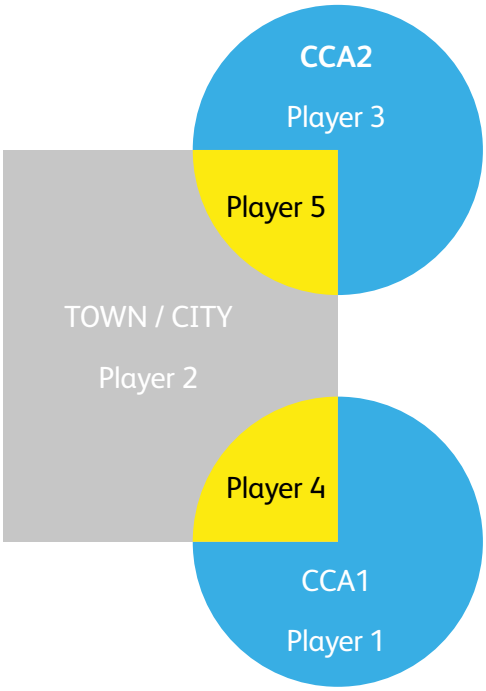
(d) Where a Club is unable to field a team in a specific underage group from their own resources, permission may be granted by the County Board for such a player or players, from that Club, to play with another Club or Clubs in the same County, that is providing football at that specific age group, except as pertains in Rule 129 (c). Permission must be sought from the County Board on an annual basis and should be noted in the County Board minutes.

(e) The County Board shall have the power to refuse or grant these underage permissions, taking into account the best interests of the Association, and subject to such conditions as the County Board may deem appropriate.

(f) Students of Schools or Colleges only taking part in competitions confined to Schools or Colleges are not regarded as having played for a Club.

-Clarification of towns/ cities overlapping adjacent CCA's Rule 130 (c)

EXAMPLE - "Townland(s) in one or more CCA's overlap the legal boundary of a town or city



Overlapping Townland(s)

Town / City Legal Boundary

Player 1 can only play with a club in CCA1 Player 2 can only play with a club in town / city Placer 3 can only play with a club in CCA2
Player 4 can only play with a club in either CCA1 or town / city Player 5 can only play with a club in either CCA2 or town / city Player 2 cannot play for clubs in CCA1 or CCA2
Player 4 cannot play for club in CCA2 Player 5 cannot play for club in CCA1

130. A Home Club means the Club in a player's Club Catchment Area "known as CCA" as defined hereunder:

(a) The Club in the Club Catchment Area in which a player resides, or

(b) The First Club with which she legally played in an officially recognised Club Competition from Under 12 upwards or

(c) The CCA in which her parents resided at the time of her birth

(d) The home club of a sibling, in the case of an under 12 player

A Club Catchment Area shall comprise the list of townlands within the boundaries of the relevant Roman Catholic parish as those parish boundaries existed on 1st January 2010, from which the Club was entitled to draw its players.

For the purposes of this Rule, Roman Catholic parish boundaries shall be determined by reference to the relevant diocesan parish map(s) or equivalent diocesan records applicable to the area concerned.

A list of such townlands shall be ascertained and recorded for each Club for the purpose of determining each Club boundary and the limit of the Club Catchment Area.

Where a townland overlaps adjoining CCA's, players who reside in that townland have the option of playing with any of the adjoining clubs with which it overlaps.

A CCA, for the purpose of this rule, shall be subject to county boundaries.

However, where a CCA overlaps a county or counties, the club or clubs concerned have the option of playing within either county. The players concerned may play county football for either county subject to transfer regulations.

There may be more than one club within a CCA.

CCA's shall not apply within cities or towns. Players residing within a town or city must play with a club within the town or city unless they are exempt under Rules 130 to Rule 133. However, a player residing in a townland within a town or city and where that townland overlaps into a CCA of an adjoining club, players that reside in that townland shall have the option of playing with any club within the town or city and the club in the CCA which the townland extends into.

For the purposes of this Rule, town or city boundaries shall mean the boundaries of a town or city as defined in law and in force as of 1st January 2010.

Players taking part in the Official Schools or Colleges competitions are exempted from this rule.

No body determining or adjudicating a dispute arising under this Rule shall seek or receive interpretative advice or guidance from any advisory body on the subject matter of a pending case.

131. Where a player resides in a CCA where there is a Ladies Gaelic Football Club, she must play with that Club, unless she is exempted as in Rules 130 and 133. Where there is no club in a player's CCA she may play for any other club within the County. This club then becomes her first club.

132. Where a club is unable to field at adult level within her CCA, and she wishes to seek permission to play with another Club she must apply on the Official Application Form and forward it to the County Board, Provincial Council and the National Grading Committee of Central Council.

She cannot transfer or get permission to play with another Club outside her CCA whilst there is a Club in her CCA, unless she is exempted under Rule 130, (Home Club). This permission is to be renewed on an annual basis.

Where there is no Adult Club football within her CCA, and she wishes to seek permission to play with another Club in the same County, she must apply on the Official Application

Where there is no Adult Club football within her CCA, and she wishes to seek permission to play with another Club in the same County, she must apply on the Official Application Form and forward it to the County Board for approval or otherwise, unless she is exempted under Rule 130. The County Board must then forward the completed application form to the relevant Provincial Council and the National Grading Committee of Central Council. The Grading Committee will make the final decision subject to appeal as per CODA Rules.

The closing date to submit the Official Application form to the County Board, for a player seeking permission to play Adult Football, is 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the competition. The maximum number of players allowed to obtain permission to play for any Club shall be four. This permission is to be renewed on an annual basis.

In the context of this rule, Adult refers to Junior, Intermediate and Senior competition as per Rule 270. Applications for permission to play for any other adult competitions organised by a County Board shall be decided by the County Board.

133. A player who has played her first Club football in her native CCA and having since transferred to a New Club, following the disbandment of her Original Club may remain with her new Club even if her Original Club reforms.

134. A player who has commenced a Club competition other than Championship in a County, shall be eligible to finish that competition for that Club, even though she is playing legally with a Club in another County, providing that the transfer is in order.

135. The status of players participating in league competitions shall not affect their Championship status.

136. Where a Club disbands, players from that Club may be eligible to complete the competitions commenced within the County with their New Club to which they have transferred.

However, if any player has played Adult Championship football with the disbanded Club, she shall not play Adult Championship football with her New Club in the same season.

If she has played Underage Championship football at a particular Age Group she cannot play Championship football at the same Age Group with her New Club in the same season.

137. Where a player has commenced a Club competition within a County, apart from Championship, but transfers to another Club within the County, she may complete that competition with her New Club.

138. When a player is transferred to a Club in another County, within the 32 Counties on the island of Ireland, on or after 1st August in any year, she shall not be eligible to take part in the County, Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship of that year, unless she has played previously with the Club to which she has been transferred and subject to the provisions of Rule 132.

139. A player cannot play Club Championship for more than one Club in a Championship year unless exempted by Rules 129, or 176 or 177.

140. A player playing illegally for more than one Team or Club within the County, shall be subject to the CODA Rules.

141. Should a Club or County play overage or illegal players they shall be subject to the CODA Rules.

142. A Player playing illegally with two Clubs in different Counties, shall be subject to the CODA Rules. A team mentor(s) and Club playing such a player, shall also be subject to the CODA Rules.

143. A player can only play for a County, provided she is resident in that County, and playing Club football within that County, unless she is exempted under Rules 130 or 133 for Club and 186 and 187 for County.

144. A player is eligible to play for a Province in which she plays her Club or County football, or the Province in which she played her first Club or County football, or the Province in which she was born.

Schools and Colleges Committees

145. County Boards, Provincial or National Committees for the Schools and Colleges may be formed where feasible. Properly constituted Boards or Councils are allowed two voting delegates to the relevant County Board, Provincial and Central Councils of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, and their rules shall be subject to the rules pertaining to the Association.

146. The Schools and Colleges Board, Committee or Council is required to affiliate to the appropriate Board or Council of the Association, with an affiliation fee, equivalent to that of a Club or County. Each fee shall cover all properly constituted schools or colleges registered with the Colleges Council.

147. The County Board, Provincial and National Committees of the Schools and Colleges are subject to the rules of the relevant Committee or Councils of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. They shall retain authority in the administration of their own affairs. They shall have the same powers as those of The Ladies Gaelic Football Association in dealing with the organising and controlling of competitions within the Schools or Colleges. They may apply to Central Council to deviate from specific rules.

148. The Academic Year shall be from 1st September to the 31st August of the following year. The AGM for the Schools Committee shall be held by 31st October and the HEC AGM held by 30th April.

149. An AGM of Schools at County, Provincial and National level must be held on an annual basis. The notice and time of such meetings, together with nominations and motions shall be conveyed to Schools at least 10 days prior for County Convention, and 4 weeks prior for the schools' committees at Provincial and National level.

The relevant Ladies Football County Board, Provincial Council and Central Council must be notified of the date, time and venue and a report of the meeting must be forwarded to the relevant County Board or Council.

150. Schools and Colleges shall pay an entry fee to enter competitions. The fee shall be as determined by the organising Committee or Council of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

151. Affiliations will be accepted from any School or College which has fifteen bona fide students.

152. In order for a player to qualify to compete in the HEC Colleges Competition she must be in full-time education. Postgraduates must make a special application to the Management of the HEC, who shall decide on their eligibility.

For the Garda College and Army Cadets: students who graduate during the months between January and March still qualify to play in the HEC Colleges Championship of that academic year.

153. In order to qualify for the official Post Primary Schools competition a player must:

(a) Be a registered student and attend a class in the school for 3 hours a day

(b) Have an average monthly attendance of thirteen days prior to the game

(c) Be under 16 years of age on the 1st July of the Academic Year to compete in the Junior competition

(d) Be under 20 years of age on 1st July of the Academic Year to compete in the Senior competition

154. Schools must produce Birth Certificates of registered players if requested.

County Board Convention

155. Members entitled to attend and vote at the annual County Convention shall be the outgoing officers together with three delegates from each affiliated Club, one of whom must be a current registered player, delegates to Provincial and Central Council, Officers of the County at Provincial and Central Council and their sub-committees who have voting rights, members of sub-committees within the County and two delegates each from the School and College Committees.

156. Failure to hold the Annual Convention before 1st January, may result in suspension, unless permission for a deferment is granted by Provincial or Central Council.

157. The County Convention shall elect officers of the County Board and delegates to attend Provincial and Central Council and Annual Congress.

158. Clubs may forward motions and nominate candidates for positions on the County Board. Should all candidates nominated for a particular position fail to stand for election, nominations may be taken for those particular positions from those present at the meeting.

Candidates seeking positions who are unable to attend the meeting shall indicate in writing their intention to go forward for election and shall be added to the list of nominees.

159. Clubs shall receive at least 4 weeks' notice in writing of the date and venue of the County Convention, together with nomination and motion papers. These papers must be returned to the County Secretary at least 2 weeks before the County Convention.

The Club Secretary should receive a copy of the Agenda, List of Nominees and Motions with proposing Clubs at least 4 days prior to County Convention.

160. The agenda, the audited financial report and the relevant reports shall be sent in advance to the club secretary and circulated by the County Board at the County Convention.

161. Counties shall not send forward to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress any motion which was not approved by its County Board.

County Board

162. The County Board should consist of:

(a) Chairperson

(b) Vice Chairperson

(c) Secretary

(d) Assistant Secretary

(e) Treasurer

(f) Assistant Treasurer

(g) Registrar

(h) Assistant Registrar

(i) PRO

(j) Assistant PRO

(k) Culture and Language Officer

(l) Chairperson of County Development Committee (Appointed as per Rule 164)

(m) Children's Officer (Appointed)

(n) Officers of the Provincial and Central Councils from within the County

(o) Delegates to Provincial and Central Councils

(p) An elected representative of each Divisional Board

(q) Chairperson of the County Fixtures Committee

(r) Members of sub-committees of Provincial and Central Councils who have voting rights within their respective Councils and who are from within the County

(s) Chairpersons of sub-committees of the County Board

(t) Three delegates, who are registered members, from each affiliated Club, one of whom must be a current player

Where a County has a Schools or Colleges Committee it shall be entitled to two voting delegates on the County Board.

The County Board shall hold office until the end of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of Provincial and Central Council.

163. The Executive Committee of the County Board shall consist of the Officers of the County Board as set out in Rule 162 (a) to (r) and shall have authority to submit motions to the County Board.

164. The Executive Committee of the County Board must appoint a county development committee comprising of at least four people each with a responsibility for Coach Education, Volunteer Development, Participation or Referee Education. This committee should be appointed by the incoming executive committee for that year.

165. County Board secretaries or other authorised official shall give 14 days notice to all members for County Board meetings. In emergency situations shorter notice will suffice.

166. County Boards shall have within their respective Counties:

(a) Power to approve or reject applications to affiliate from new clubs. They also have the authority to set and collect affiliation fees

(b) Power to control registration fees within the county in line with Rule 51

(c) Responsibility for the Management of County teams and responsibility for ensuring that managers, mentors, trainers, team officials, coaches, female liaison officers and water carriers are registered with the Association

County Boards may defer club games within 5 days (excluding the day of the fixture) before a competitive Inter-County fixture and players from the county panel must be allowed to play with their clubs outside that five-day period

If a county qualifies for a Provincial Final or All-Ireland Semi-Final or Final, the 5-day period may be extended with approval of County Board

(d) Control and organisation of all competitions within the County subject to the rules of the Official Guide, ratified Bye-Laws and competition regulations

(e) Power to raise finance

(f) Power to control, administer and utilise funds and property of the Association within the County

(g) Power to grade or re-grade players and teams at Club level

(h) County Boards must notify Provincial and Central Councils on the official grading form by the 1st March, of Clubs that are being proposed to be downgraded and that are eligible to participate in the Provincial and All-Ireland Adult Club Championships and the reasons why they should be downgraded

Counties who operate a promotion and relegation structure for adult championships that qualify for the Provincial and All-Ireland club championships, must notify both Councils by the 31st January each year on the official form of the clubs who are relegated for the following season

The grading of Clubs shall be subject to approval of Central Council.

(i) Authority to send nominations and motions to Provincial and Central Council

167. The powers and functions of divisional boards and any other sub-committees, with the exception of CODA, shall be as defined by the County Board. They must forward their proposals for ratification to a full County Board meeting.

168. Divisional Boards shall:

(a) Elect a Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, PRO and any other position deemed necessary

(b) Be represented by the elected representative on the County Board Executive

(c) Run in accordance with the rules of the Official Guide and with County Bye-Laws

(d) Control affairs within their own Division and shall have responsibility for the organisation of competitions for all clubs within their Division, governed by competition regulations. The same rules and regulations shall apply in all Divisions for competitions which qualify for County Leagues or Championships

169. County Boards may fine Clubs for failure to attend County Board meetings. The maximum fine shall be €50 per meeting.

170. The County Secretary must forward to Provincial and Central Councils, the name, address, telephone number and email address, of all officers serving on the County Board. This information must be forwarded to the Provincial and Central Council Secretaries by the dates of the Provincial Convention and Annual Congress respectively.

171. County Secretaries shall, prior to Annual Congress, furnish to Central Council, the names of the County delegates on the Council for the coming year.

172. County Boards must by the 1st February each year

(a) Affiliate to Provincial and Central Councils

(b) Indicate the grades of Inter-County Championships they intend to participate in for that year

173. The County Board shall be entitled to retain gate receipts of any competition under its control as well as home games in the group stages of the National Leagues.

174. County Boards shall open a bank account as soon as monies are acquired. All payments and other transactions on the account must be authorised by both the Treasurer, and either the Assistant Treasurer, Chairperson or Secretary.

175. County Boards shall furnish to their Provincial Councils and the National Finance Committee by 15th January each year, financial reports, including an accountant's report as set out in the prescribed format by an independent accountant for the County, together with supporting bank statements for the previous financial year. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of €500 and may involve suspension until they are furnished.

176. County Boards may allow players from three Junior clubs, or, one Junior and one Intermediate club to combine to form a Senior team, without losing their Junior or Intermediate status.

A combined team which wins the County Senior Championship shall be permitted to represent the County Board in the Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship.

County Boards may allow two Junior clubs to combine to form an Intermediate team without losing their Junior status.

A combined team which wins the County Intermediate Championship shall be permitted to represent the County Board in the Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship.

County Boards may allow players from two Junior clubs, who are unable to field on their own, to combine in order to field a team and play at Junior level subject to grading by the County Board.

Such a combined team which wins the County Junior Championship shall not be permitted to represent the County in the Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championships. The team that finishes runner-up in the Junior Championship final shall then represent the County in the Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship, provided they are not a combined team. Should two such combined teams qualify for the county final, the two losing semi-finalists shall play off to see who represents the County in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championship.

Application to form a combined team must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by County Board, whichever is the earliest.

The Provincial Council and National Grading Committee must be notified of this change where the grade is eligible to represent the county in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championship.

177. County Boards may allow Junior and Intermediate Clubs to participate in Championships of a higher grade without losing their current status.

However, should the Club win the Higher-Grade Championship, it must represent its County in the Higher-Grade Provincial Club Championship even though it may also have won the County Championship in the lower grade.

The team that finishes as runner-up in the lower grade Championship will then represent the County in the Provincial Club Championship.

178. County Boards must send forward a team for Inter-County Adult Championships. Failure to do so may result in a sanction under the CODA Rules.

179. County colours must be registered with and approved by Central Council. In the event of a clash of colours, an alternative combination of the original colours or the Provincial colours must be worn unless otherwise agreed.

The goalkeeper must wear distinctive attire in all games. Failure to comply with this rule shall involve a fine of €50.

180. County Boards shall have the responsibility for the management of County Teams in line with Rule 166 (c).

The teams may be selected from players living in the County and from eligible declared nonresident players.

Where there is no Adult Inter-County football played, Central Council may give permission for a player to play with a neighbouring County in the same Province. This permission shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

181. County Boards that have indicated their intention to compete in the National League or Championship and who subsequently withdraw prior to the commencement of the competition, but after the draw is made, shall be subject to the CODA Rules.

182. Any County team giving a walkover after the commencement of the National League or Championships, shall be subject to the CODA Rules. The governing body shall review their participation in that competition.

183. Members responsible for fielding illegal players/teams in Inter-County competitions shall be subject to the CODA Rules.

184. A County, that plays a player in a competition where that player has already played in the same competition with another County, shall be subject to the CODA Rules. The members concerned may also be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

185. In counties where County Boards do not exist, Clubs shall affiliate to the Provincial Council, or in the absence of a Provincial Council, to Central Council, who shall decide in which competitions such Clubs shall take part.

Home County

186. A Home County means:

A player's Native County i.e., the County in which the player's parents were resident at the time of her birth, or

The County in which she resides and in which she plays her Club football or

The County in which she participated in officially recognised competition for the first time

For the purpose of this rule, a student taking part in official Schools or Colleges competitions is not deemed to have declared for any particular County, unless she plays with the School or College in County Club League or Championship competitions.

187. A player who resides and plays Club football outside her Home County may declare for her Home County for Inter-County and Interprovincial competitions.

If she makes such a declaration, she may not play for any other County except her Home County, unless her Home County fails to field a team in the grade or she transfers to the County in which she now resides and plays.

Provincial Convention

188. Provincial Convention shall be held annually by 1st February. Permission for a deferment must be sought from and may be granted by the National Management Committee.

189. County Secretaries shall receive at least 4 weeks' notice, in writing, of the date and venue of Provincial Convention, together with nomination and motion papers. These papers shall be returned to the Provincial Secretary at least 2 weeks before Convention.

County Secretaries should receive a copy of the agenda and a list of nominees and motions, indicating the proposing County, at least 4 days prior to the Provincial Convention.

190. The outgoing Council shall prepare and circulate an agenda, relevant reports, an audited financial report and minutes of the previous year's Convention for the upcoming Convention. These shall be considered at Convention and, when passed, the Secretary's copy shall be signed by the Provincial President.

191. The Provincial President shall be elected for one term of four years by secret ballot and shall not serve two consecutive terms.

192. Those entitled to vote at the Provincial Convention shall be

(a) Members of the outgoing Council

(b) Officers of Central Council from within the Province

(c) Members of National and Provincial sub-committees who hold voting rights in their respective Councils

(d) Three delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom shall be a current registered player

(e) Two delegates from each of the Provincial School and College Committees

193. Provincial Convention shall elect by ballot:

(a) President

(b) Vice-President

(c) President Elect for one year prior to her/his term as President

(d) Secretary

(e) Assistant Secretary

(f) Treasurer

(g) Assistant Treasurer

(h) Registrar

(i) PRO

(j) Culture and Language Officer

It may also elect any Committee it deems necessary for the promotion of Ladies Gaelic Football.

194. Candidates for positions on Provincial Councils shall be nominated by County Boards. Should all candidates nominated for a particular position fail to stand for election, nominations may be taken from those present at the meeting.

Candidates seeking positions who are unable to attend the meeting shall indicate in writing, their intention to go forward for election, and shall be added to the list of nominees.

195. The Ex-President shall continue as an ex-officio member of the Council, with voting rights, for one year after her/his term of office expires.

196. The Provincial Vice-President shall be entitled to act as a substitute, in the absence of the Provincial President, at meetings of Central Council and the Management Committee of Central Council.

Provincial Council

197. Provincial Council shall consist of:

(a) President

(b) Vice-President

(c) President Elect for one year prior to her/his term as President

(d) Ex-President for one year after her/his term of office expires

(e) Secretary

(f) Assistant Secretary

(g) Treasurer

(h) Assistant Treasurer

(i) Registrar

(j) PRO

(k) Culture and Language Officer

(l) Chairperson of Provincial Development Committee (Appointed annually by the incoming committee as per Rule 206)

(m) Representative of the Provincial GAA

(n) An independent representative

(o) Secretary of Provincial Fixtures Committee

(p) Three delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current registered player and who shall remain a member of Provincial Council for the year they were elected until completion of convention of that year, at which time any new delegates take up their role.

(q) Two delegates from the Provincial Schools Council

(r) Two delegates from the Provincial Colleges Council

(s) Officers from Central Councils from within the Province

(t) Members of Provincial and Central Council sub-committees who hold voting rights in their respective councils

198. The Executive Committee of the Provincial Council shall consist of the officers of the Provincial Council as set out in Rule 197 (a) to (o) inclusive.

199. Provincial Council Secretaries or other authorised person shall give 14 days' notice to all members for Provincial Council meetings. In emergency situations shorter notice shall suffice.

200. Provincial Councils shall present to Annual Congress a report of Provincial activities during the year, and an audited financial report.

201. Any Provincial Council that fails to furnish an audited financial report may be sanctioned by the National Management Committee.

202. Central Council shall take control o f the affairs of the Association within the Province until such accounts are furnished.

203. Provincial Councils shall have within their respective Provinces:

(a) The authority to set and collect affiliation fees and the power to control the registration fees within the Province in line with Rule 51

(b) Responsibility for the Management and selection of Provincial Teams

(c) Responsibility for the Organisation and Control of Provincial competitions in line with the rules of the Official Guide, ratified Bye-Laws and competition regulations

(d) Power to refer to the relevant bodies under the CODA Rules any complaint, objection, appeal or disciplinary matter that falls under the CODA Rules

(e) Be entitled to take gate receipts for any games under their control

(f) Power to raise finances

(g) Power to make Bye-Laws which shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Association and must be submitted to Central Council for approval

(h) Control all other business pertaining to the Association in the Province

204. The Executive Committee of Provincial Council shall:

(a) Submit motions to Provincial Convention and Annual Congress. Motions, apart from those submitted by Executive Committee of Provincial Council being forwarded to Annual Congress, must have the approval of Provincial Council.

(b) Have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Provincial Council.

(c) Provide leadership to the province, within a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enables risks to be assessed and managed.

(d) Identify an independent representative for the Provincial Executive Committee.

205. The powers and functions of sub-committees set up by Provincial Council shall be as defined by Provincial Council.

206. The Executive Committee of the Provincial Council must appoint a provincial development committee comprising of at least four people each with a responsibility for Coach Education, Volunteer Development, Participation or Referee Education. This committee should be appointed by the incoming executive committee for that year.

207. Officers of Provincial Council shall be entitled to attend meetings of any County Board or Club Committee including Executive Committee or sub-committees thereof within their jurisdiction. The President of the Provincial Council shall have voting rights when attending such meetings.

208. In the event of suspension of a County Board, the Provincial Council shall be empowered to exercise all the powers of the County Board within the County.

Provincial Championships

209. Provincial Championships shall be open to all affiliated Counties within the Province. Where a County Board does not exist, Provincial Councils shall have the power to permit a properly affiliated Club or Clubs to represent the County in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championships.

210. For playing purposes Provincial Councils shall recognise existing County boundaries. However, players in a Club or a CCA that overlaps a County boundary may play County football in either County or Province, subject to transfer regulations.

In cases where the CCA boundary of the Club overlaps Provinces, the player has the option of playing for either Province.

Britain shall be regarded as a Province for this purpose.

211. A county whose Club wins the Provincial Junior or Intermediate Championship must move up a grade for the following year's Provincial "Club" Championship.

However, a club which wins the British Intermediate Club Championship may play in the British Intermediate Provincial and All-Ireland Championship the following year unless they won the All-Ireland Intermediate championship whereby they are automatically deemed to be of Senior standard.

A Club that wins the Junior or Intermediate County Championship in Britain, must move up a grade within the County for the next year's Championship.

Annual Congress

212. Annual Congress should be held on or before 1st April each year. The venue for Congress shall be selected by Central Council or Congress.

213. County Board, Provincial, HEC and International Secretaries, shall receive at least 4 weeks' notice in writing of the date and venue of Annual Congress, together with nomination and motion papers.

The notification should show the names of the outgoing officers and the latest date for the return of these papers for inclusion in the Congress agenda. The returned nomination forms must be signed by the Secretary or authorised person of the nominating body.

214. Prior to Annual Congress, each County, Provincial, HEC and International Secretary shall be supplied with copies of the agenda and a list of nominees and motions indicating the proposing County, Province, International unit or HEC.

215. All nominations, for officership of Central Council, shall come from County Boards, through the County Secretary or Authorised person.

Should all candidates nominated for a particular position fail to stand for election, nominations may be taken from delegates in attendance.

Candidates for positions who are unable to attend the meeting shall indicate in writing their intention to go forward for election and shall be added to the list of nominees.

216. Those entitled to vote at Congress shall be:

(a) Members of the Outgoing Council

(b) Former Presidents of the Association

(c) Three Delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current registered player

(d) Two Delegates from the National Post Primary Schools Committee

(e) Two Delegates from the National HEC

(f) Members of Sub-Committees of Central Council who have voting rights (All-Stars, Fixtures and Grading)

(g) Two delegates from International affiliated units of the Association

217. The functions of Annual Congress are:

(a) To consider reports, audited financial reports of Central Council and its subsidiary Committees for the preceding year

(b) To consider reports and audited financial reports of each Provincial Council

(c) The President Elect shall be elected for one term of four years by secret ballot one year prior to her/his term as President

(d) To elect by ballot the Assistant Secretary, Treasurers, Culture and Language Officer and other officers it deems necessary

218. Central Council, through Annual Congress, shall have the power to appoint a full time Chief Executive Officer who shall not be entitled to vote and who shall be subject to the terms and conditions as laid down by Central Council.

219. Central Council, through its Chief Executive Officer, shall report to Congress on all activities of the Association for the preceding year.

220. Annual Congress shall decide the policies to be pursued by the Association in the following year, with particular emphasis on the National aspects of the Association.

221. Annual Congress shall have the power to enact, amend or rescind rules.

222. A motion to remove or amend an existing rule must be supported by a two thirds majority of those present, voting, and entitled to vote.

223. Congress may refer a motion for discussion to Central Council. The ensuing recommendations, if they propose to alter an existing rule, must be proposed in the form of a motion before the next Congress for approval or otherwise.

224. Proposals, 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 other rules affected.

Annual Congress or Central Council may, without taking from their meaning, rephrase and relocate any such motions passed, before inserting them in the Official Guide.

225. New and amended rules shall become operative one month from the date of Annual Congress unless Congress decides otherwise, in the interest of Ladies Gaelic Football.

226. Motions passed at Annual Congress shall be sent to all County Secretaries within 4 weeks of Congress and updated on the website. The new official guide to be uploaded to the LGFA website within 8 weeks of Congress.

Central Council

227. The Central Council shall be the supreme governing body of the Association from Congress to Congress, and the sole final authority to interpret the rules. Its jurisdiction shall extend over all aspects of the Association worldwide, and it shall have power to rule on special cases arising between Congresses, even though there may be no particular rule of the Association covering the cases in question. Central Council shall meet at least 4 times per year.

228. Central Council decisions on all matters concerning the Association are legal and binding on its members. The decisions shall not be subject to amendment except where fresh information is forthcoming that was not available at the time of the original decision.

A request for such amendment must be instigated within 72 hours of notification of Central Council decision.

229. Central Council shall consist of:

(a) The President who shall be elected for one term of four years by secret ballot and shall not serve two consecutive terms

(b) President Elect for one year

(c) Presidents of Provincial Councils who shall be representing their respective Provinces

(d) Outgoing Provincial Presidents who shall remain as a member of national management committee until completion of congress of that year at which time the new President takes up his/her role

(e) Joint Treasurers

(f) CEO (Non-Voting)

(g) Assistant Secretary

(h) Culture and Language Officer

(i) Chairperson of National Development Committee (Appointed)

(j) Representative of the GAA

(k) Two independent representatives as per Rule 231 (e)

(l) Former Presidents of the Association who are active at County, Provincial or Central Council level for a maximum of 7 years from 2022*

(m) Three delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current registered player

(n) Two delegates from the National HEC

(o) Two delegates from International affiliated units of the Association

(p) Members of sub-committees of Central Council who have voting rights (All-Stars, Grading and Fixtures)

230. The Management Committee of Central Council shall consist of Officers as outlined in Rule 229 from (a) to (l)*. The Management Committee shall meet every two months or more often if necessary.

231. The Management Committee shall;

(a) Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Central Council 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 Sub-Committees of Central Council shall report to the Management Committee/Central Council

(b) Provide leadership to the Association, within a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enables risks to be assessed and managed

(c) Have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Central Council

(d) Be entitled to submit motions to Annual Congress, providing all such motions are forwarded to County Boards prior to Congress

(e) Be responsible for the identification of two independent representatives

(f) Term time for any position on the Management Committee, except for the role of President, will be no longer than 7 years

232. A Rules Advisory Committee, recommended by the Management Committee and ratified by Central Council, shall be a Standing Committee on the Rules of the Association (other than the Playing Rules). It shall advise management of Central Council on matters relating to the Rules. It shall prepare motions as required for discussion by the management committee, 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.

233. In an emergency situation the Management Committee of Central Council shall have the power to rule on any situation that may develop.

234. Any member of Central Council Management Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without giving just cause shall, after due notice, automatically cease to be a member of Central Council for that year. Sub-Committee members are also subject to this rule.

235. The President, President Elect, Former Presidents and Ex-President shall not be represented by proxies at Central Council meetings.

236. Central Council CEO/Assistant Secretary, shall give 14 days notice to all members of Central Council meetings. In emergency situations shorter notice shall suffice.

237. Officers of Central Council shall be entitled to attend meetings of their respective Provincial Council, County Board or Club Committees.

238. Central Council shall have:

(a) Control of County Affiliations, Registrations and the Injury Fund Scheme

(b) Responsibility for the organisation and control of All-Ireland Inter-County, All-Ireland Club Championships and National Leagues in line with the rules of the Official Guide and ratified competition regulations

Where a School or HEC fails to fulfil its duties, Central Council shall take control of the All-Ireland Post Primary School and/or HEC competitions

(c) Power to refer to the relevant bodies under the CODA Rules any complaint, objection, appeal or disciplinary matter that falls under the CODA Rules

(d) Power to examine the structure, grading and amalgamation of Clubs in all Counties and to reclassify and re-grade them where they deem necessary

(e) Power to review the amount of fees, fines and penalties, as referred to in the rules

(f) Power to grade or re-grade a County for Inter-County Championships

239. Central Council or Congress shall appoint sub-committees as deemed necessary. The powers and functions of such sub-committees set up shall be defined by Central Council.

The National President shall be entitled to nominate a member for each committee.

Provincial Presidents are not permitted to sit on sub committees of Central Council.

240. Should a vacancy occur on any National Committee, such vacancy shall be filled by a nomination from the respective Provincial Council subject to ratification by Central Council.

Nomination forms should be sent from Provincial Councils to County Boards for names of Nominees for Central Council sub-committees.

Central Council shall only appoint members to the sub-committees from nominations submitted from Provincial Councils.

241. A member shall not serve on more than one sub-committee at the same time.

242. Central Council shall be responsible to Annual Congress for implementing any policies decided by the preceding Congress.

243. Prior approval of Central Council shall be obtained for any action which may affect the general policy of the Association.

244. In the event of suspension of a Provincial Council, Central Council shall take control of all the affairs of the Association within that Province.

245. Central Council may permit or instruct a County or Counties outside a Province to take part in the Provincial Championships of any particular Province.

246. Central Council, in consultation with the Provincial Council of Britain or any other relevant authority, shall decide what areas in Britain constitute a County for the purpose of participating in the Championship of Britain.

247. Central Council shall be entitled to take the gate receipts of All-Ireland qualifiers, All Ireland and National League play-offs, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals, and other competitions as decided from time to time.

248. If Central Council is satisfied that a breach of rule by a Member, Club, County or Provincial Council occurred by default and without knowledge, Central Council in the interest of natural justice, may impose such penalty, if any, as is deemed appropriate.

249. Central Council may summon a Special Congress should the need arise.

250. Employees of the Association, who may attend meetings of any unit of the Association, or who are required to be present at such meetings as Committee members, shall not have voting rights in the determination of any issue or in any election process at such meetings.

251. An All-Star team shall be chosen by an All-Star Committee comprising of two nominated selectors from each of the four Provinces, the National President and his/her nominee.

3 players shall be nominated for the position of Goalkeeper, 9 players shall be nominated for the full back line, 9 for the half back line, 9 for the half forward line and 9 for the full forward line while 6 players shall be nominated for the midfield positions. One player shall then be selected for each playing position from the nominees as set out above.

The names of the 15 All-Stars shall be announced at the All-Star Banquet.

Each County may submit their All-Star team for the guidance of the Selection Committee prior to the selection of the team.

The All-Star Committee as outlined above shall also select Teams of the Championship for each of the grades of Junior and Intermediate. The selected Teams of the Championship will comprise of 15 players in their playing positions.

A player selected on these teams is not disqualified from and is also eligible for selection as an All-Star nominee. The awards for these teams to be presented at an appropriate event as designated by Central Council.

252. Central Council shall have the power to implement any changes in the GAA playing rules to apply within Ladies Gaelic Football, even if such rules were passed after the Ladies Gaelic Football Congress.

Transfers

253. A player who wishes to leave a club and play with another club must apply for an inter-club transfer, irrespective of how long it is since they played their last game.

254. All transfer applications must be made on the official transfer form or through an application on Foireann and approved by Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council or sub-committees thereof depending on the categories of transfer.

Transfers where a change of address is stated, a proof of address MUST be included, dated within the last 3 months and attached to the official transfer form or through an application on Foireann. In the event of an underage form being submitted it must include parental/guardian proof of address.

Documentary proof of the address at which a person is registered for statutory purposes or, for an Underage Player, whose parental/guardian are registered for statutory purposes, is required to approve a transfer and is limited to at least two of the following documents:

(a) Utility bill

(b) Document issued by a government department

(c) Bank statement, excluding Revolut or

(d) Copy of Tax Credit Certificate

Where the relevant body is not satisfied that the requisite documentary proof was provided, the transfer shall be refused.

Any club submitting a transfer must have a delegate at the relevant meeting, should any queries arise, to prevent the holding up of a transfer.

A player transferred to a Club, who, at any time within a period of 24 weeks from the date of transfer, is found to be no longer resident within the Club Catchment Area, may be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules, and the Club may also be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules.

255. A transfer requiring Provincial or Central Council sanction, and which has been approved by the Club and County Board, may be approved by the Provincial Secretary, CEO or authorised person, subject to ratification at the next Provincial or Central Council meeting.

256. A transfer becomes effective as soon as it is approved by the appropriate authority, unless it is being contested at a lower level than Central Council. Where it is being contested, the contesting party must lodge an appeal to the CODA, within 3 days, as per the CODA rules.

Where an appeal is lodged to the relevant CODA, the player concerned cannot play with her New Club or County until the appeal has been decided.

257. A player who leaves a County permanently and who wishes to become involved in the playing activities of another County must:

(a) Obtain a transfer from her Provincial Council, if she intends to participate with another County in the same Province

(b) Obtain a transfer from Central Council, if her intended participation is with a County outside of her former Province

Inter-Club Transfers

258. A player who wishes to leave a club to join another in the same county, must apply to the County Board on the official transfer form or through an application on Foireann. This also applies to a disbanded club unless governed by Rule 253.

259. The County Board shall have power to refuse or grant transfers in accordance with the rules of the association. This decision may be appealed as per the CODA Rules.

260. A player seeking an Inter–Club transfer outside the County in which she last played, must seek her release from her former Club by completing the official transfer application form or through an application on Foireann.

A transfer application must be authorised by her former Club and County Secretaries, who must forward it to the Secretary of the County to which she is transferring, who in turn must forward to the relevant Provincial Secretary, CEO or Authorised person.

Eligibility conditions are also governed by Rule 138.

261. If the player is residing in the CCA of the club to which she is transferring, or if she is returning to her Home Club, the County Secretary or authorised person, shall authorise the transfer application and immediately forward it to the Provincial or National Secretary as outlined in Rule 255.

262. If the player is NOT residing in the CCA of the Club to which she is transferring, and there is no club in the CCA where she is currently residing, or if she is not returning to her Home Club, the transfer must be:

(a) Discussed and approved by the County Board to which she is transferring,

(b) The official transfer form or through an application on Foireann endorsed to that effect, authorised by the County Secretary and

(c) Forwarded to the Provincial Secretary, CEO or authorised person as outlined in Rule 255

263. Where an underage player requests a transfer to another club in exceptional circumstances, but is not deemed a breach of the Safeguarding Policy, and where both club executives have agreed and signed the transfer, the county executive committee may recommend to the County Board that the transfer be granted respecting the rights and wishes of the applicant. If agreement is not reached by the County Board they may refer the request to the Rules Advisory Committee for consideration.

264. Where a player's former Club or County Secretary refuses to authorise the transfer form, the player should contact the County or Provincial Secretary or the National CEO as appropriate.

265. When the transfer has been sanctioned, the new club will be informed by the relevant unit approving the transfer application.

The Club shall register the player in the usual manner.

Inter-County Transfers

266. The procedure to be followed to obtain an Inter-County Transfer is:

(a) The player must seek her release from her former County by completing the official transfer application or through an application on Foireann

(b) The Secretary shall authorise it and notify the Secretary of the relevant Committee, Board or Council as outlined in Rule 255

267. An Inter-County transfer becomes effective as soon as it is approved by the appropriate authority. The appropriate Secretary, CEO or Authorised person shall authorise the transfer application and notify the applicant and the County Secretary.

268. In all applications for transfers, the status of the player shall be specified. The transfer application must also show the date of the last competitive and Championship matches in which she played. Schools and Colleges competitions are exempted.

269. A player cannot play for two different Counties in the same competition.

Official Guide
Part Two

Part 2 - COMPETITIONS

270. National competitions shall be held in the following grades, the format of which shall be decided by Congress or Central Council.

(a) Senior

(b) Intermediate

(c) Junior

(d) Under 18 is confined to players who are Under 18 years of age on 1st January of the Championship year

(e) Under 16 is confined to players who are Under 16 years of age on 1st January of the Championship year

(f) Under 14 is confined to players who are Under 14 years of age on 1st January of the Championship year

(g) Senior Inter-Provincial

(h) Senior, Intermediate and Junior Club

(i) All-Ireland Club 7-A-Side

(j) Post Primary Senior Schools - confined to players who are Under 20 years of age on 1st July of the school year

(k) Post Primary Junior Schools - confined to players who are Under 16 years of age on the 1st July of the school year

(l) Third Level Colleges

(m) Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta

271. A County who does not participate in the National League may not be allowed to play in that year's All-Ireland Championship.

272. Underage players can play in their own age group at Inter-County level for U-14 and U-16.

At County U-18 level, players may play in their own age group and one grade above. Over 18 is deemed as adult grade.

At club level, underage players can only play in their own age group and two grades above except grades from Under 12 and below who must play in line with the Gaelic Games Go Games Policy. An Under 12 player may play her own grade and Under 14.

Grades are deemed as Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 14 can play Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 16 can play Under 16, 18 and Adult and Under 18 can play Under 18 and Adult.

Uneven age grades between these are deemed as the age above e.g., Player eligible for Under 13 is deemed as Under 14 age grade, Player eligible for Under 15 is deemed as Under 16 age grade, and Player eligible for Under 17 is deemed as Under 18 age grade.

At Inter-County and Club level, players must firstly play and train with their own age group.

273. The All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Junior Club Championships shall be completed in the same calendar year in which they commenced.

274. The All-Ireland Post Primary Schools competitions shall be played before the first Sunday in May, where possible.

275. The All-Ireland HEC Competition shall be played on or before the first Sunday in May.

276. The Under 14, Under 16, and Under 18 All-Ireland Finals shall be played on or before the 30th September.

277. The Senior, Intermediate and Junior All-Ireland Finals shall be played on or before the last Sunday in October.

278. The All-Ireland Club 7-A-Side competition shall be played on the weekend of the Senior All-Ireland Final.

279. In cases of exceptional difficulties Central Council may make other arrangements for alternative dates.

280. The venue for the Senior All-Ireland Final shall be Croke Park, Páirc Uí Chaoimh or recognised County Grounds.

281. The Home team shall be responsible for the provision of a pitch. The pitch must be properly lined, and nets, and flags provided. At least 5 days' notice shall be given to the organising secretary for Inter-County games.

282. Congress and Central Council may make provisions to include teams outside of Ireland in Championships, Leagues or other competitions. The stage at which they enter any competition shall be decided by Annual Congress or Central Council.

283. Games in Under 7 to Under 12 shall be organised on the Go Games Model in line with the Gaelic Games Go Games Policy.

A breach will be referred to the Provincial or National CODA for sanction.

Championship Fixtures

284. Teams taking part in Inter-County Championships shall be 15-A-Side.

285. For County, Provincial and All-Ireland Championships there shall be a draw. Byes are permitted where necessary.

286. County and Inter-County Championships may be run on a league basis with 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw.

287. The composition of teams taking part in County Championships may be less than 15-A-Side as decided by County Board or County Convention. However, when the County champions take part in the Provincial or All-Ireland Club Championships, the competition shall be 15-A-Side.

288. Clubs and Counties must receive at least 5 days advance notice for competitive games, except in an emergency situation or by mutual consent of the teams involved, where a shorter period shall suffice.

289. Where a Club or County has delegates at a fixtures meeting, such Club or County shall be deemed to have received official notification of decisions made.

290. A team who is unable to fulfil a fixture, having received official notification, must give a minimum of 2 days' notice in written or electronic form to the appropriate secretary. Failure to do so may result in sanction under the CODA Rules.

291. A team failing to fulfil a Championship fixture may be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

292. In the All-Ireland U-16 and U-18 Championships, the Provincial winners shall play off for the title, according to the fixtures arranged by Central Council and at such venues as Central Council may decide.

293. All Inter-County Provincial Underage Championships must be concluded at least 7 days prior to the dates arranged for the All-Ireland knockout stages. Failure to do so may result in the county's removal from the competition, unless otherwise exempted by Central Council.

294. Adult County Club Championships must be concluded at least 7 days in advance of when they are due to play in the Provincial Club Championship, provided such County received at least 4 weeks' notice from the Provincial Council of the date of commencement of the Provincial Club Championship. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action under the CODA Rules.

Counties cannot nominate a club to represent their County in the Provincial Club Championships.

In exceptional circumstances, Provincial Council may deviate from the 7 day rule.

League Competitions

295. A League shall be subject to the rules of the Association. Prior to the start of the competition, the Committee, Board or Council in charge shall draw up regulations governing its organisation.

296. League competitions may be run on a single or double round system with 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw. The procedure for determining the result of the competition, promotion, relegation or qualification for the concluding stages shall be decided by the Committee, Board or Council in charge, prior to the commencement of the competition.

297. The composition of teams taking part in Club or County Leagues, may be less than 15-A-Side as decided by the Committee, Board or Council in charge. The composition of teams taking part in the National Leagues shall be 15-A-Side.

298. Should a team withdraw or be disqualified during the course of the League, the results of games played shall stand. Points from its remaining un-played fixtures shall be awarded to its nominated opponents in those matches.

Challenge/Tournament Games

299. Permission to compete in a tournament or challenge game shall be obtained at least 48 hours in advance from the appointed officer of the relevant unit;

(a) The County Board, where the tournament is for teams within the county

(b) Provincial Council, where the teams are from different counties within the same Province

(c) Central Council, where teams are from more than one Province

County secretaries to be copied in all applications in the case of (b) and (c).

300. Permission to organise a tournament shall be obtained at least 2 weeks in advance from;

(a) The County Board, where the tournament is for teams within the county

(b) Provincial Council, where the teams are from different counties within the same Province

(c) Central Council, where teams are from more than one Province

301. A player or team taking part in any unauthorised tournament or challenge game shall not be covered by the Injury Fund and may be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

302. Any disciplinary matters arising out of the tournament or challenge games shall be dealt with under the CODA Rules.

There shall be no alteration in the rules governing discipline, except in Féile Peil na nÓg, where the Féile disciplinary rules shall apply and in International Units, where permission is granted by Central Council. International Units and Féile Peil na nÓg are governed by their disciplinary rules.

303. A member or unit of the Association shall not participate in games of Ladies Gaelic Football promoted by a body not affiliated to Central Council, without prior authorisation of Central Council.

304. A player, who is not registered with a particular Club or County, may play for that Club or County as a guest player in a tournament game, providing she has obtained permission from:

(a) The Relevant Organising Committee, Board or Council

(b) Her Registered Club

(c) Her Affiliated County, if on any County panels

Medals and Trophies

305. Central Council, Provincial Councils and County Boards shall have control of selecting all medals and trophies for Championships, Leagues etc. under their respective control. All medals and trophies shall be of Irish manufacture, except for International Units of the Association.

306. County Boards shall award at least 20 medals or trophies to League and Championship winners and pro-rata where teams of less than 15 players are involved. The respective County Boards shall decide whether or not to award medals or trophies to runners up.

307. In all National and Provincial 15-A-Side competitions, the respective Councils shall present 30 winners medals or trophies, and 30 runners up medals or trophies, to the finalists concerned, no later than 8 weeks after the respective final.

The respective Provincial Councils shall decide whether or not to award medals or trophies to runners up in the Provincial Competitions.

308. Exception is in the All-Ireland 7-A-Side competitions, where 12 medals or trophies shall be presented to both the winners and runners up, no later than 8 weeks after the respective final.

309. Trophies shall be presented to the All-Stars.

310. A trophy or medal shall be presented to the referee of All-Ireland Finals in all grades, and in any other competitions that Committees, Boards or Councils may decide.

There shall be one captain per team. Captain must be part of the panel 1 – 30. Where captain is not listed on starting 1 – 15, the team must name a vice captain or a player who will take the on-field responsibilities of the captain, such as the toss. It shall be the privilege of the captain of the winning team to accept the cup or trophy on behalf of her team.

The safe custody of the cup or trophy shall be the responsibility of the successful club, County, School, College or Province. Any costs incurred in the replacement or repair of cups or trophies shall be borne by the Club, County, School, College or Province responsible.

A cup or trophy shall not be filled with any type of alcoholic beverage.

311. All cups and trophies shall be returned to the Committee, Board or Council in charge 4 weeks prior to the final date.

Teams

312. A team shall consist of 15 players and a panel of 30 players. Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 officials at Inter-County level and 7 officials at club, school and college level, one of whom must be a female liaison officer. Only the manager, and one other team mentor along with the medic are permitted on the side-line.

The County Female Liaison Officer shall not be involved in coaching or team selection. Team officials must be 18 years or older for County Teams and Adult Club Teams.

Each team may be permitted a maximum of four water carriers. The water carriers should be 16 years and older. The water carriers may not be involved in coaching or management of the team. The water carriers cannot be wired up via radio or any other device. A breach of this rule may be subject to sanction under the CODA rules.

313. Teams shall be 15-A-Side in all games in all Provincial and National Competitions except 7-A-Side competitions.

314. Any competition involving teams of less than 15-A-Side shall be subject to the rules of the Official Guide and other relevant rules as authorised by Central Council.

315. Each team must have at least 11 players to commence a match, but a match may be continued or finished with less than 11 players. The full complement of players may be added during the course of the game, by notifying the referee.

316. Duplicate lists of players, giving full names, and in the case of Inter-County games, Clubs to which the players belong, must be given to the referee before the commencement of the game in all official games. The number on the player's jersey must correspond with that player's name.

Where more than 15 names appear on the team lists, the first 15 shall be taken as constituting the actual team, unless otherwise clearly indicated.

Where team lists are generated through the Foireann system, only the starting 15 must be clearly indicated by number.

For competitions at 13-A-Side or under, the starting team must be clearly indicated by number.

317. Where a team fails to furnish the team list or where a player commences a game whose name and/or number is not included on the team list, that has been supplied to the referee, they may be subject to sanction under the CODA rules.

There is no onus on the referee to seek the team list from either side.

318. Clubs, Counties or Provinces must supply to the organising Committee, Board or Council team lists of their starting 15 players and their substitutes where required for publication. Any failure to do so may result in disciplinary action under the CODA Rules.

319. AN Other is not a playing member and must not be included in the team or panel list of players.

320. Any team taking the field more than 15 minutes late for any competitive game, or exceeding 15 minutes for the interval break, may be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules, unless the delay was unavoidable.

321. For Provincial and All-Ireland Finals, teams must take the field at least 15 minutes before the throw in. Failure to do so may be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

322. Teams may be allowed 37 passes into club games and functions and 40 passes into county games and functions as decided by the organising Committee, Board or Council.

Substitutions

323. Substitution means replacing any of the players on the team during a game, or at half time.

Team mentors may replace a player prior to the commencement of the game without having been deemed to have used a substitute, provided the player in question was not sent off by the referee, and that the team list is amended accordingly.

A player sent off by the referee before the commencement of the game, after the teams had lined up for the throw in, cannot be replaced by a substitute.

324. Unlimited Substitutions are allowed in the National League up to the Quarter-Final stage. However, for the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals only 5 substitutions are allowed. Only 5 substitutes shall be allowed in Adult Provincial and National Championships.

Unlimited Substitutions are allowed in the Provincial Under 14, 16 and 18 Championships apart from the semi-finals and final where only 5 substitutions are allowed.

County Boards may increase the number of substitutes for competitions within their counties.

325. A substitution may be made only during a stoppage in play and must be notified to the referee or fourth official in writing.

326. A team that makes more than the permitted substitutions in any competitive game may be subject to sanction under the CODA Rules.

Where a period of Extra Time is played in a game, 5 substitutions, in addition to any already used, may be used during Extra Time.

327. A substitute shall NOT be allowed for a player who has been sent off by the referee during a game. However, where a player is ordered off in Normal Time, she may be replaced by a substitute for Extra Time.

Subs and Sin Bin

328. A "Sin Bin" rule shall apply in all grades from and including Under 14 upwards. The duration of the Sin Bin is governed by the duration of Normal Time. Where a player commits a First Yellow Card offence, she shall have her name recorded by the referee and sent off the field of play for 3, 5 or 10 minutes Playing Time (Sin Bin) as below.

Where a player commits a Yellow Card offence in games of less than 30 minutes a half, she shall be sent to the Sin Bin for 5 minutes Playing Time. Where Extra Time is played in such a game, the Sin Bin time shall be for 5 minutes, even though the game may have exceeded one hour.

In games of one hour duration (30 minutes per half), the Sin Bin time is 10 minutes Playing Time. Where Extra Time is played in such a game and a player is Sin Binned in Extra Time, the duration of the Sin Bin is for 10 minutes.

Where games are 15 minutes or less per half, the Sin Bin time will be 3 minutes playing time.

The Sin Binned player may remain with her substitute colleagues. She can only resume play after completing her 3/5/10 minutes playing time ban, with the permission of the referee or a designated official and only in a stoppage in play.

If on her resumption, she repeats a Cautionable Offence, she shall be shown a Yellow Card (2nd), followed by a Red Card and ordered off the field of play for the remainder of the game, which shall include Extra Time where played.

A player after having received a yellow card from the referee and is sin binned for the relevant time, returns to the field of play without permission from the referee, she will receive an additional second yellow card followed by a red card.

329. A player sent to the Sin Bin cannot be replaced by a substitute until she has served her 3/5/10 minutes Playing Time ban. However, if the Sin Bin time at the end of Normal Time carries over into Extra Time, her team can replace her with a substitute for Extra Time. Should they do so, they will be deemed to have used a substitute.

Where the team management has replaced her with a substitute for Extra Time and should they wish to bring the Sin Binned player back onto the field of play on expiry of her Sin Bin Playing Time, her team shall be deemed to have used an Additional Substitute.

A player sent off for 2 Yellow Card offences in Normal Time can be replaced for Extra Time.

Blood Subs

330. A player who is bleeding, has blood on her body or playing attire as a result of an injury sustained during play, shall on the instructions of the referee, leave the field of play to receive medical attention.

She shall not return to the field of play until the bleeding has stopped, all blood cleaned off, and the blood stained attire cleaned or replaced. The injured area should be covered where possible.

331. When the player who had the Blood Injury is ready to resume playing, she shall present herself to the referee or fourth official during a stoppage in play. The referee or fourth official should ensure that the bleeding has stopped, the attire is replaced or cleaned and that the Blood Substitute has left the field.

Where the injured player resumes with a different numbered jersey, the referee or fourth official should note the new number.

332. A player who suffers a Blood Injury, may be replaced by a Blood Substitute, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a Blood Substitute. The Blood Substitute shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules.

The Blood substitute can only enter the field during a stoppage in play.

If the Blood Injured player returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

333. Where the Blood Injured player returns to the field of play for any other player, apart from the player that directly replaced her, her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

334. If a Blood Substitute is sent off for a first Yellow Card offence, the team management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who sustained the Blood Injury back onto the field of play, before the 3/5/10 minute playing time ban has expired for the Blood Substitute. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitution. The team has to be down to the relevant number of players.

Where a Blood Substitute was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the team management wish to bring her on after the 3/5/10 minutes Playing Time ban has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute, if the player whom she has replaced who suffered the blood injury, has already resumed playing.

335. Where a Blood Substitute is sent off for a Red or 2nd Yellow Card offence, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the Original Blood Injured Player back onto the field of play. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitute.

336. Where a team has used its full complement of Normal Substitutions in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a Blood Injury, she may be replaced by a Blood Substitute.

Suspected Head Injury

337. A player who sustains a suspected head injury, shall on the instructions of the referee, temporarily leave the field of play for further assessment before the player's fitness to return is determined.

338. When the player who had the suspected head injury is ready to resume playing, she shall present herself to the referee or fourth official during a stoppage in play.

339. A player who suffers a suspected head injury may be replaced by a suspected head injury substitute, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a suspected head injury substitute. The suspected head injury substitute shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules.

If the suspected head injury player returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

340. Where the suspected head injury player returns to the field of play for any other player, apart from the player that directly replaced her, her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

341. If a suspected head injury substitute is sent off for a first Yellow Card offence, the team management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who sustained the suspected head injury back onto the field of play, before the 3/5/10 minute playing time ban has expired for the suspected head injury substitute. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitution. The team has to be down to the relevant number of players.

Where a suspected head injury substitute was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the team management wish to bring her on after the 3/5/10 minutes Playing Time ban has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute, if the player whom she has replaced who suffered the blood injury has already resumed playing.

342. Where a suspected head injury substitute is sent off for a Red or 2nd Yellow Card offence, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the Original suspected head injury player back onto the field of play. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitute.

343. Where a team has used its full complement of Normal Substitutes in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a suspected head injury, she may be replaced by a suspected head injury substitute.

Player

344. A player, who may be pregnant, suffering from concussion, etc., should not play Ladies Gaelic Football. However, should she play, she shall do so at her own risk and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association cannot be held responsible for any consequences that may arise.

Attire

345. The attire to be worn shall consist of jersey, shorts, socks and boots. Penalty for breach of this rule shall be €100.

For all games undergarments/compression shorts should not exceed the length of the shorts and be of the same colour as the outer garments. The goalkeeper may wear track-suit bottoms.

For games played on artificial surfaces, players may wear protective leg wear, provided there is uniformity of colour within the team.

346. Jerseys worn by all teams competing in Club, County, School and College competitions, must be numbered and the numbers must coincide with those listed in any match programme and team lists.

Members of the same team shall have uniform attire in shorts and socks. Penalty for infringement of this rule shall be a fine of €100.

347. Players shall not wear jewellery, (with the exception of wedding rings which must be covered by a tape), hair slides, fitness devices on the arm, or any other items that may cause injury while playing Ladies Gaelic Football.

If in the referee's opinion any player is not safely attired, she shall be asked to rectify the situation. Should she refuse to do so the referee shall order her off the field until the situation is rectified.

348. Any player who requires corrective eyewear and wants to wear glasses to participate in Ladies Gaelic Football must wear glasses that use durable, unbreakable polycarbonate for the lens and have durable unbreakable frames as advised by an optometrist to play gaelic games.

349. All players must wear a mouth guard while playing Ladies Gaelic Football unless advised otherwise, in writing, not to do so, by a qualified Doctor or Dentist. Should she fail to do so, the referee shall order her off the field until the situation is rectified.

This shall not impose on any Referee, Linesperson, Umpire, Side-line Official, Team Official or Unit, any legal duty of care or legal responsibility. This duty shall remain with individual players, and if relevant, parents, guardians or other persons legally responsible for them

Football

350. A size 4 football shall be used in all grades of competition from Under 12 upwards. The Size 4 football shall not weigh less than 400g and not more than 420g and shall have a circumference of not less than 62.5cm and not more than 64.5cm. The ball should be pumped to 6.5psi. A smaller size 3 or relevant recommended size Go-Games football should be used for Go-Games.

Duration of Games

351. The duration of all competitive games from Under 14 upwards, except 7-A-Side or Blitz competitions, shall be one hour – 30 minutes per half. Teams must change ends at half time.

Should Extra Time be required, it shall consist of 10 minutes each way, and shall commence not more than 10 minutes after the end of Normal Time. There shall be a toss of a coin in the presence of both captains for choice of ends at the commencement of Extra Time.

352. An interval not exceeding 15 minutes shall be allowed at half time in Normal Time, and 5 minutes at half time in Extra Time.

Extra Time and Replays

353. If a competitive game ends in a draw after Normal Time there shall be a replay unless it is previously arranged by the Committee, Board or Council in charge of the game, or by mutual consent of the participating teams, that Extra Time be played. Where Extra Time is played, it shall not be considered a new game.

354. If a match is a replay after a previous drawn game, Extra Time must be played if the teams finish level at the end of Normal Time.

355. In exceptional circumstances, the Organising Committee, Board or Council may instruct teams to play One Period of Extra Time followed by a point shoot-out from 25-metres. The kicks must be taken between the two posts and from where indicated by the referee. In the case of Under 14 competitions and below, the point shoot-out shall be from the 20-metre line.

Only players who are remaining on the field of play at the end of Extra Time are eligible to take the kicks. Each team shall take 5 kicks at point scoring. If the scores are still tied after each team has taken their 5 kicks, sudden death procedure shall follow, using different players, until such time as there is a winner.

The ball must go directly over the crossbar, off the crossbar and over, or, off the uprights and over the crossbar, to be counted as a point.

A ball that hops in front of the goal and goes over the bar shall not be counted as a point.

Any player that crosses the 20/25m mark while kicking for a point shall have her score disallowed.

356. The referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for choice of ends at the commencement of Extra Time.

357. In the event of a re-fixture after a drawn game, the team that travelled in the first instance shall have home venue for the replay. If the drawn game was played at a neutral venue, the Organising Committee, Board or Council shall arrange the time and venue for the replay.

358. In the event of a draw in an All-Ireland Final, the venue for the replay shall be arranged by the Management Committee of Central Council.

Field of Play

359. The field of play should not be less than 130 metres or more than 145 metres long, and not less than 80 metres or more than 90 metres wide.

360. Side-Lines, End-lines, 13 metre, 20 metre, 45 metre, Halfway-Line and goal rectangles shall be clearly marked.

361. The scoring space shall be formed by two goalposts, 7 metres high and 6.5 metres apart. There shall be a crossbar 2.5 metres from the ground. Each goal shall be equipped with a net.

362. Two rectangles shall be formed in front of each goal. The Small rectangle shall measure 14 metres by 4.5 metres, the End-Lines of which shall be marked 3.75 metres from each goalpost. The Large Rectangle shall measure 19.5 metres by 13 metres, the End-Lines of which shall be 6.5 metres from each goalpost.

363. The referee shall report any irregularities in the foregoing rules. The Committee, Board or Council in charge may order a replay.

364. Before the start of the game, the captain should call the attention of the referee to any irregularities. There can be no objection to the size of the pitch, lines, etc., unless an official protest has been made to the referee before the game starts.

365. The dimension of the field of play, scoring space, and the duration of the game may be reduced by the organising Committee, Board or Council for competitions that are less than 15-A-Side.

366. All Inter-County and Inter-Club Championship matches in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championships shall be played in enclosed pitches. A roped off pitch is not considered an enclosed pitch.

The definition of an enclosed pitch is where the general public do not have free access to the field of play.

All gates leading from the spectator area to the field of play must be properly stewarded. The only exceptions are:

(a) In emergency situations

(b) Where prior approval is obtained from the Organising Committee, Board or Council

Commencement of Play

367. Before commencing play, the referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for the choice of ends and ensure that no team has more than 15 players on the field. Where the captain is not listed in the starting 1 – 15, the vice-captain or nominated player will represent the team for the toss of the coin.

368. The referee commences play at the start of the game and that of the second half by blowing the whistle and throwing in the ball between two midfield players from each side. All other players shall be behind the 45-metre line and in their respective attacking and defending positions.

Ball In Play

369. The ball is in play until the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, end-line or side-line.

370. The last person touching the ball on the field of play shall be deemed the last player playing the ball.

371. When a clashed ball crosses the end-line, it shall be regarded as a wide ball.

372. If the ball is played over the end-line and outside the goalposts, by one of the defending side, the opposing team shall be awarded a 45-metre kick opposite to where the ball crossed the end-line. The 45-metre kick shall be taken off the ground in all grades from Under 15 upwards. The ball must be played in a forward direction and cannot be played backwards over the 45-metre line. All players must be 13 metres from the ball when the 45-metre kick is being taken. Should the ball be played backwards a throw in shall be awarded. A 45-metre kick scored in these circumstances shall count as 2 points where it goes directly over the bar or is deflected over the bar by a member of the defending team. Where a member of the team awarded the 45-metre kick plays the ball again in any manner and the ball goes over the bar one point shall be allowed. If the ball bounces from the 45-metre kick and it goes over the crossbar between the posts without being touched by another player from that player's team they will be awarded two points. In grades up to and including Under 14, the player has the option of kicking it from the hands or off the ground.

    Should a player taking the 45-metre kick foul the ball, she shall retake the kick. If the player fouls the ball twice a throw in shall be awarded.

    Should an opposing player foul the 45-metre kick, on a regulation sized pitch, the team in possession will be awarded a free and will have the option of moving the ball forward to the 13 metre line or to the 40-metre arc. The player has the option of kicking the ball from the hands or off the ground. Should the free kick be scored from the 13-metre line it shall count as one point or should the free kick be scored from on or before the 40-metre arc it shall count as two points. A 40-metre free kick scored in these circumstances shall count as 2 points where it goes directly over the bar or is deflected over the bar by a member of the defending team. Where a member of the team awarded the 45-metre kick plays the ball again in any manner and the ball goes over the bar one point shall be allowed. If the ball bounces from the kick taken on or outside the 40-metre arc and it goes over the crossbar between the posts without being touched by another player from that player's team they will be awarded 2 points.

373. When a player plays the ball over the side-line, it shall be a side-line kick to the opposing team from where it crossed the line. The player may take the side-line kick from the hands or off the ground.

374. Where a clashed ball crosses the side-line, the linesperson shall throw in the ball over the heads of one player from each side, where the ball crossed the line.

375. Should the ball strike the corner or side-line flags and come back onto the field of play, it shall be deemed to have crossed the side-line and result in a line ball.

376. If the ball strikes the referee in general play, a throw in shall be given. If the team that had possession of the ball retained possession of it, the referee should allow play to continue.

377. If the ball strikes the referee from a free, the free shall be retaken.

378. If the ball strikes a non-player from a free, the free shall be retaken. However, if in the referee's opinion, the ball has been impeded from crossing the goal-line, end-line or side-line, s/he shall make the appropriate award - a score, a wide, 45-metre kick or line-ball.

379. If the ball in play strikes a non-player, a throw in shall be given where the ball struck the non-player.

However, if, in the referee's opinion, the ball was prevented from crossing the end- line or side-line, s/he shall make the appropriate award against the player who played it last.

Should the ball be prevented from crossing the goal-line in such instances, the referee shall award the appropriate score.

380. A referee must extend time in each half for delays, whether deliberate or incidental in the half, or extend time for a free to be taken. Where the referee indicates that it is the last kick of the half from a free kick, a score can only result when it is scored directly from the free kick, or if the ball is deflected under or over the crossbar by a member of the defending team. Where a member of the team awarded the free plays the ball again in any manner, any score resulting from her actions shall be disallowed.

Should the defending team commit a further foul before the referee whistles for half or fulltime, s/he shall further extend time for a free to be taken.

If the ball is played over the end-line by a member of the defending team a 45m kick shall be awarded. A score can only result from the 45m kick, when no other player of the team awarded the 45m kick plays the ball i.e., it must be scored directly, unless it goes off a defending player.

Playing Rules

381. A player may pick the ball off the ground with the toe, or lift it with one or both hands, provided she is in a standing position.

382. A player while on the ground may play the ball away from her and may score a goal by doing so, but cannot bring the ball that is on the ground into her possession.

383. The ball when caught may be kicked, struck with the fist or open hand, or hopped once against the ground with one or both hands.

384. The ball may be knocked from an opponent by making contact with the ball with the open hand or hands, without directing the force towards the body. The player may make incidental contact with the player at the same time once the initial contact is with the ball. The player making the tackle cannot leave their hand in on the ball, pull the ball and cannot pull or chop down on the arm of the opponent as per Rules 407 and 408.

385. A player may use one or both open hands to legally delay an opponent's forward movement, provided the opponent is in possession of the ball and that the contact is made below shoulder height and is not a push backwards. Pushing is not permitted as per Rule 407 (a). Once this contact has been made to delay the movement, the player's hands then must be withdrawn and used to tackle the ball.

386. A player may change the ball from one hand to the other once, provided the holding hand maintains contact with the ball, until the change is completed.

387. A player in possession of the ball may play the ball from toe to hand any number of times. After any such play, the ball may be hopped once against the ground by the hand(s).

388. A player, who does not catch the ball, may make a run by hopping it any number of times with one or both hands. Should she catch the ball, she is allowed to hop it only once.

389. A player shall not kick the ball as an opponent is about to pick it up, or take it into her possession.

390. A player may use her body to fairly contest the ball; contact must not place an opponent at risk. The player must be actively challenging for the ball that is within playing distance.

391. A player may carry the ball for a maximum of 4 consecutive steps, or for the time needed to take 4 consecutive steps.

392. A player may not throw the ball. However, she may toss the ball with one hand and play it with the same hand.

393. There shall be no deliberate body contact.

394. Where a referee stops play to deal with an injured player(s), the team in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage in play, shall retain possession on the restart.

    Play shall resume with the team that had possession of the ball, taking a kick and all players shall be 13 metres from the ball at the point of kicking it. However, they cannot score directly from the kicked ball.

    Where neither team was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage in play, the referee shall throw the ball in between one player from each side.

395. During play, a team must have at least four players (which may include the goalkeeper) in their half of the field and at least three outfield players in the opposition half of the field.

    Exception: A breach of this rule does not occur where the player(s) who would otherwise cause the breach

    (a) have done so unintentionally

    (b) are within 4 metres of the halfway line

    (c) are not interfering with play,

    (d) are not interfering with an opponent, and

    (e) are not gaining an advantage

    To commit a breach of this rule in the act of carrying, receiving or intercepting the ball, or attempting to do so will result in a free kick being awarded from the place where the player crossed the halfway line.

    To commit a breach of this rule other than in the circumstances above will result in a free kick being awarded from the centre point of the offending team's 20-metre line. However, the opposing team may take a free kick from any point outside the 40-metre arc.

If a player from both teams commits a breach at the same time the referee will throw the ball up between a player from both sides at the point where the breach occurred.

Scores

396. The game shall be decided by the greater number of points. A goal shall be equivalent to 3 points.

397. A goal is scored when the ball is kicked, flicked on in flight by any part of the body, or played by either team, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

398. Should a defending player play the ball in any manner through her own scoring space, it shall count as a score.

399. Should a defender cross the goal line with the ball, a goal shall be given to the attacking team, provided the whole ball has crossed the line.

400. Should an attacking player throw or carry the ball over the goal-line, a score shall not be allowed.

401. Any player who falls or is knocked to the ground while in possession of the ball, may fist or palm the ball on the ground and may score a goal by doing so.

402. A point is scored when the ball is kicked, fisted, palmed or flicked on in flight by any part of the body, by either team, between the goalposts and over the cross bar.

Two points shall be awarded when a 45m kick, taken off the ground, goes directly over the bar or is deflected over the bar by a member of the defending team. Should a goal be scored, the goal is allowed.

Where a member of the team awarded the 45m kick plays the ball again in any manner and the ball goes over the bar one point shall be allowed.

Two points are scored when the ball is played over the crossbar between the posts (whether from a free kick, solo and go, or from general play), having been kicked by a player who has at least one foot on or outside the 40-metre arc and provided no other player from that player's team has touched the ball. If the ball bounces from a kick taken on or outside the 40-metre arc and it goes over the crossbar between the posts without being touched by another player from that player's team they will be awarded two points.

If the referee advances a free kick by 13 metres so that it falls inside the 40-metre arc, the player awarded the free kick may still choose to take it from outside the 40-metre arc in order to attempt a two-point score.

403. If the ball strikes anyone or an object, other than a player within the goal area, and in the referee's opinion a goal or a point was prevented, s/he shall allow such a score.

404. When the ball hits the uprights or crossbar and comes back onto the field of play it is still in play.

405. Should the upright or crossbar become displaced or broken, the referee may allow time for the repair of same.

Should the ball pass between or above or below the broken goalposts or crossbar, the referee may in his/her opinion allow a goal or a point as the case may be.

Fouls

406. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team

(a) Overcarrying the ball (taking more than 4 steps without playing the ball)

(b) Throwing the ball

(c) Lying on the ball

(d) Picking the ball off the ground while not in a standing position

(e) Bringing the ball into possession while on the ground

(f) Changing the ball from hand to hand more than once in succession

(g) Hopping the ball more than once in succession after catching it

(h) Handpassing the ball without a visible striking action

(i) Handpassing the ball up and catching it before it touches the ground, or before being touched by another player

(j) Playing the ball away with the foot, without intent, while another player is about to pick it up

407. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team. Repetition of these fouls, three occurrences, except for those occurring unintentionally, shall constitute a Yellow Card offence with penalties as outlined in Rule 408.

(a) Pushing or holding an opponent with the hand, forearm, or other body part

(b) Third player tackle including body checking an opponent

(c) Impeding an opponent

(d) Diving on the ball as another player is about to pick it up

(e) A player in possession of the ball leading with her elbow

(f) Frontal pushing of a player

(g) Chopping down on the arms of an opponent

(h) Provoking or intimidating players by verbal or physical actions

(i) Preventing an opponent getting up from the ground

(j) Pulling an opponent's jersey

(k) Interfering with a free taker by jumping up and down, waving or clapping hands, or any other physical or verbal interference aimed at distracting the free taker.

Should this occur when an attacking team is awarded a 13-metre free in front of their opponent's goal, a penalty shall be awarded. A player may hold her hands upright

(l) Deliberately delaying the kick out or a free-kick

(m) Deliberately not moving back to allow a side-line or free kick to be taken

(n) Kicking the ball away when a free is awarded against the player in possession of the ball

(o) Not releasing the ball when a free is awarded against the team in possession of the ball

(p) Use of foul or improper language

(q) Charging at an opponent

(r) Pinching an opponent

(s) Force being directed towards the body in an attempt to tackle or dispossess the ball

For (m to o) the referee will award a free kick to the opposing team 50 metres more advantageous than the position where the foul occurred – up to the opponent's 13-metre line as per Rule 417.

408. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player's name taken, and shown a Yellow Card. She should be sent off the field of play (Sin Bin), in grades from and including Under 14 upwards.

(a) Deliberate pulling down or tripping by hand or foot

(b) High tackle

(c) Charging of an opponent with moderate impact, including charging with the shoulder to the upper body

(d) Threatening or using abusive language or gestures towards an opponent or colleague

(e) Blocking or attempting to block an opponent with the boot as that player is about to kick the ball from her hands

(f) A sliding tackle

(g) Kicking the ball with intent as an opposing player is about to pick it up

(h) Bringing the fist into contact with the body of an opponent for the purpose of dispossessing her of the ball

(i) Dissenting or challenging the authority of a match official

(j) Persistent fouling (three occurrences of fouls listed in Rule 407 (a-s), except for those occurring unintentionally)

(k) Feigning injury, or diving to gain a free kick or penalty or to get an opponent Cautioned or Sent Off

(l) Deliberate body collide to take a player out of the movement of play.

If she repeats any of these offences upon her resumption, she shall be shown a 2nd Yellow Card, followed by a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the duration of the game, which shall include Extra Time where played.

In any competition up to and including the Under 13 grade, the Sin Bin rule shall not apply. The player shall be shown the Yellow Card and if she commits another Cautionable Offence, she shall be shown a 2nd Yellow Card, followed by a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the duration of the game, and any Extra Time that may be played.

409. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player shown the Red Card and ordered off the field of play without caution. She shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of two official competitive games within the age group or grade where the Red Card was issued and may be subject to further disciplinary action under the CODA rules.

For any player, where the Red Card is issued in her last game of the competition or last game for that age group or grade, the player shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of two weeks from all activity and may be subject to further disciplinary action under CODA Rules. See Sanction table. A walk-over shall not constitute a game in a competition.

(a) Striking or making a striking action towards an opponent or colleague with hand, fist, arm, elbow, head, knee or an object

(b) Kicking, or attempting to kick, an opponent or colleague

(c) Striking, threatening, using abusive language to, or interfering with a match official

(d) Deliberate high tackle

(e) Deliberate sliding tackle

(f) Deliberate charge, including frontal charge, or jumping at an opponent, colleague or official

(g) Spitting at an opponent, colleague or official

(h) Deliberate pulling of an opponent or colleagues hair

(i) Biting an opponent or colleague

(j) Stamping on an opponent or colleague

(k) Using racist, sectarian, transphobic or homophobic language or gestures towards an opponent, colleague, mentor, match official or spectator

(l) Inciting colleagues or opponents to cause or take part in any type of affray while on the pitch

Free Kicks

410. The penalty for most breaches of the playing rules shall be a free kick.

411. If a foul occurs, the referee may allow play to continue, if s/he considers this to be to the advantage of the offended team for up to 5 seconds after the foul. Where no advantage accrues the referee may award a free from where the original foul occurred. Should another foul be committed on the offended team within the 5 seconds then the free is awarded from the most advantageous position.

Should the player in possession of the ball commit a Technical or Non-Technical foul while advantage is being allowed, she shall retain her free from where the original foul occurred.

Should the player in possession of the ball commit a foul that warrants a Yellow or Red Card, while advantage is being played, she shall lose the advantage. She shall be given a Yellow or Red card and play resumed with a throw in between a player from either side where the Yellow or Red card offence occurred.

Should the foul occur inside the 13-metre line and outside the large rectangle, the referee shall award the free from the 13-metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

Disciplinary action, if warranted, may be applied to the offender, who, in any event should be advised by the referee at the next break in play, that a foul had been committed.

412. Once the referee has blown for a free the ball may be kicked from the hand or off the ground from where indicated by the referee, or the player may take the free kick by means of a solo and go. A player having indicated their option to the referee shall not be permitted to change that decision. Any player on the team that was awarded the free can take the solo and go, provided it is done instantly.

Where a solo and go is availed of, it must be taken from a position within 4 metres of where the foul has occurred and must be taken immediately after the free has been awarded and without undue delay unless the referee has stopped play for any purpose such as to allow for attention to be given to any injured player or to deal with a disciplinary issue. The ball must not travel backwards. A player taking a solo and go may not be challenged within 4 metres of the position where the solo and go was taken. For clarity a player may travel up to 4 metres, take a solo, and then travel another 4 metres without being challenged by the opposition. A solo and go may not be taken within the opposition 20-metre line and for a solo and go taken outside the 20-metre line the solo action must be completed before the player crosses the 20-metre line. Where a solo and go is not taken from a position within 4 metres of where the foul occurred, is not taken immediately or the solo action is taken inside the 20-metre line, the free must be taken from the hands or from the ground, at the point where the foul occurred.

If the player taking the solo and go is challenged within 4 metres of the position where it was awarded, then a free kick will be awarded 50 metres more advantageous from the position of the original free, up to the opponent's 13-metre line. The player taking the free may choose to take the free kick from outside the 40-metre arc even though the application of this rule would otherwise result in a free kick from inside the 40-metre arc.

If a player indicated that they were going to take a free kick but then take a solo and go, or should the player play the ball backwards from a solo and go, the referee will award a retake of the free kick from the position of the original foul.

A player awarded a free for an off the ball foul cannot avail of a solo and go and must take a free from the position where the foul occurred.

413. The ball shall be stationary, before a free-kick, side-line kick and 45-metre kick is taken off the ground. Failure to do so, shall result in the kick being retaken.

414. In the interests of continuity of play, all free kicks except penalty kicks and free kicks on the 13-metre line may be taken immediately at the spot indicated by the referee.

415. Where in the referee's opinion a free is being taken from the incorrect position, the free should be retaken from where indicated by the referee. Continued breach of this rule shall result in the free being disallowed, the ball thrown in between a player from each side. All other players shall be 10 metres from the throw in.

416. All players must be 13 metres from the ball when a free kick is being taken unless they are not interfering with play.

417. Where a foul is committed for the purpose of delaying play, the offending player will be noted or shown a card where appropriate, and a free kick awarded to the opposing team, 50 metres more advantageous than the position where the foul occurred – up to the opponent's 13-metre line.

However, the opposing team may:

(a) Take the free kick from the place where the foul occurred

(b) Take a solo and go immediately

(c) Take a free kick from outside the 40-metre arc even though the application of this rule would result in a free kick from inside the 40-metre arc

The referee shall signal this penalty by extending either arm sidewards.

The player does not need to hand over the ball on the full to the opposition but cannot hit, throw or kick the ball away. They must release the ball to the opposition player and move back to allow a quick free or solo and go to be taken.

418. Should an opposing player stand nearer than 13 metres from the ball when a free kick or side-line kick is being taken, or illegally charge a free kick or side-line kick, the opposing team shall be awarded a free kick, 13 metres nearer their opponents' goal.

419. Should a player taking a quick free kick, deliberately play it against an opponent for the purpose of gaining advantage, without allowing her opponent adequate time to retreat 13 metres, the player shall lose her free kick and play is restarted by throwing in the ball between a player from each side.

420. Should a defending player illegally charge a 13-metre free kick directly in front of the goal by the attacking team, the referee shall award a penalty.

421. When a free kick has been awarded and the player passes to a colleague, who is less than 13 metres from the ball, the referee shall award a free kick to the opposing team from where the recipient stood.

422. The free taker may not play the ball again, unless taking a solo and go, until another player has touched it. Should she do so, the referee shall award a free to the opposing team, from where the foul occurred. The only exception to this rule is where the ball rebounds off the crossbar or uprights, the free taker may play the ball again.

423. Where a foul is committed on a player after she plays the ball, the referee should:

(a) Award a free from where the ball lands

(b) Allow a score, should she have scored

(c) Award a free on the 13-metre line, opposite to where the ball landed on or inside the 13-metre line, or over the end-line

(d) Award a free on the side-line at the point where the ball crossed the side-line

If the free is to the attacking team and the ball crossed the side-line between the 13-metre line and the end-line, the free shall be taken from the 13-metre line.

424. Should a player from each team foul at the same time, the referee shall throw in the ball over the heads of one player from each side.

425. Once the referee has awarded a free, and prior to it being taken, a player on the team awarded the free fouls in retaliation, the free shall be disallowed. Play shall be restarted by the referee by throwing the ball over the heads of one player from each team where the original foul occurred.

426. Where the referee throws in the ball between one player from each team, all other players shall be 10 metres from both players.

427. Should a player show dissent in any way with the referee's decision to award a free to the opposing team, the free-kick shall be awarded from a point 13 metres nearer to the defending goal, but not inside the 13-metre line.

Should the original free be near the side-line on or inside the 13-metre line, the referee shall place the ball on the 13-metre line, 13 metres nearer to the centre of the goal.

428. A player taking a free-kick or a kick-out near the end-line or side-line may step outside these lines for the purpose of taking a run.

429. Should a team official commit any of the below misconduct offences (a-f) at a game the referee shall award a free kick on the offending team's 13-metre line at the centre point of the scoring space or, at the option of the free taker, a free kick from the apex of the 40-metre arc. Where the latter option is availed of two points shall be awarded for a score from such a free kick where the ball crosses the crossbar between the posts.

(a) To challenge the authority of a referee, umpire, linesperson or sideline official

(b) Disruptive conduct

(c) To threaten or to use abusive language or provocative language or gestures to an opposing player or team official

(d) To use abusive language to a referee, umpire, linesperson or sideline official

(e) 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, umpire, linesperson or sideline official

(f) Any type of assault on a referee, umpire, linesperson or sideline official

Should the offence occur immediately before the start of the game or during the half-time interval, the game shall start or restart with a freekick as outlined above.

Should a team official commit a misconduct offence (a-b) they shall have their name taken by the referee and are shown a yellow card. If they repeat any of those offences they will be shown a second yellow card, followed by a red card and are ordered outside the enclosure of the pitch, or if no enclosure then a sufficient distance away from the field of play as decided by the referee.

Should a team official commit a misconduct offence (c-f) they shall have their name taken by the referee and are shown a red card and are ordered outside the enclosure of the pitch, or if no enclosure then a sufficient distance away from the field of play as decided by the referee.

The team official may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Penalties

430. A penalty shall be awarded when:

(a) Any foul is committed by the defence within the small rectangle

(b) A personal foul is committed by the defence on an attacking player within the large rectangle

(c) An attacking player in the large rectangle has her hands on the ball and an opponent kicks the ball

The referee shall award a penalty even though the boot may not have come in contact with the player's hand.

431. A penalty shall be taken from the ground at the centre point 11 metres directly in front of the goal. All players with the exception of the goalkeeper, and the player taking the kick, shall be outside the 20-metre line.

432. The goalkeeper may move along the goal-line but cannot advance from the goal-line until the ball has been kicked. If the goalkeeper moves forward before the ball is kicked and a score does not result (ball goes wide, deflected over the crossbar or for a 45m kick, or it is saved etc.), the penalty shall be retaken.

433. It is only the player wearing a distinctive jersey who enjoys the rights and privileges of a goalkeeper who is allowed to pick the ball off the ground, without being in a standing position inside the small rectangle.

Rectangles

434. During play, excluding a set play, if an attacking player is within the small rectangle before the final play of the ball into the small rectangle the defending team shall be awarded a free out from within the small rectangle.

From a set play, if the player is within the small rectangle before the ball enters it the defending team shall be awarded a free out from within the small rectangle.

435. If an attacking player legally enters the small rectangle from a set play after the ball and the ball is cleared from that area but is returned before the attacking player has had time to leave the small rectangle, she shall be deemed not to have committed an offence, provided she does not play the ball or does not interfere with the defence.

436. If an attacking player is in the small rectangle from a set play before the ball and a point is scored from out the field, the score shall be allowed, provided:

(a) The ball is sufficiently high to be out of the reach of all players

(b) She does not interfere with the defence

Kick Out

437. The ball must be kicked forward from the hands or off the ground on or before the 20-metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out after a score or wide in all competitions.

All players, except the kicker and the goalkeeper shall be outside the 20-metre line, and at least 13-metres from the ball until it is kicked. Where a kicker other than the goalkeeper is taking the kickout, the goalkeeper must remain in the small rectangle until the ball is kicked.

The ball must cross the 20-metre line before being played by another player. Where player/s offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20-metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

If an attacking player deliberately delays the kick out the ball shall be moved forward 13-metres.

438. The player taking the kick-out off the ground shall have the option of using a tee.

439. Where in the referee's opinion, a kick out is being taken from the incorrect position, the kick out should be retaken from where indicated by the referee. A further breach of this rule shall result in the kick out being disallowed and the ball being thrown in between a player from each side on the 20m line. All other players shall be 10 metres from the throw in.

440. The player taking the kick out may play the ball more than once before any other player plays it, provided, she does not take it into her hands. If she plays the ball over the side-line directly from a kickout, it shall be a side-line kick to the opposing team from where it crossed the line.

441. The referee shall award a 'mark' by sounding the whistle when a player catches the ball cleanly from a kick-out, without it touching the ground, on or past the 40-metre arc.

The following procedures shall apply:

(a) Free Kick - The player shall signify to the referee if the player is availing of the free kick by immediately raising an arm upright and that player then taking the kick from the hands. The free kick shall be taken from the point where the mark is awarded. Once the player indicates the player is taking the 'mark', the referee shall allow up to fifteen seconds for the player to take the kick. If the player delays longer than fifteen seconds, the referee shall cancel the 'mark' and throw-in the ball between a player from each side.

Once the player indicates they are taking the 'mark', the opposing players must retreat 13 metres to allow the player space to take the kick. If an opposing player deliberately blocks or attempts to block the kick within 13 metres, or if an opposing player impedes the player while the player is taking the kick, the referee shall penalise the opposing team by bringing the ball forward 50 metres, up to opponents' 13-metre line. If the referee determines that the player who makes the 'mark' has been injured in the process and is unable to take the kick, the referee shall direct the player's nearest teammate to take the kick, but this may only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

(b) A player who makes a Kick-Out Mark, but doesn't raise her arm upwards, may play on immediately and, in this circumstance, the player may not be challenged within four metres of the position from where the Kick-Out Mark is made.

Referee

442. County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils and relevant sub-committees thereof, shall have the power to appoint match officials for all games under their control.

443. Neutral Referees who have completed a recognised seminar and rules course of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association and achieved the required standard in the rules test and obligatory fitness test, shall be appointed for all National Fixtures where possible. Referees shall be subject to assessment from time to time as may be determined by Central Council. Provincial Councils shall apply similar procedure for training their panels of referees for their respective fixtures.

444. All club from Under 13 to Adult games within counties must be officiated by a referee who has completed an LGFA referee education course and they must attend an annual referee refresher course to maintain qualifications. If the referee fails to show at a club fixture the two clubs involved may agree on a qualified LGFA referee to officiate and if no agreement the match will be rescheduled.

445. If a referee is unable to officiate at a game, the Secretary, Committee, Board or Council in charge of the fixture shall appoint a substitute who has completed a recognised seminar and rules course of The Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

However, where a referee is unable to officiate at the last moment, s/he may nominate a substitute referee, under whom the teams shall play.

446. In Inter-County games the Home County shall pay the referee's fee before the commencement of the game.

The fee may be recouped from the gate money taken at that game. A return should be made to the National or Provincial treasurer as appropriate, showing the total gate receipts (before payment to the referee), referee's expenses and any other expenses incurred i.e., fee for use of the pitch.

447. Referees shall wear officially approved attire when officiating at all games.

448. A referee's requirements are a whistle, watch, coin, notebook, pencil/pen and Yellow and Red Cards.

449. The duties and powers of a referee in addition to those outlined in the playing rules shall be to:

(a) Sign and give a copy of the team lists to the opposing team before the commencement of the game. Report on any failure regarding the receipt of team lists to the Committee, Board or Council in charge of the fixture

(b) See that the players are properly attired and report on same

(c) Obtain, if requested by the team captain or team official, the signature, full address and Club of any player whose name appears on the official team list, and that of any substitute who takes part in the game

(d) Allow or disallow scores

(e) Consult with match officials when occasion demands and replace any of them should they withdraw their services before the end of the game

(f) Deal with intrusions of unauthorised persons onto the field of play

(g) Take the names or otherwise identify players or officials interfering during the game and report on it accordingly

(h) Report on pitch markings and on any other unsatisfactory aspects of the field of play

(i) Add on additional time for substitutions to be made and for the time taken to caution or order off a player

450. The referee shall decide:

(a) Whether ground or other conditions are suitable for playing

(b) To terminate a game because of darkness

To terminate a game because of persistent outside interference, or any other reason s/he considers necessary e.g., if a player refuses to leave the field or having been ordered off, returns to participate in the game

451. For National competitions, in the event of inclement weather and when there is a possibility of a pitch or pitches being unplayable the National Fixtures Committee via Fixtures & Competition Co-Ordinator will nominate an authorised person, who is not involved with the teams, who shall be called upon to carry out a pitch inspection, on the evening before or the morning of a fixture and shall have the authority to declare a pitch unplayable. The National Fixtures Committee shall then make the necessary arrangements to notify the Teams and Officials immediately.

452. When a player, players, or a team refuse to continue with a game, the referee should give the captain of the team approximately 3 minutes to decide their final intentions. If the team still refuses to play, any player willing to continue with the game should give her name to the referee.

The referee shall make a full report of the incident to the Committee, Board or Council in charge of the fixture.

453. If a game is terminated by the onset of darkness, it must be re-fixed unless there was a deliberate delay on the part of one team. In those circumstances the game may be awarded to their opponents.

If the game was terminated for any other reason, the decision rests with the Committee, Board or Council in charge.

454. The referee shall give permission to a maximum of two officials to attend to an injured player. Such officials shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.

Treatment of injuries shall be given on the side-line unless in exceptional circumstances where the referee shall use his/her discretion.

In the event of a suspected head injury, a maximum of two of the designated Club/Team Officials (Rule 312) shall be permitted to immediately enter the field of play to provide urgent attention. The third designated team official shall immediately draw the referee's attention to the incident.

455. The referee shall have the power to over-rule a match official and give final scores. The referee may be assisted in determining scores by any scoring device as approved by Central Council.

456. The referee's decision on any question of fact and in regard to time shall be final. The referee may be assisted in the timing of games by any timing device as approved by Central Council. Should such a timing device be used, the following rules shall apply:

(a) It is stopped on the signal of the referee by the operator and restarted on the signal of the referee

(b) At the end of 30 minutes playing time a hooter should sound

(c) If a free has been awarded on or before the hooter sounds, the referee shall allow the free and any resulting frees to be taken. A score can only result from this free if no other player on the same side touches the ball

(d) A score resulting from a ball in flight at the start of the sound of the hooter i.e., when no other player on the same side touches the ball, shall be allowed. If the ball is played over the end line and outside the goalposts by one of the defending side, a 45-metre kick shall be awarded. This must be scored directly unless played by a member of the defending team

457. The referee cannot award a game but may give the final score if requested. The awarding of the game rests with the relevant unit in charge of the fixture.

Video evidence shall not be admissible unless as outlined in Rule 455 to review the decision of a referee where the decision relates to the allowance or disallowance of a score, the award of a free or the playing time allowed.

Where a dispute arises in relation to the referee's final scoreline, the unit in charge of the fixture may examine the referee's report and initiate an investigation into any errors or omissions that may have arisen in the report.

458. The referee shall forward team lists, and a detailed report of the match, either electronically or by post, to the committee, Board or Council in charge of the fixture, within 3 days of the match showing:

(a) The final and half time score

(b) The time the teams took the field

(c) The time that the match commenced

(d) The attire of players and note the number of the player(s) not wearing the correct attire

(e) The names of any players cautioned or ordered off and the reasons. Specific details and exact nature of the offence committed and in cases of verbal abuse, the exact words used must be reported

(f) The names of any players injured or any other information s/he deems relevant

(g) The names of substitutes used during the course of the game

(h) Any other incidents or breach of rules that took place

However, if a disciplinary matter arises the report shall be forwarded to the relevant CODA within 48 hours of the incident.

459. Where the referee fails to forward a report of a game, the relevant CODA shall have the power to investigate infringements of the rules that may have occurred, and call witnesses who attended the game.

460. The team lists and referees match report shall remain the property of the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture or the relevant CODA and shall not be issued to any other party. However, if a person or unit, is the subject of a CODA hearing, that report shall be made available as per the CODA rules.

461. In the event of a team failing to participate in a game, the referee shall count the players of the team(s) that is present, to ensure that they have 11 players. The referee shall obtain a team list, and forward a report to the Committee, Board or Council in charge of the fixture.

462. Referees from the Association's own panel shall be paid expenses at the rate of 40 cent per kilometre or 60 cent per mile, and a match fee of €40, or as decided by Central Council. International Units of the Association are exempted.

Umpires

463. There shall be two goal umpires at each end of the ground. They may be appointed by the referee, County Board, Provincial or Central Council, or by the relevant sub-committee.

464. The umpires shall decide, subject to the referee's final decision, whether the ball has crossed the goal-line, crossbar, or end-line, and shall signal whether it is a goal, a point, a two-point score, a wide or a 45-metre kick.

465. If an attacking player is within the small rectangle from a set play before the ball enters it, and a goal is scored, the umpires shall, with the approval of the referee, disallow the score.

466. If a point or two-point score is scored, where the ball goes directly off or over the crossbar, out of the reach of the players, and the defence was not interfered with, the umpires, with the approval of the referee, shall allow the score.

467. Where a team scores a goal, a point or a two-point score the umpire shall raise the appropriate flag over his/her head. To signal a point the umpire shall extend one arm above the head and to signal a two-point score they should extend both arms above the head. Where flags are available the umpire shall raise a green flag for a goal, a white flag for a point or an orange flag to signal a two-point score, including from a 45-metre kick, after the referee has awarded it by raising two arms above their head.

468. When a score is disallowed, the umpire shall cross the signal flags (green for a goal, white for a point, orange flag for two-point score) in front of the goal.

469. The umpires shall have the power to deal with and bring to the referee's attention:

(a) Any off the ball incidents

(b) Any incidents that may have gone unnoticed by the referee

(c) Any incursions onto the field of play by a team manager, coach, selector or any unauthorised person

(d) Any occurrence of a misconduct offence by a team official as outlined in Rule 429 (a-f)

470. The umpires shall bring to the referee's attention a breach if a team does not have at least four players (which may include the goalkeeper) in their half of the field and at least three outfield players in the opposition half of the field.

471. The umpires shall not change ends at half time.

Linespersons

472. There shall be two linespersons, one at either side of the field. They may be appointed by the referee, County Board, Provincial or Central Council or the relevant Sub-Committee.

473. The linespersons duties shall be:

(a) To decide where the ball crosses the side-line and to which team the side-line kick is to be awarded. They should point the flag in the direction in which the side-line kick is to be taken

(b) To deal with and bring to the referee's attention, any incidents which the referee may not have seen, or incursions onto the field of play by the team managers, coaches, selectors or unauthorised persons

(c) To bring to the referee's attention any occurrence of a misconduct offence by a team official as outlined in Rule 429 (a-f)

(d) To bring to the referee's attention a breach if a team does not have at least four players (which may include the goalkeeper) in their half of the field and at least three outfield players in the opposition half of the field

474. The linespersons may change sides at half time.

Fourth Officials

475. There shall be one fourth official, where required. S/he may be appointed by the County Board, Provincial or Central Council or the relevant Sub-Committee.

476. The Fourth Official duties shall be:

(a) To receive substitution notes giving the name and number of a substitute or temporary substitute and the name and number of the player being substituted or replaced

(b) To record and report all substitutions and temporary substitutions made during a game to the referee for inclusion in the match report

(c) To display by means of electronic or manual board the numbers of players being substituted

(d) Timing of sin bins

(e) Advise the referee or linesperson of any off the ball incident or score where there is a dispute as to whether a ball was inside or outside the posts

(f) Keep the side-line clear from any unauthorised personnel

(g) Report any abuse from the team officials or substitutes to the referee during a break in play

(h) To report as required to the referee, prior to leaving the venue, any breach of rules on the side-line for the duration of the game. This must be included in the referee's report

(i) To bring to the referee's attention a breach if a team does not have at least four players (which may include the goalkeeper) in their half of the field and at least three outfield players in the opposition half of the field

Official Guide
Part Three

COMPLAINTS, OBJECTIONS, DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS RULES

1. JURISDICTION

1.1 GENERAL

It is the right of a Unit to bring an Objection to the transfer of or eligibility of a player. It is the right of a Member to make a Complaint against any other Member or Unit.

It is the right of any Unit to take Disciplinary Action against a Member, a Team(s) or any Unit below it.

1.2 STRUCTURE

CODA

The Executive Committee of each Unit, except a Club, shall appoint a Complaints, Objections, Disciplinary and Appeals Officer(s) ("CODA").

Club Disciplinary Officer

In the case of a Club, the Chairperson of the Club shall appoint a Club Disciplinary Officer to carry out Investigations, process and address Complaints and Club Disciplinary Matters that occur(s) within the Club.

Hearings Committees

The Executive Committee of each Unit, other than club, shall appoint a Hearings Panel from which a Hearings Committee shall be selected to hear a Complaint, Objection or Disciplinary Matter at that level for a period of 3 years.

The members of the Hearings Panel cannot be a member of the Executive Committee of that Unit, and this is a non-voting panel.

Club Hearings Committees

In the case of a Club, the Chairperson of the Club shall appoint a Club Hearings Committee to hear any Complaint which is not resolved by the Club Disciplinary Officer or any Club Disciplinary Matter.

Appeals Committees

The Executive Committee of each County Board, Provincial Council or Central Council shall appoint an Appeals Panel from which an Appeals Committee shall be selected to hear appeals against decisions of the Lower Unit or of the Hearings Committee of Complaints, Objections or Disciplinary Action from the Lower Unit for a period of 3 years.

The members of the Appeals Panel cannot be a member of the Executive Committee of that Unit and this is a non-voting panel.

Investigations

Each Unit has the right to investigate any matter, such investigation to be carried out by a CODA or Club Disciplinary Officer.

Objections

The Hearings Committee of any Unit, other than a Club, has jurisdiction to hear an Objection.

Complaints

• Club

Where a Complaint cannot be resolved informally by the Club Disciplinary Officer then that Complaint shall be heard before the Club Hearings Committee.

• County

Where a Complaint cannot be dealt with in Club or where the Complaint does not involve persons outside a County, then the Complaint shall be received and processed by the CODA for that County.

•Schools/ Colleges

Where a Complaint occurs in the context of any schools or colleges competitions then those respective Units' CODA shall receive and process that Complaint.

• Provincial

Where a Complaint cannot be dealt by a County CODA within a province and where the Complaint arises in the context of a provincial competition then that Complaint shall be received and processed by the Provincial Council CODA.

• Central

Where a Complaint cannot be dealt with by a Provincial Council CODA or where the Complaint arises in the context of an inter-provincial competition then that Complaint shall be received and processed by the National CODA.

Hearings

A Complaint which cannot be resolved informally or by mediation at that level shall be heard by the Hearings Committee at that level.

A Club Disciplinary Matter shall be heard by the Club Hearings Committee.

A Disciplinary Action that occurs between two or more clubs within a County shall be heard by that County's Hearings Committee.

A Disciplinary Action that occurs between two or more clubs from more than one County shall be heard by that Provincial Council or Central Council Hearings Committee.

A Disciplinary Action that occurs between two counties within one province shall be heard by that Provincial Council Hearings Committee.

A Disciplinary Action that occurs between two counties from two provinces shall be heard by the Central Council Hearings Committee.

A Disciplinary Action that occurs between two provinces shall be heard by the Central Council Hearings Committee.

Appeals

An Appeal from a decision of the Club Hearings Committee shall be made to the County Board Appeals Committee.

Appeal from a decision of the County Board Hearings Committee/ Schools Hearings Committee/Colleges Hearings Committee shall be made to the Central Council Appeals Committee, which shall for the purpose of the CODA Rules, be treated as the next highest Unit for any such appeal.

An Appeal from a decision of the Provincial Council Hearings Committee shall be made to the Central Council Appeals Committee.

An Appeal from a decision of the Central Council Hearings Committee shall be made to the Central Council Appeals Committee.

Generally

Every Decision can be appealed to the Appeals Committee at next highest Unit, with the exception of an appeal from a County Board decision to a Province. In that instance such appeal hearing from a County Board decision shall be heard by the Central Council Appeals Committee.

There is only one right of appeal to any Decision. An Appeal hearing is a Fresh Hearing.

Any Decision can be challenged, once all internal avenues of appeal have been exhausted, limited to grounds:

(a) the legality of the decision made or

(b) the procedures used, before the Disputes Resolution Authority.

The following natural and legal persons agree to and are subject to these rules:

Member, Participant, Unit

1.3 EXCLUSIONS

(a) Employment and quasi employment contractual disputes

(b) Allegations of child abuse. Such Complaints shall be referred to the statutory authorities by the children's officer without prejudice to exercising the powers as specified in these rules

(c) Criminal matters. Such Complaints shall be referred to the statutory authorities

(d) Anti-Doping matters. Such Complaints shall be dealt with in accordance with the Irish Anti-Doping Rules

(e) Competition Administration

1.4 LIABILITY

No person involved in the administration of Complaints, Objections and Disciplinary Action shall be liable to any Person in any way, in relation to acts done or omitted to be done in good faith in connection with these Rules.

1.5 UNDERAGE PLAYERS

1.5.1 Any Member under the age of 18 shall be accompanied by Parent/ Guardian.

1.5.2 Any Member under the age of 18 who is a Complainant, or a Respondent is obliged to attend any hearing and where appropriate, by video link.

1.5.3 In all cases, but particularly where the subject of the Complaint is under 18, steps should be taken to ensure the fair treatment of both parties, and advice should be sought if necessary, from the relevant Unit and Children's Officer.

1.5.4 Where the matter concerns any Member under the age of 18, the Hearings and Appeals Committee shall allow a Children's Officer to be present at the hearing if required. The Children's Officer may be invited to make submissions on behalf of the under 18 year old member at the hearing.

1.6 COSTS/EXPENSES

1.6.1 Any costs or expenses incurred by a Member (or any of their witnesses but not including the CODA and/or the Hearings Committee or Appeals Committee) in relation to any matter under these procedures will be the sole responsibility of that Member. Neither the Hearings Committee nor the Appeals Committee shall have authority to make any award for costs.

1.6.2 There is a cost for each Unit and the Association in administering the Complaints, Objection and Disciplinary process. Accordingly, Members when making a Complaint only will be obliged to pay an administration fee. Where an Objection, Complaint or Appeal is upheld, the administration fee will be reimbursed.

1.7 CRIMINAL CHARGES

1.7.1 The Hearings Committee and Appeals Committee shall have the right to suspend a Member where that Member is subject to a criminal investigation or charge where that charge has the potential to bring the Association into disrepute. Once the matter has been dealt with by the statutory authorities, the Hearings Committee reserves the right to take further action as appropriate.

1.7.2 In the event of criminal charges being initiated in relation to the alleged misconduct of a Member, who is the subject of the Complaint received, then the Member may be suspended pending the outcome of the charges. Once the appropriate statutory authorities have dealt with the matter, even if the Member concerned is not eventually convicted of the charge, the Hearings Committee shall nevertheless have the right and power to review all circumstances in accordance with this procedure and decide to continue the suspension or expel the Member, if it deems it so necessary in the interests of the Association as a whole.

1.8 NOTIFICATION TO THE ASSOCIATION

That the CEO of the Association, relevant Provincial Secretary and/or relevant County Secretary be notified if a member or team is fined, suspended or expelled. Notification shall be received in writing from the CODA, Hearings or Appeals Committee imposing the sanction imposed.

1.9 SERVICE

1.9.1 All communications shall be made orally or in writing, if in writing, which is encouraged, then by email or post.

1.9.2 Any such communications shall be deemed to be delivered:

(a) On receipt of a 'read receipt' or email reply acknowledging the email

(b) Within 18 hours of the email being sent

(c) Within 48 hours of posting a letter

1.10 MEDIATION

The Association recognises the benefits of Mediation as a method of dispute resolution and has provided for it below.

2. OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

Offences can be distinguished into the following categories:

2.1 OBJECTION

(a) Fielding a player who is underage or overage

(b) Fielding of a player who is not eligible to play for that Team, Club, County, School, College or Province

(c) Fielding a player who is suspended or expelled from playing

(d) Transfer of a player contrary to rule

(e) A team exceeding the number of permitted players

2.2 COMPLAINT

(a) Bullying as between adults

(b) Intimidation

(c) Inappropriate language

(d) Inappropriate conduct

(e) Racism

(f) Sexism

(g) Ageism

(h) Transphobia

(i) Homophobia

2.3 DISCIPLINARY MATTER

(a) Breach of any rules, regulations and Safeguarding Policies

(b) Verbal abuse

(c) Physical abuse

(d) Insulting behaviour to other competitors, match officials and/or any officials

(e) Violation of instructions and directives from match officials and/or any officials

(f) Failure or refusal to comply with an investigation carried out by an official without acceptable justification

(g) Abuse or discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic origin

(h) Foul play i.e., use of excessive force

(i) Serious foul play inciting a brawl or violence

(j) Match fixing

(k) Forgery or falsification

(l) Improperly influencing the outcome of a game for financial gain

(m) Bringing the LGFA into disrepute

(n) Alcohol or substance abuse by minor members at an event

(o) Criminal investigation for indictable offences

(p) Criminal conviction likely to bring the LGFA into disrepute

(q) Mischievous or vexatious Complaints

(r) Participation at an event without the permission of the LGFA

(s) Purporting to represent the LGFA without the permission of the LGFA

(t) Taking part in an event/competition organised by a club or committee not affiliated to the LGFA with the exception of those sanctioned events listed in the rules

2.4 SANCTIONS

See Schedule 1

2.5 SANCTIONS

2.5.1 The Hearings Committee or Appeals Committee has sole jurisdiction to impose a Sanction(s).

2.5.2 In circumstances where it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s) of an offence, the relevant Team or Unit can be sanctioned.

2.5.3 A Sanction may be imposed for offences which have escaped the match official's attention.

2.5.4 A Sanction may be imposed on a Member, Unit, Team or Participant.

2.5.5 A Sanction may only be imposed by a Hearings Committee or Appeals Committee following a decision on foot of an oral hearing, unless otherwise prescribed in these rules.

2.5.6 Any Sanction imposed shall be effective throughout the LGFA from the date of oral or written (whichever is the earlier) notification until the sanction period has expired, save for automatic playing bans.

2.6 SUSPENSIONS

The suspension of a member means suspension from:

(a) Playing in games

(b) Refereeing or acting as any match official

(c) Acting as a manager, mentor, coach, selector, female liaison officer, water carrier, runner, physio or first aider

(d) Being in the dressing room on match day

(e) Being in the team bench area

(f) Being inside the fencing of an enclosed pitch, during the course of a game

(g) Hold officership or attend a meeting of the Association

(h) Attend or participate in any non-playing event or activity of the LGFA

A suspended playing member may train with her team.

This rule does not forbid a suspended member from being present at a game or training session or drawing up a training schedule for implementation by fellow selectors.

2.7 MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING FACTORS

2.7.1 A Hearings Committee and Appeals Committee shall take into account mitigating and aggravating factors once a decision on culpability is reached but prior to the imposition of a sanction.

2.7.2 The following factors shall be taken into account:

(a) Age

(b) Co-operation

(c) Prior warnings

(d) Repeat offences

(e) Apology made

(f) Remorse

(g) Provocation

(h) Gravity of offence

(i) Effect on victim

(j) Vulnerability of victim

(k) Recklessness of offence

(l) Offence completed or was it attempted

(m) Any other factor deemed relevant

3. COMPLAINTS, OBJECTIONS AND DISCIPLINARY BODIES

(County, Provincial and Central Council)

3.1 COMPLAINTS, OBJECTIONS & DISCIPLINARY OFFICER (CODA)

3.1.1 A CODA Officer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of each County, College, Provincial Council and Central Council for a three-year term and shall only operate at the level or Unit at which they were appointed. The CODA Officer has no vote and is not a member of the executive committee.

3.1.2 A CODA may be re-appointed for up to two consecutive 3-year terms.

3.1.3 The CODA shall have the following functions:

(a) Receive a Complaint, Objection, Disciplinary or Appeals Report

(b) Investigate a Complaint, Objection, a Disciplinary or Appeals Action

(c) Investigate an incident which comes to their attention

(d) Determine whether an obvious case has been made in an Objection, Complaint or any incident which comes to the attention of the CODA

(e) Dismiss any Complaint where after an investigation, in the opinion of the CODA no clear case is established

(f) Refer a Complaint, Objection or Disciplinary Action to the Hearings Committee

(g) Prepare relevant documents for the Hearings Committee and Appeal Committee

(h) Make all communications to the relevant parties and to communicate at the request of the Hearings Committee and Appeals Committee

(i) Provide copies of all relevant documents to the parties in advance of the hearing

(j) Present the case against a Respondent before the Hearings Committee and/or Appeals Committee in respect of Disciplinary Action

(k) Refer a Complaint to the Informal Complaints Procedure or Mediation before any reference to the Hearings Committee

(l) Maintain a record of decisions of the Hearings Committee and Appeal Committee

(m) Report to the Board of the relevant Unit, every quarter, with a summary of any objections, complaints, disciplinary or appeals matters

(n) Extend a timeline prior to hearing where there is a just cause

3.1.4 Where the CODA has any actual or potential conflict of interest, he/ she shall stand aside from investigating a Complaint/Objection/ Disciplinary Action. In this case another CODA will replace that CODA.

3.1.5 In the event that the CODA does not stand aside, the Chair of that Unit shall be entitled to remove the CODA and appoint another CODA.

3.1.6 The CODA is not obliged to investigate a Complaint, Objection, Disciplinary or Appeal Action. In an investigation, the CODA may consider and analyse any evidence he/she deems relevant and shall have the right to make enquiries and request information or documents from any Member or Unit in relation to the matter.

3.1.7 Prior to a hearing, the CODA shall provide all parties and the relevant committee with the following documentation:

(a) Copy of the Complaint, Objection, Disciplinary or Appeal Report

(b) Copy of any Counter Objection, Reply to Complaint, Response to Disciplinary Report

(c) Copies of supporting documents relied on by either party

3.1.8 Prior to a hearing, the CODA shall provide all parties and the Hearings Committee or Appeals Committee with the following information:

(a) The procedures involved

(b) The possible sanctions

(c) The rights of the parties at the hearing to call witnesses of fact (witnesses must be members of the LGFA), to cross examine, to be accompanied, to deliver submissions

(d) Any other procedural requirements

(e) The time, date and venue of the hearing

3.1.9 The Club Disciplinary Officer shall have the same powers as the CODA save that the Club Disciplinary Officer shall not have any jurisdiction in respect of an Objection.

(a) If there is an objection to the Club Disciplinary Officer on the basis of actual or potential bias, then the chair of the Club may appoint another Club Disciplinary Officer in their place.

3.2 HEARINGS COMMITTEE

3.2.1 A Hearings Panel of no less than five (5) persons of good standing and experience shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of each County Board, Provincial Council and Central Council.

3.2.2 The Hearings Panel shall remain in place for a three (3) year term.

3.2.3 Any person on the Hearings Panel may be re-appointed for a maximum of two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

3.2.4 The Hearings Committee shall be empowered to delegate any particular function to one member of the Hearings Committee.

3.2.5 A Children's Officer may not be a member of the Hearings Panel.

3.2.6 On appointment, the Hearings Committee shall appoint a chairperson.

3.2.7 Any person selected to sit on the Hearings Committee who has any actual or potential conflict of interest in the outcome of the hearing shall stand aside from hearing the Complaint/Disciplinary Matter. An alternative person shall be appointed from the panel.

3.2.8 The Hearings Committee shall act on a simple majority vote in arriving at a decision. No minority or dissenting decisions shall be produced.

3.2.9 The Hearings Committee shall have jurisdiction to impose any sanction as set out in these rules.

4. OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE

4.1 An Objection is commenced when the Objector delivers:

(a) A Notice of Objection (see Appendix 1) fully completed together with

(b) Supporting documents

(c) Payment of a fee of €100.00 made payable to the relevant Unit and copying in the Affected Party

(d) Within 48 hours at the end of the match being challenged to the relevant CODA

4.2 The Affected Party shall deliver a Response to Objection (see Appendix 2) and any Notice of Counter Objection (see Appendix 3), together with any supporting documentary evidence within twenty four (24) hours of delivery to the CODA and the Objector.

4.3 Within twenty four (24) hours of delivery of any Notice of Counter Objection the Objector shall deliver a Reply to Counter Objection (see Appendix 4) to the CODA and the Affected Party.

4.4 The CODA shall then serve a Notice of Hearing on the Hearings Committee and any Respondent (see Appendix 5).

5. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

5.1 A Complaint is commenced when the Complainant delivers:

(a) The Complaint form fully completed (see Appendix 6)

(b) Together with any supporting documents and

(c) A payment of €100.00 made payable to the relevant Unit

(d) Within 7 days of the last event complained of

5.2 A Complainant shall serve a Notice of Complaint (see Appendix 6) on the CODA together with any supporting documents and payment of a €100.00 fee (made payable to the relevant Unit) within seven (7) days of the last incident complained of.

5.3 On receipt of a Notice of Complaint, the CODA shall consider the validity of the Complaint and deem it valid or invalid within seven (7) days of delivery of the Notice of Complaint.

5.4 If the Notice of Complaint is invalid, the CODA shall notify the Complainant of the invalidity and request that the invalidity be remedied within seven (7) days.

5.5 If the invalidity cannot be remedied within seven (7) days or at all then the Complaint will be considered null and void.

5.6 Within 12 hours of confirming a Complaint is valid, the CODA shall send the Respondent a copy of the Notice of Complaint together with any supporting documents.

5.7 Within seven (7) days of receiving the Notice of Complaint, the Respondent shall deliver a Reply to Complaint (see Appendix 7) together with any supporting documentation on the CODA.

5.8 The CODA may then exercise further powers of investigation as he/she considers appropriate.

5.9 On completion of any such further investigation, the CODA shall then consider whether there is an obvious and clear Complaint made.

5.10 If there is an obvious and clear Complaint made then the CODA shall then consider the means of resolving the Complaint, as set out below.

5.11 If in the opinion of the CODA there is no obvious and clear Complaint made then the CODA shall notify that to the parties in writing. The Complaint shall then be considered null and void.

5.12 In determining the appropriate method to resolve the Complaint, the CODA shall have regard to the following:

(a) Informal Dispute Resolution by the CODA or other Member

(b) Mediation by Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) appointed mediator

(c) Formal Hearing on payment of €300.00

5.13 Where appropriate, the CODA shall approach both parties to attempt to resolve the dispute on an informal basis within a 7-day period of delivery of the Notice of Complaint on the Respondent. An extension to this 7-day limit may be considered by the CODA in exceptional circumstances.

5.14 If the Informal Dispute Resolution procedure is not considered appropriate by the CODA or is not successful in resolving the Complaint, then, the CODA shall, within 28 days of delivery of the Notice of Complaint direct the parties to Mediation on the following basis:

(a) It shall be mandatory for the parties to the Complaint to participate in Mediation

(b) The Mediation shall be conducted under the then current mediation procedures of the SDSI

(c) The Mediation shall precede any such Complaint being heard before a Hearings Committee

(d) The CODA shall request the appointment of a mediator from the Head of Operations of the LGFA

(e) On receipt of a such a request from the CODA, the Head of Operations shall contact the SDSI to appoint an independent Mediator to attempt to resolve the Complaint

(f) The costs and expenses of the Mediation shall be 50% underwritten by the LGFA and 50% paid by the two parties involved. Such costs and expenses do not include either party's professional advisors, who are specifically excluded from participating in the mediation

(g) The initial Mediation session shall be held within seven (7) days after the appointment of the Mediator. The CODA shall have the discretion to extend this deadline where deemed appropriate

(h) The parties acknowledge and agree that the Mediation is a "without prejudice" forum, and that any communications made in or documents produced in the Mediation are inadmissible in any subsequent hearing or Arbitration

(i) All parties will be subject to a participation report which will be forwarded from the mediator on completion of mediation

5.15 If the Mediation does not result in a binding settlement between the parties then the Complainant may, within seven (7) days of the last day of the Mediation, serve a Request for Hearing (see Appendix 8) on the CODA and Respondent.

5.15.1 The Request for Hearing must enclose:

(a) Notice of Complaint together with any supporting documents

(b) Reply to Complaint and any supporting documents

(c) Fee of €300.00 made payable to the relevant Unit.

5.15.2 In the event that the Complaint is upheld by the Hearings Committee and Appeals Committee then the €300.00 fee will be reimbursed to the Complainant.

5.15.3 On request for such a Request for Hearing, the CODA shall serve the Request for Hearing on the Hearings Committee.

6. DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEDURE

6.1 A Disciplinary Action is commenced when:

(a) The referee sends a Member off the field of play for a straight red card

(b) The Referee's Report warrants further disciplinary action relating to an incident on or off the field of play

(c) An incident comes to the attention to the CODA that warrants Disciplinary Action

(d) The Referee's Report does not record an incident on the field of play but which incident was witnessed and is recorded on the official match video

(e) The CODA on receiving a Disciplinary Report (see Appendix 9), relating to a breach of rule or misconduct off the field of play, received within 7 days of the alleged misconduct occurring

(f) A Club Disciplinary Matter is commenced when the Club Disciplinary Officer starts an investigation of their own initiative or on the prompting of any third party

6.2 The CODA for that Unit shall receive all Referee's Reports and Disciplinary Reports within 48 hours of the relevant on-field / off-field incident.

6.3 In the event that a Referee's Report confirms a straight red card, the player is automatically subject to a suspension as per Rule 409. If the incident merits a greater suspension, the CODA shall refer the Disciplinary Action to the Hearings Committee.

6.4 In the event that the player refuses to accept the suspension as per Rule 409, she may request a hearing by submitting the 'Request for Hearing' form to the relevant CODA Officer within 72 hours of the game.

6.5 If the Referee's Report warrants further disciplinary action then the CODA may investigate the incident referred to in the Referee's Report before referring the matter to the Hearings Committee for Disciplinary Action.

6.6 If the Referee's Report makes no mention of an incident not acted on by the referee during the match, but which has come to the attention of the CODA and which is recorded on video then the CODA shall be obliged to investigate the incident further before referring the matter to the Hearings Committee for Disciplinary Action.

6.7 If the CODA receives a valid Disciplinary Report then the CODA may consider investigating further before referring the matter to the Hearings Committee for Disciplinary Action (see Appendix 10). The unit or member who submitted the Disciplinary Report must attend and present the Disciplinary Report at the hearing.

7. HEARINGS PROCEDURE

7.1 The Hearings Committee shall activate the hearing's procedure on receipt of a Request for Hearing or a Notice of Hearing from the CODA.

7.2 The Hearings Committee shall confirm the following to the parties within 48 hours of receipt of the Request or Notice of Hearing (see Appendix 12):

(a) A brief summary of the allegation made

(b) The relevant rule allegedly breached

(c) Offence alleged

(d) Composition of the committee

(e) Declaration that the committee members have no interest in the outcome

(f) Confirmation of documents to hand

(g) Invitation for any further clarification

(h) Rights of the parties to attend, be accompanied, right to call witnesses, produce documents and make submissions

(i) Time, date and venue for hearing

(j) The hearing shall take place within 10 days

7.3 The Hearings Committee shall have discretion to extend the deadline and amend any clerical errors in submitted forms where they deem it appropriate.

7.4 The Hearings Committee, in its discretion, may invite other persons (including but not limited to witnesses, officials or experts) to provide evidence or assistance to the Committee in any form.

7.5 The parties are entitled at a hearing to:

(a) Be accompanied at the hearing, by either a member of the LGFA, a member of the public above 18 years of age or if the member is a minor, by a parent or guardian. A parent, guardian or children's officer may make a closing statement. The person accompanying is not permitted to contribute to the hearing

Legal representatives are specifically excluded

(b) Call witnesses of fact. Such witnesses may only be present to give their evidence and which witnesses may be questioned by the Hearings Committee. Witnesses must be members of the LGFA

(c) Present evidence

(d) Make submissions in writing or otherwise

7.6 Where a party exercise any or all of the rights as set out above then that party shall notify the CODA and Chairperson of the Hearings Committee and the other party of the names of any persons accompanying and the names of any witnesses not less than 48 hours from the commencement of the hearing.

7.7 The Hearings Committee shall conduct the hearing in any manner that it deems necessary. The Hearings Committee shall have the discretion to accept testimony by telephone, Skype, video link or written statement.

7.8 The Hearings Committee shall have the power to decide on the admissibility, relevance and weight of any evidence (including the testimony of any witness) and shall not be bound by Court rules.

7.9 In the event of non-attendance, without reasonable cause, of a Complainant at a hearing, the Complaint shall be dismissed.

7.10 In the event of non-attendance, without reasonable cause, of a Respondent at a hearing, the Hearings Committee will be entitled to proceed to hear the matter in the Respondent's absence and decide the matter based on the information and evidence before it. The Hearings Committee may draw an adverse inference against a Respondent who fails to appear at the hearing after being given reasonable notice of the hearing.

7.11 The Hearings Committee may adjourn or rearrange the hearing at its discretion. An adjourned or rearranged hearing shall take place as soon as is practicable, and the suspension of the Member, if already imposed, shall be automatically extended until the rearranged hearing takes place.

7.12 In the case of Disciplinary Action, the CODA shall present the case against the Respondent.

In the case of a Disciplinary Report, the member or unit who submitted the Disciplinary Report, shall present the case against the Respondent.

In the case of a Complaint, the Complainant shall present the case against a Respondent. In the case of an Objection, the Objector shall present the case.

7.13 The party making the allegation shall have the burden of proving the allegation. The standard of proof shall on the basis of it being 'more likely than not' to have occurred. Where facts are established by virtue of a Referee's Report or video evidence then the burden of proof falls on the Respondent to disprove the allegation. Video evidence is limited to match video which was approved by the relevant unit or broadcast footage only.

7.14 Facts established by a decision of a Court which is not the subject of a pending appeal shall be irrefutable evidence of those facts against a Respondent.

7.15 A Referee's Report shall be, until the contrary is established to satisfaction of the Hearing Committee, sufficient evidence of:

(a) The qualifications and authority of a Referee or match official who has reporting authority and

(b) The authority of the Referee who signed the Referee's Report

(c) The facts stated in the Referee's Report

7.16 The party making the allegation may give a brief summary of the allegation at the start, then examine their witnesses and open any documents supporting the allegation. The Respondent shall have a right to cross examine any witnesses and may in turn give a summary of their defence and may call their own witnesses, which witnesses can be cross examined by the CODA/ Objector/Complainant.

Each party has the right to deliver oral or written submissions at the close of the hearing, but before the Hearings Committee has made its decision.

7.17 The Hearings Committee shall have the right to ask any questions of any party that the committee deem necessary and appropriate

7.18 After hearing the evidence of the parties, but before delivering their decision on the Objection/Complaint/Disciplinary Action and imposing any sanction, the Hearings Committee shall invite the parties to make submissions on any aggravating/ mitigating factors.

7.19 The Hearings Committee may impose a Direction or a Sanction as set out in Schedule 1 and/ or issue a recommendation or direction where they deem it appropriate.

7.20 The Hearings Committee may deliver their decision on the day of the hearing. The oral delivery of the decision shall be considered notification of the decision and any sanctions imposed will take effect immediately unless 7.24 is imposed.

7.21 The written decision of the Hearings Committee shall notify the parties within 48 hours of the hearing, unless the Hearings Committee deem an extension of time necessary. The CODA shall retain the decision on a register.

7.22 The Notice of Decision (see Appendix 12) shall include reference to the parties' right to appeal the decision within three (3) days of the date of the decision.

7.23 Pending the appeal, the original Sanction and/or Direction imposed by the Hearings Committee shall stand.

7.24 The Hearings Committee shall have the discretion to decide the date at which any sanction it imposes is effective from.

8. APPEALS PROCEDURE

8.1 A decision of any Unit or Hearing's Committee may be appealed to the Appeals Committee of the next highest Unit by the affected parties. The Next Highest Unit is as defined in Rule 1.2, under Appeals. An appeal from a county shall be appealed to the Central Council Appeals Committee.

8.2 A Notice of Appeal (see Appendix 13) shall be served on the CODA of the next highest Unit within three (3) days of delivery of the written Notice of Decision of the relevant unit or Hearings Committee who made the original decision together with an appeal fee of €300.00 made payable to the next highest Unit. Such fee shall be reimbursed to the Appellant if the appeal is upheld by the Appeals Committee.

8.3 Any appeal to the Appeals Committee to the next Highest Unit shall be a fresh appeal.

8.4 A copy of the Notice of Appeal shall be sent to the CODA of the previous Unit, the Hearings Committee, the CODA to the current Unit and the other party to any Appeal.

8.5 The procedures as set out in Rule 7 in respect of a hearing before the Hearings Committee shall apply to Appeal Committee hearings.

8.6 Following the hearing and after considering the evidence, submissions, documentation and aggravating and mitigating factors the Appeals Committee shall deliver a Notice of Decision of the Appeals Committee (See Appendix 14) on the parties within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.

9. ARBITRATION

9.1 A decision of an Appeals Committee and any earlier decision of the Hearings Committee may be challenged by referral to the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA) arbitration, within seven (7) days from receipt of such decision, for final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Disputes Resolution Authority code.

9.2 The DRA arbitration hearing shall be limited to the legality of the procedures used and/or the decision(s) made by the Appeals Committee.

9.3 The Applicant shall serve, by email, a Request for DRA Arbitration (see Appendix 15) in accordance with the DRA Arbitration Code on the secretary of the DRA, the other party, the Appeals Committee, the CEO of the Association and the relevant CODA within seven (7) days of delivery of the Notice of Decision of the Appeals Committee.

For more details on the DRA refer to http://www.sportsdra.ie/

9.4 No Member, Participant or Unit of the Association may issue Court proceedings relating to such dispute in any Court in any jurisdiction.

9.5 No Member, Participant or Unit of the Association, shall refer a dispute to DRA Arbitration until all available avenues of appeal have been exhausted.

10. APPENDICES (See www.ladiesgaelic.ie for Template Forms)

The following letters/forms will support the process:

- **10.1 Objection Forms**

  Appendix 1 - Notice of Objection Form

  Appendix 2 - Response to Objection Form

  Appendix 3 - Counter Objection Form

  Appendix 4 - Response to Counter Objection Form

  Appendix 5 - Notice of Referral to Hearing

- **10.2 Complaint Forms**

  Appendix 6 - Notice of Complaint Form

  Appendix 7 - Reply to Complaint Form

  Appendix 8 - Request for Hearing Form Complaint

- **10.3 Disciplinary Action Forms**

  Appendix 9 - Disciplinary Report Form

  Appendix 5 - Notice of Referral to Hearing

- **10. 4 Other Forms**

  Appendix 10 - Request for Hearing Following Receipt of Red Card

  Appendix 11 - Notice of Hearing

  Appendix 12 - Notice of Decision of Hearings Committee

  Appendix 13 - Notice of Appeal Form

  Appendix 14 - Notice of Appeals Committee Decision

  Appendix 15 - Notice of Appeal to DRA

SCHEDULE 1 - TABLE OF SANCTIONS			
Part A Sanctions Matrix			
Objections	Low	Medium	High
Playing an underage or overage player		*	*
Playing a player who is not eligible		*	*
Playing a suspended player		*	*
Complaints			
Inappropriate or abusive language	*	*	
Intimidation	*	*	
Bullying, Racism, Sexism, Ageism, Transphobia, Homophobia			*
Inappropriate Conduct	*	*	*
Poor standard of care	*	*	*
Disciplinary Action			
Breach of any rules, regulations and Safeguarding Policies	*	*	*
Verbal abuse	*	*	*
Physical abuse	*	*	*
Insulting behaviour to other competitors, match officials and/or Officials	*	*	
Violation of instructions and directives from match officials and/ or any Officials	*	*	
Failure or refusal to comply with an investigation carried out by an Official without acceptable justification	*	*	
Abuse or discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic origin			*
Foul play i.e., use of excessive force	*	*	*
Serious foul play inciting a brawl or violence		*	*
Match fixing			*
Forgery or falsification			*
Improperly influencing the outcome of a game for financial gain			*
Bringing the Ladies Gaelic Football Association into disrepute		*	*
Alcohol or substance abuse by minor member at an event	*	*	
Criminal investigation for indictable offences			*
Criminal conviction likely to bring the LGFA into disrepute			*
Mischievous or vexatious Complaints			*
Participation at an event without the permission of the LGFA	*	*	
Purporting to represent the LGFA without the permission of the LGFA	*	*	
Taking part in an event/competition organised by a club or committee not affiliated to the LGFA with the exception of those sanctioned events listed in the Rules	*		
Red Card Offences (As per Rule 409)	2 matches	3 – 6 matches	7 + matches
Where her Last Game of Competition applies	2 weeks From all competitions	3 – 6 weeks From all competitions	7+ weeks From all competitions

Part B Guidance on Sanctions			
1. Fines			
	Affected Member/Unit (min-max fine)		
Level of Offence	**Member**	**Club**	**County or Higher Unit**
Low	€25 - €50	€50 - €300	€300 - €1,000
Medium	€50 - €100	€100 - €500	€500 - €3,000
High	€100 - €200	€200 - €1,000	€1,000 - €5,000

2. Suspension or expulsion	Affected Member / Unit (min - max fine)
Level of Offence	
Low	4 - 6 weeks
Medium	6 - 16 weeks
High	16 weeks to 20 years

3. Forfeiture of a Game	Affected Unit (min - max fine)
Level of Offence	**Any Unit**
Low	1 game
Medium	2 - 3 games
High	4 games +