



**THE  
CAMOGIE  
ASSOCIATION**  
An Cumann Camógaíochta

# **An Treoir Oifigiúil Cuid a hAon 2016/17**

## **Official Guide Part 1 2016/17**



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**This is An Treoir Oifigiúil Cuid a hAon 2016/17  
(Official Guide Part 1 2016/2017)  
and is effective from 1st May 2016**  
(unless indicated differently in this document)

**The other binding parts are as follows:**

- **Part II        Playing Rules**
- **Part III       Code of Practice for all Officers of the Association**
- **Part IV       Disciplinary Code and THDC Mandatory Procedures**
- **Part V        Association Code on Sponsorship**
- **Part VI       Code for Camogie Supporters' Club**
- **Part VII      The Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport when Working  
with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code***

These documents can be downloaded from [www.camogie.ie/administration](http://www.camogie.ie/administration)

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# Contents

	PAGE
Definition of terms .....	3
<b>SECTION A: <i>Title, Objectives and Values of the Association</i></b> .....	5
1. Title .....	5
2. Objectives and Values of the Association .....	5
<b>SECTION B: <i>Structure of the Association and Membership</i></b> .....	6
3. Basic Structure of the Association .....	6
4. Membership .....	6
<b>SECTION C: <i>Administrative Structures, their Powers and Duties</i></b> .....	9
5. The Club .....	9
6. County Boards .....	10
7. Provincial Councils .....	11
8. National Education Councils .....	11
9. International Boards .....	12
10. Ard Chomhairle .....	13
11. An tUachtarán .....	14
12. Annual Congress .....	15
13. Staff of the Association .....	16
14. Supporters' Clubs .....	16
<b>SECTION D: <i>Governance Procedures</i></b> .....	17
15. Official Correspondence .....	17
16. Meetings .....	17
17. Extraordinary General Meeting .....	17
18. Notice of Club, County and Council (Provincial/Education/International) Meetings .....	18
19. Notice of Ard Chomhairle Meetings .....	19
20. Notice of Annual Congress .....	19

21.	Fees and Charges .....	20
22.	Code of Conduct and Accountability .....	20
23.	Insurance .....	20
24.	Sponsorship .....	21
25.	Safeguarding of Children/Young People (under 18 years) .....	21
26.	Anti-doping Compliance .....	21
27.	Rules and Disciplinary Enforcement Powers .....	21
28.	Player Eligibility .....	22
29.	Player Grading for Club Competitions .....	23
30.	Player Grading for Inter-County Competitions .....	24
31.	Transfers .....	24
32.	Permission to Play Internationally .....	27

## **SECTION E: *Competitions Management, Administration Control of Matches and Penalties*..... 28**

33.	Competitions Management and Administration .....	28
34.	All-Ireland Inter County Competitions .....	29
35.	All-Ireland Club Championships .....	29
36.	Inter-Provincial Championships .....	29
37.	Trophies .....	29
38.	Catering Arrangements for Competing Teams .....	30
39.	Control of Matches .....	30
40.	Appointment of Match Officials .....	30
41.	Duties and Powers of the Referee .....	31
42.	Duties and Powers of the Goal Umpires .....	32
43.	Duties and Powers of the Line Umpires .....	33
44.	Penalties .....	33
45.	Power to impose penalties when not stated .....	35

# Definition of Terms

- ❖ **Annual Congress** – The supreme governing body of the Association.
- ❖ **Ard Chomhairle** – The supreme governing body for the Association between congresses.
- ❖ **Club** – The basic Unit of the Association. Units within the Third Level Education sector are regarded as Clubs.
- ❖ **Competition** – League or Championships officially sanctioned by County, Provincial, National Education Councils, International Boards or Ard Chomhairle. Underage blitzes and indoor Camogie activities are not considered competitions.
- ❖ **Core Executive Committee Members** – A term used to describe the following officer positions on an Executive Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, PRO, Children’s Officer, Development Officer and Delegates to the higher Unit.
- ❖ **County Board** – The central committee in a county to which all clubs must affiliate. It is responsible for the administration and development of Camogie within its county.
- ❖ **Developmentally Appropriate** – In accordance with the Camogie Association Player Pathway.
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – The committee responsible for the day to management and administration of camogie within its Unit.
- ❖ **Ex-officio Members** – Persons who, by virtue of office, are entitled to attend and contribute at meetings but who do not have voting rights.
- ❖ **Home Club** – The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition, either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its sub-committees is designated as a player’s home club.
- ❖ **Match Official** – The term “Match Official” is used to describe the following persons – a Referee, an umpire or a linesperson.
- ❖ **National Education Council** – Refers to the national governing bodies for Camogie in post-primary schools (Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunscoileanna) and in the 3rd level education sector (Chomhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas).
- ❖ **Officer** – A term used to describe the following officer positions on an Executive Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, PRO, Children’s Officer, Development Officer and Delegates to the higher Unit.
- ❖ **Official** – The term “Official” shall refer to appointees such as team managers/mentors/trainers and coaches.
- ❖ **Official Correspondence** – Notification of fixtures, notices of meetings, circulation of minutes of meetings, objections/appeals, circulation of disciplinary findings, bye-laws for ratification, request for special meetings, request for investigations, team sheets (CC2), declaration Forms (CC3), transfer forms (CC4), Referee’s reports (CC5), sanctions/permissions to play abroad (CC6 and CC6a) and

sponsorship approval form (CC7), nominations and papers for AGMs, Annual Conventions at all levels, nominations and papers for Annual Congress.

- ❖ **Provincial Council** – The provincial committee to which all county boards in a province must affiliate. It is responsible for the administration and development of Camogie within its province.
- ❖ **Small Sided Games** – For under 8 these are seven a side; for under 10 these are nine a side; for under 12 these are eleven a side.
- ❖ **Sub-Committee(s)** – A committee operating to specific terms of reference under the Executive Committee of a particular Unit or Ard Chomhairle.
- ❖ **Subsidiary Committee** – A committee who has jurisdiction for games development and administration at particular levels e.g. a Division within a county i.e. a Divisional Board or for a particular group a Minor Board or an Underage Board.
- ❖ **Unit** – A term used to describe a Club; a County Board; a Provincial Council, an Education Council and an International/Board.

**All questions as to the interpretation of the rules in this Official Guide will be referred to Ard Chomhairle whose decision is final.**

## SECTION A

### *Title, Objectives and Values of the Association*

#### **1. Title**

The name of the Association will be “An Cumann Camógaíochta” (“The Camogie Association”) herein after known as “The Association”.

#### **2. Objectives and Values of the Association**

**2.1.** The Association is the national organisation which administers, legislates and promotes the game of Camogie. The resources of the Association will be utilised for this purpose, together, with other activities sanctioned and approved by Ard Chomhairle and Annual Congress.

**2.2.** The objectives of the Association are to:

- a. promote, develop and manage Camogie in Ireland and internationally;
- b. promote the active participation of women in sport;
- c. work in partnership with the wider Gaelic games family;
- d. foster an awareness of the richness of our national culture, including the Irish language;
- e. support Irish industries;
- f. create a safe environment for our members and supporters;
- g. promote community development and community spirit.

**2.3.** The core values guiding the Association are:

- a. inclusiveness;
- b. voluntarism;
- c. equality in accordance with relevant equality legislation and fair play;
- d. anti-racism and anti-sectarianism;
- e. openness, accountability and professionalism;
- f. respect and welfare towards our members.

**2.4.** The Association is a voluntary and democratic body. This Rule does not prohibit the payment of salaries to employees of the Association.

**2.5.** The Association is non-party political. No member will seek to identify the Association with any political movement, nor will party political questions be raised or discussed at any meeting of the Association.

**2.6.** The records created and received by the Association, its members and administrators are the property of the Association. These records shall be transferred to a recognised GAA archive in accordance with such directions as may be given by Ard Chomhairle.

**2.7.** The National Flag should be properly displayed at all games as far as is practicable and in accordance with protocol.

## SECTION B

# *Structure of the Association and Membership*

### 3. Basic Structure of the Association

3.1. The Club, comprised of its members, is the basic Unit of the Association. Each Club is represented at County Board. Each County Board is represented at Provincial Council. Each Provincial Council is represented on Ard Chomhairle. Annual Congress is the Association's supreme governing body. Ard Chomhairle is the supreme governing body of the Association from Congress to Congress. Each Unit and Ard Chomhairle is subject to the Rules in the Official Guide.

3.2. Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas (CCAO the Higher Education Camogie Council) administers Camogie within third level education. Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunscoileanna (the Post-Primary Camogie Council) administers Camogie within post-primary education. Each Council is subject to the Rules in the Official Guide. Both Councils must affiliate to Ard Chomhairle and are under the jurisdiction of Ard Chomhairle. Camogie within the primary school sector is administered by Cumann na mBunscol.

3.3. Internationally, Camogie is administered by International Camogie Boards. Where there is no independent Camogie Board the Camogie Association recognises GAA Boards as an appropriate structure for the administration of Camogie internationally. Such Boards and Committees must affiliate to Ard Chomhairle and they and their subsidiary Units, are subject to the Rules in the Official Guide.

3.4. Each Unit under Ard Chomhairle must have an Executive Committee to run its affairs. The members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Unit's Annual General Meeting or Convention.

The Executive Committee at club, county and provincial levels, must be comprised of the following core Officers: Cathaoirleach (Chairperson), Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice-Chairperson), Rúnaí (Secretary), Cisteoir (Treasurer), Cláraitheoir (Registrar), Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí (P.R.O.), Oifigeach na bPáistí (Children's Officer), Oifigeach Forbartha (Development Officer) and Delegate(s) to the

higher Unit. The Children's Officer must be appointed by the Executive Committee. All Officers must be members of the Association and are entitled to vote at meetings by virtue of that office. No delegate to the higher Unit is required for National Education Councils or International Units.

If a Unit fails to elect a full complement of Executive Committee members at an AGM, and following at least one re-convened AGM (see also Rule 18.9) the Unit may make interim arrangements and must notify these to the higher Unit.

3.5. An Executive Committee may have additional members as provided for in the Unit bye-laws. These additional members must be members of the Association and are entitled to vote at Executive Committee meetings only.

3.6. An elected officer must only serve on the same Executive Committee in the same officer capacity for no more than five consecutive years. The Uachtarán of the Association, the Cathaoirleach of Provincial Council and Ard Chomhairle members elected by Annual Congress are all exceptions to this as each will serve one term of three years.

3.7. An elected officer must only serve a maximum of ten consecutive years on the same Executive Committee at county and provincial level in any officer capacity.

3.8. The powers and duties of the Executive Committee will include the day to day management and administration of the Unit.

3.9. Should an Officer vacancy arise on the Executive Committee following that year's AGM, it must be filled on the basis of:

- a. nominations by affiliated Units or members and
- b. ballot vote of eligible Units and members.

In the case of the Uachtarán of the Association the position must be filled in accordance with Rule 11.4.

### 4. Membership

4.1. Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe



to the aims and objectives of the Association. The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its sub-committees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation.

**(Effective until 31st December 2016)**

- 4.1.** Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its sub-committees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation.

**A person can only be registered with one club.**

**(Effective from 1st January 2017)**

- 4.2.** Persons wishing to become members (playing/non-playing) of the Association will pay to the Club, an annual membership fee. The fee will be decided at the Annual General Meeting. On receipt of club affiliation at national level, membership of the Association is established and a member will have a right to vote, subject to Rule 5.3, at meetings and at the Annual General Meeting or Convention of the Unit concerned.

- 4.2.1.** There will be four types of membership

- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years
- (ii) Youth membership for persons who are players and have not reached the age of eighteen years
- (iii) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association who are non-players
- (iv) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per Rule 18.3.a.

**(Effective until 31st December 2016)**

Affiliation fee/ Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
Youth Members (Players)	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full Members (Adult Players)	€23	€5	€2	€16
Full Members (Administrators/ Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social Members	All revenue to club			

**(Effective until 31st December 2016)**

- 4.2.1. There will be four types of membership
- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years.
  - (ii) **Child membership for persons who are players and are aged under 8 ('under' is understood as per definition in Rule 28.4)**
  - (iii) Youth membership for persons who are players **aged over 8 ('over' is understood as per the definition in Rule 28.4)** and have not reached the age of 18 years
  - (iv) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association who are non-players
  - (v) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per Rule 18.3.a.

**(Effective from 1st January 2017)**

- 4.2.2 Before 30th April each year a club must submit affiliation/membership fees as outlined in the table below. Once a club is affiliated, its members remain registered until 29th April of the following year.

- 4.2.3 When a new club or a club being re-established after a lapse of at least five years registers for the first time with a County Board or Provincial Council, half of the individual membership fee must be paid to the County Board who will retain this fee in full for this first year only. Thereafter, membership must be registered in accordance with Rule 5.4, 6.5 and 7.5.
- 4.2.4 International Units/Boards and National Education Councils will pay €300 per annum direct to Ard Chomhairle by April 30th.
- 4.2.4a To become an affiliate body of An Cumann Camogaíochta, Cumann na mBunscol will pay €300 per annum direct to Ard Chomhairle by April 30th.
- 4.3. Where the title of Honorary President is conferred on a member by a Unit this position will be a lifelong position and will entitle the Honorary President to speaking rights at the relevant Unit level of the Association. The Honorary President will have voting rights only at club level. The Honorary President must be a registered member of the Association.

Affiliation fee/ Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
<b>Child members aged under 8 (Players)</b>	<b>All revenue to club</b>			
Youth Members <b>aged over 8 (Players)</b>	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full Members (Adult Players)	€23	€5	€2	€16
Full Members (Administrators/ Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social Members	<b>All revenue to club</b>			

**(Effective from 1st January 2017)**

## SECTION C

# *Administrative Structures, their Powers and Duties*

### 5. The Club

- 5.1. No Club will be named after a living person.
- 5.2. A Club must have at least twelve playing members before it may affiliate to the Association. Application for affiliation must be made to the relevant County Board, using the Camogie Association's electronic registration, which must be completed (as provided for in the system and in accordance with Rule 5.5). The electronic registration must comprise members who have paid their annual club membership in accordance with Official Guide Section 4. On acceptance of initial affiliation by the County Board, the Club will be provided with a copy of the Official Guide from the County Board. Each affiliated Club and each member of each affiliated Club are bound by the Rules of the Association.
- 5.3. Each Club will be comprised of the registered members of the Club. All members aged 16 years or over will have the right to vote at general meetings including the AGM.
- 5.4. Before 30th April each year, each Club must affiliate to the County Board by providing the board with:
  - a. a list of its registered members;
  - b. the required affiliation/membership fee;
  - c. club colours; and
  - d. proof of insurance.
- 5.5. The names of members to be registered will be provided in Irish and English in the electronic registration system. This does not apply in the case of names who have no Irish or English form. Alterations and additions to the initial list must be submitted to the County Board with the required membership fee for a member to be considered accepted. All registrations must have the Club Secretary's name printed on it in English or Irish.
- 5.6. No two Clubs in the same County will have similar colour details. The Club whose colours have been longest affiliated will be entitled to retain these colours. In the event of a clash of colours by clubs in competition within the County, the longest established club will retain their colours.
- 5.7. Only those Clubs who have affiliated to the County Board may take part in any competition.
- 5.8. Each Club is answerable for the conduct of its members and known partisans and/or supporters.
- 5.9. In Counties where County Boards do not exist, Clubs will affiliate to the Provincial Council who will decide in which competitions such Clubs are eligible to participate. Where no Provincial Council exists, Clubs will affiliate to Ard Chomhairle.
- 5.10. Each club is required to:
  - a. comply with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
  - b. promote best practice in player welfare;
  - c. adhere to good governance standards as outlined in Section D of the Official Guide; and
  - d. liaise and co-operate with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.
- 5.11. A decision to disband a Club may only be taken at a meeting specially convened for that purpose. Such meeting must be convened in accordance with Rule 16.1 Two members of the County Board Executive Committee, who must not be members of the Club seeking to disband, will be requested to attend the special meeting. A motion to disband a Club will be carried only if supported by 75% of those present, entitled to vote, and voting. Should a Club disband, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of debts and liabilities will not be distributed among the members, such property will be transferred to the County Board. A decision to disband must be communicated in writing within seven days to the County Board.
- 5.12. The Camogie Association recognises the following as the definition of a "One Club":
 

The One Club is one that equally promotes the games, ideals and aspirations of the Camogie Association, GAA and Ladies Football. Its administration will be governed by a single constitution, which provides for the election of an Executive Committee to manage the business and affairs of the club as well as providing for a single membership structure. All activities, including fundraising and games development will be carried out to support the development of the club and the promotion of all games.

## 6. County Boards

- 6.1. On the establishment of three Clubs within a County, a County Board will be formed.
- 6.2. Each County Board will be comprised of the Executive Committee and two voting delegates from each affiliated Club, who must be a registered member of that Club.
  - 6.2.1. In addition each County Board will have one voting delegate each from Cumann na mBunscol and Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunscoileanna both of whom must be members of the Association, and where applicable, one voting delegate of each Subsidiary Committee. In addition to voting delegates only core executive committee members will have the right to vote (Ref Rule 3.4 and 3.5). The Uachtarán or his/her nominee from Ard Chomhairle is an ex-officio member of County Boards.
- 6.3. Executive Committee Officers, as defined in Rule 3.4 cannot be represented by proxies at meetings of the County Board.
- 6.4. Each County Board is required to:
  - a. control Club affiliations;
  - b. control County competitions;
  - c. make bye-laws, as appropriate, which will not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved at the Annual Convention and then ratified by Ard Chomhairle;
  - d. submit motions, as appropriate, to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress, as applicable. Such motions must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention;
  - e. determine the manner of selecting teams to represent the County in Inter-County competition;
  - f. delegate authority and establish terms of reference for all Sub-Committees and subsidiary committees as appropriate;
  - g. raise finances, to control, administer and utilise the funds and property of the Association as set out in Rule 2.1;
  - h. Appoint a Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on transfers, objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals, clubs or Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle.  
Rules affected 7.4h, 8.1d, 9.2d, 10.8.
- i. appoint a Development Sub-Committee to promote Camogie in the County chaired by the County Board Development Officer;
- j. appoint any other Sub-Committees as required;
- k. comply with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
- l. promote best practice in player welfare;
- m. adhere to good governance standards as outlined in Section D of the Official Guide and its relevant Codes of Practice;
- n. liaise and co-operate with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.
- 6.4.1 Each County Board may appoint staff whose employment contract and job specification must be approved by Ard Chomhairle's Resource Management Committee and ratified by Ard Chomhairle.
- 6.5. Before 30th April each year, each County Board will affiliate to the Provincial Council by providing the Council with:
  - a. an electronic list(s) of registered members within the County. The county Secretary's printed signature must accompany each list;
  - b. the required affiliation/membership fees; and
  - c. details of County colours
- 6.6. Only those County Boards which have complied with Rule 6.5 may participate in Inter-County competition.
- 6.7. Each County Board will ensure that the authorised expenses of Executive Committee members, match officials and others acting on its behalf, are paid.
- 6.8. Each County Board will be answerable for the conduct of its members, known partisans and supporters.
- 6.9. In all matters, the County Board will be subject to the Provincial Council and Ard Chomhairle.
- 6.10. Where a Provincial Council does not exist, a County Board will affiliate directly to Ard Chomhairle who will decide in which competitions such Counties are eligible to participate. In the case of County Boards abroad, the manner of their participation in Inter-County competition will be decided by Ard Chomhairle.

## 7. Provincial Councils

- 7.1.** On the establishment of three County Boards within a Province, a Provincial Council will be formed.
- 7.2.** Each Provincial Council will be comprised of the Executive Committee, the delegate to Ard Chomhairle and two voting delegates of each affiliated County Board within the Province.
- 7.2.1.** In addition each Provincial Council will have one voting delegate from the relevant Provincial Council of Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunscoileanna, one voting delegate of Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas and Cumann na mBunscoil all of whom must be members of the Association. In addition to voting delegates only core executive committee members will have the right to vote (Ref Rule 3.4 and 3.5). The Uachtarán or his/her nominee from Ard Chomhairle is an ex-officio member of Provincial Councils.
- 7.3.** Executive Committee members, as defined in Rule 3.4, cannot be represented by proxies at meetings of Provincial Council. A County representative may, with the prior approval of the County Board, be represented by a proxy.
- 7.4.** Each Provincial Council is, within its own Province, required to:
- control County affiliations;
  - organise and control Provincial and/or Inter-county/Inter-club competitions;
  - control Camogie, in a County where no County Board exists or where a County Board has ceased to exist;
  - make bye-laws, as appropriate, which will not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention and then ratified by Ard Chomhairle;
  - submit motions, as appropriate, to Annual Congress. Such motions must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention;
  - determine the manner of selecting teams to represent the Province in Inter-Provincial competition;
  - raise finances, to control, administer and utilise the funds and property of the Association as set out in Rule 2.1;
  - Appoint a Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on transfers, objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals,

clubs or Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle;

- appoint a Development Sub-Committee to promote Camogie in the Province which must be chaired by the Provincial Council Development officer;
- appoint any other Sub-Committees as required;
- delegate authority to Sub-Committees as appropriate. All Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference;
- comply with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
- promote best practice in player welfare;
- adhere to good governance standards as outlined in Section D of the Official Guide and the Association's relevant Codes of Practice; and
- liaise and co-operate with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.

**7.4.1** Each Provincial Council may appoint staff whose employment contract and job specification must be approved by Ard Chomhairle's Resource Management Committee and ratified by Ard Chomhairle

**7.5.** Before 30th April each year, each Provincial Council will submit to Ard Chomhairle:

- an electronic list(s) of registered Club members within each County affiliated to the Province
- the required affiliation/membership fees; and
- details of county colours

**7.6.** Each Provincial Council will ensure that authorised expenses of Executive Committee members, match officials and others acting on its behalf are paid.

**7.7.** In all matters, the Provincial Council will be subject to Ard Chomhairle.

## 8. National Education Councils

**8.1.** National Education Councils are required to:

- control competitions under its auspices;
- make bye-laws, as appropriate, which will not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention and then ratified by Ard Chomhairle;

- c. submit motions, as appropriate, to Annual Congress. Such motions must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention;
- d. Appoint a Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals, post-primary schools or third level Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle.

National Education Councils only have the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules. For further appeal reference Rule 10.8;

- e. appoint an Appeals Committee, where relevant, to hear and decide on appeals arising from decisions by Provincial College Council(s) Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committees;
- f. appoint a Development Sub-Committee to promote Camogie within the Education sector chaired by the National Education Council Development Officer;
- g. appoint any other Sub-Committees as required;
- h. to delegate authority to Sub-Committees as appropriate. All Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference;
- i. comply with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
- j. promote best practice in player welfare;
- k. adhere to good governance standards as set out in Section D of the Official Guide and the Association's relevant Codes of Practice; and
- l. liaise and co-operate with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.

**8.2.** Within fourteen days of its Annual Convention, each National Education Council Secretary will forward to the Ard Stiúrthóir:

- a. a copy of the Secretary's Report;
- b. a copy of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts; and
- c. the members of the Executive Committee and their contact details.

**8.3.** Each National Education Council will be responsible for the authorised expenses of

Executive Committee members, match officials and others acting on its behalf.

**8.4.** In all matters, each National Education Council will be subject to Ard Chomhairle.

## **9. International Boards**

**9.1.** On the establishment of three or more clubs abroad an International Camogie Board may be formed subject to the approval of Ard Chomhairle. Where there is no independent Camogie Board the Camogie Association recognises GAA Boards as an appropriate structure for the administration of Camogie internationally.

**9.2.** Each International Camogie Board is required to:

- a. control competitions under its auspices;
- b. make bye-laws, as appropriate, which will not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention and then ratified by Ard Chomhairle;
- c. submit motions, as appropriate, to Annual Congress. Such motions must in the first instance be approved at Annual Convention;
- d. Appoint a Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on transfers, objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals, clubs or Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle;

International camogie boards only have the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules. For appeals refer to Rule 10.8;

- e. appoint a Development Sub-Committee to promote Camogie; chaired by the Board's Development Officer;
- f. appoint any other Sub-Committees as required;
- g. delegate authority to Sub-Committees as appropriate. All Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference;
- h. comply with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
- i. promote best practice in player welfare;
- j. adhere to good governance standards as outlined in Section D of the Official Guide and the Association's relevant Codes of Practice; and



- k. liaise and co-operate with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.

**9.3.** Each International Board will be responsible for the authorised expenses of Executive Committee members, match officials and others acting on its behalf.

**9.4.** In all matters, the International Board will be subject to Ard Chomhairle.

## **10. Ard Chomhairle**

**10.1.** Between each Annual Congress, Ard Chomhairle is the supreme governing body of the Association.

**10.2.** Ard Chomhairle is comprised of:

- a. An tUachtarán;
- b. An tUachtarán Tofa in the year following her/his election;
- c. The Ard Stiúrthóir. The Ard Stiúrthóir is an ex-officio member of Ard Chomhairle and will report to Ard Chomhairle and provide any information requested by Ard Chomhairle;
- d. The Cathaoirligh of the Provincial Councils who are Leas-Uachtaráin of the Association;
- e. One delegate from each Provincial Council;
- f. Two trustees who shall be appointed by Ard Chomhairle for a period of four years;
- g. Four members elected by Congress for a three year term as follows:
  - coaching and games development representative: a member with demonstrated Coaching & Games Development expertise, nominated by at least one County Board, Provincial Council, International Board or National Education Council, who will also serve on the National Coaching and Games Development Sub-Committee;
  - PR and communications representative: a member with demonstrated communications and marketing expertise, nominated by at least one County Board, Provincial Council, International Board or National Education Council who will serve on the National Communications and marketing Sub-Committee;
  - Secretary: a member with demonstrated administrative experience, nominated by at least one County Board, Provincial Council, International Board or National Education Board, who will serve on the National Resource Management Sub-Committee;

- Treasurer: a member with demonstrated financial expertise, nominated by at least one County Board, Provincial Council, International Board or National Education Council, who will serve on the National Resource Management Sub-Committee.

**10.3.** Each member of Ard Chomhairle has the right to vote with the exception of the Ard Stiúrthóir, who is a non-voting member of Ard Chomhairle.

**10.4.** Cathaoirligh of the Provincial Councils may not be represented by proxy at Ard Chomhairle meetings.

**10.5.** The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

- a. leading on policy and strategic direction of the Association;
- b. the management of the affairs of the Association;
- c. applying the Rules as set out in this Official Guide. Ard Chomhairle can rule on special cases, even where no particular Rule of the Association relates to those cases. A record of such rulings will be maintained by the Ard Stiúrthóir. Such rulings will be conveyed to Councils and County Boards. Where the subject matter warrants, Ard Chomhairle will submit such ruling as a motion for ratification at the next Congress;
- d. reviewing reports on the management accounts of the Association and all Sub-Committees;
- e. approval, rejection or amendment of recommendations from all Sub-Committees;
- f. submission of motions, where appropriate, to Annual Congress;
- g. ratification of bye-laws as submitted by County Boards, Provincial Councils, National Education Councils and International Boards provided always that they are in accordance with the Official Guide;
- h. formulation, adoption, amendment, or revoking of National Codes, policies and procedures for the carrying out of the objectives and purposes of the Association and for the administration of the Association and the observance of Members;
- i. ratification of the appointment of central level staff of the Association;
- j. enter into any contract for the lease, purchase and disposal of property;
- k. when a new Uachtarán assumes office, Ard Chomhairle appoint the following Standing Sub-Committees:
  - Resource Management Sub-Committee;

- Coaching and Games Development Sub-Committee;
  - Referees' Committee;
  - Competitions Management Committee;
  - Communications & Marketing Sub-Committee;
  - Player Welfare Sub-Committee;
  - Child Welfare and Protection Committee;
  - National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Committee;
  - National Final Appeals Committee;
  - Clemency Committee; and any other Sub-Committees as required.
- l. open bank accounts in the name of the Association. Transactions in these accounts must be administered in accordance with approved financial procedures;
- m. appointment of an individual or individuals to act as patrons of the Association;
- n. borrowing money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking and property or any part thereof in accordance with approved financial procedures;
- o. controlling All-Ireland competitions;
- p. controlling Camogie in a Province where no Provincial Council exists or where a Provincial Council has ceased to exist;
- q. accepting affiliations/membership fees from Clubs where a County Board or a Provincial Council does not exist;
- r. compliance with the Camogie Association's binding codes and mandatory procedures;
- s. promotion of best practice in player welfare;
- t. adherence to good governance standards as outlined in Section D of the Official Guide and the Association's relevant binding codes; and
- u. liaison and co-operation with other organisations within the Gaelic games family and other relevant bodies.
- 10.6.** On taking up office, the incoming Uachtarán will nominate to Ard Chomhairle all members of Standing Sub-Committees for its ratification. Ard Chomhairle Standing Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committees will be approved by Ard Chomhairle and posted on the official Camogie website. Sub-Committees will not assume the powers, rights and authority which is vested in Ard Chomhairle, with the exception of the National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Sub-Committee and the National Final Appeals Sub-Committee.
- 10.7.** The National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee will hear and adjudicate on transfers, objections and appeals and independently investigate irregularities and will have autonomy to suspend, fine or disqualify clubs or individuals for games breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle. It will be the final appeal on decisions from Provincial Council Transfers, Hearings, and Disciplinary Committees.
- Ard Chomhairle has the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules.
- 10.8.** The National Final Appeals Committee will only hear and decide on cases submitted to the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee under Rule 10.7.
- 10.9.** The Clemency Committee will hear appeals from members/Units only in the event of a period of suspension being of more than twelve months duration and after the adjudication of the National Final Appeals Committee.
- 11. An tUachtarán**
- 11.1.** A candidate for the position of an tUachtarán must be nominated by County Board or/and Provincial Council or/and National Education Council or/and International Board.
- 11.2.** An tUachtarán will be elected by secret ballot at Congress one year prior to the commencement of his/her term of office. For that year she/he will serve as Uachtarán Tofa and three consecutive years as Uachtarán.
- 11.3.** The outgoing Uachtarán will not be eligible for immediate re-election.
- 11.4.** In the case of death or permanent incapacity of the Uachtarán, Ard Chomhairle has the authority to appoint from among the Vice-Presidents an acting Uachtarán, who will perform the duties of the Presidency until the next Annual Congress.
- 11.5.** An tUachtarán's role includes –
- a. leadership of the organisation;
  - b. chairperson of Annual Congress, Ard Chomhairle and the Resource Management Committee;
  - c. taking the lead responsibility in representing the Association at national level;
  - d. acting as the primary spokesperson for the Association in public communications from the Association at central level;



- e. with the Ard Stiúrthóir, ensuring that the Association works to the best standards of corporate governance; and
- f. with the Ard Stiúrthóir, ensuring that Ard Chomhairle and its Committees comply with their agreed terms of reference.

## 12. Annual Congress

**12.1.** Annual Congress is the supreme governing body of the Association and as such it will be required to:

- a. Consider and approve an Annual Report from the Ard Stiúrthóir, Sub-Committees set up under Rule 10.5.k. and from subsidiary Units (Provincial Councils, National Education Councils & International Boards & Committees);
- b. Consider audited annual accounts of Ard Chomhairle to 31st December and accounts of Provincial Councils to 30th November, prepared in accordance with Rule 22.2. Sanction for failure to submit these audited accounts is withdrawal of voting rights for the subsidiary Unit concerned at Annual Congress. (Ref Rule 22.2);
- c. Elect an tUachtarán in accordance with Rule 11;
- d. Elect by secret ballot four members of Ard Chomhairle listed in Rule 10.2 g. who will serve a three year term on Ard Chomhairle;
- e. Consider motions and enact, amend or rescind Rules; and
- f. Determine Association policy in broad outline.

**12.2.** The Annual Congress will be held on the last weekend of March each year, except where that coincides with Easter weekend. Each Congress will fix the date and venue for the next Congress.

**12.3.** The Annual Congress will be comprised of the following members:

- a. The outgoing members of Ard Chomhairle;
- b. One Provincial Council delegate;
- c. Delegates, all of whom must be aged 16 years of over, from affiliated Units on the following basis;
  - Counties:
    - o 3-14 Clubs – two delegates;
    - o 15- 30 Clubs – four delegates;
    - o 31 or more Clubs – six delegates;
  - Cumann na mBunscol – two delegates;
  - Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas – two delegates;

- Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunskoileanna – two delegates;
- International Boards: Each of these which affiliate as a Unit to Ard Chomhairle – two delegates.

Each of the foregoing, with the exception of appointed staff of the Association will have the right to vote.

## 12.4 Powers of Annual Congress Motions Committee

The Committee will comprise of the Uachtarán, the immediate two Past Presidents, the Ard Stiúrthóir and two other members nominated by Ard Chomhairle.

The Committee will approve motions as submitted by County Boards, Provincial Councils, National Education Councils and International Boards for submission to Annual Congress. The Committee may put a motion in order where there is a failure to quote the numbers of the Rules affected or where there are minor clerical errors.

In the case of a motion submitted by a County Board, Provincial Council, National Education Council and International Board not being in order, the relevant Units will be advised in writing of the reason(s) for a motion being not in order, and subject to a time-limit determined by Ard Chomhairle, will be afforded an opportunity to resubmit an appropriately corrected motion for the consideration of the Annual Congress Motions Committee.

In the event of motions from different County Boards, Provincial Councils, National Education Councils and International Boards that relate to the same Rule, the Committee will liaise with these Units to seek an agreed approach, if appropriate. The Committee will advise on the presentation of the motions on the Congress Clár.

**12.5.** Annual Congress has the power to rule a motion out of order.

**12.6.** Within one month of Annual Congress, the Ard Stiúrthóir will forward to the Secretary of each County Board and Council the minutes of Annual Congress including the text of new and amended Rules and attendance at same. The County Board and Council Secretaries will distribute the text of new and amended Rules to Clubs and Colleges.

**12.7.** Unless otherwise decided by Congress, new and amended Rules will become operative one calendar month from the date of Congress and will be posted on the official camogie website.

**13. Staff of the Association**

Under the direction of the Ard Stiúrthóir all employees of the Association implement policies and decisions as agreed by Annual Congress and Ard Chomhairle. Voting rights for employees of the Association are confined to the Club of which they are a member.

**14. Supporters' Clubs**

- 14.1.** A Supporters' Club at any level of the Association may be set up only by the Committee in charge at the relevant level, i.e. County Board or Council. The constitution of such a Club will be as set out in the binding "Code for Camogie Supporters Club".

# SECTION D

## *Governance Procedures*

### 15. Official Correspondence

**15.1.** Electronic format (E-mail or fax) will be the preferred format for all official correspondence to and from Units. In the case of e-mails the sender's name must be contained in the e-mail itself and the e-mail must be sufficiently identifiable as coming directly from the person sending the e-mail.

**15.2.** Official correspondence must issue to and from the Secretary of the relevant Unit except:

- (i) When binding codes or mandatory codes of this Official Guide stipulate alternative correspondence procedures or
- (ii) a person is employed by the Unit or Ard Chomhairle to administer, in conjunction with, and, on behalf of, the Unit.

In the absence of the Secretary, correspondence will only be acceptable from an officer nominated by the Executive Committee of the Unit concerned. Where appropriate, delegates to a higher body must be copied on all correspondence concerning meetings and business of the higher body.

**15.3.** All official correspondence to/from Units/Members must be signed in Irish or English. This does not apply in the case of surnames where there is no Irish form. When there is more than one form of a surname in Irish, the English form may be added for clarification purposes. In the case of e-mails the sender's name must be contained in the email itself and the e-mail must be sufficiently identifiable as coming directly from the person sending the e-mail.

### 16. Meetings

**16.1.** The quorum for meetings of all Units of the Association must be 20 per cent of those entitled to attend and vote, in addition to the Officers present.

**16.2.** Decisions taken at meetings at all levels of the Association must be taken by a simple majority of those in attendance at the time of the vote, entitled to vote, and voting, motions for such decisions having been proposed and seconded. Decisions so taken will not be rescinded at any subsequent meeting except with the consent of two-thirds of those present at the time of the vote, entitled to vote, and voting.

**16.3.** Decisions taken at the Annual Convention at all levels of the Association will not be rescinded except at a subsequent Annual Convention, and then, only with the consent of two-thirds of those in attendance at the time of the vote, entitled to vote and voting. Each member must receive advance notice of intention to rescind such decisions.

**16.4.** Enactment of a new Rule at Annual Congress requires a simple majority of those in attendance at the time of the vote, entitled to vote, and voting. Rescindment or amendment of an existing Rule requires a two-thirds majority of those in attendance at time of voting, entitled to vote, and voting. Each member must receive advance notice of intention to rescind such decisions.

**16.5.** Election of officers as outlined in Rule 3.4 will be by secret ballot. Candidates for positions at all levels must be nominated, and, in each instance, the candidate's Club/County/College as applicable must be stated. In the event of there being more than two candidates for elected office at any level, election will be under the Proportional Representation (PR) system as outlined in Ard Chomhairle guidelines. In the case of two candidates, the candidate who obtains a simple majority of those in attendance at time of vote, entitled to vote, and voting, will be elected.

**16.6.** In the event of a tie in voting, the Cathaoirleach will exercise her/his casting vote whether or not she/he exercised her/his vote in the original decision.

**16.7.** In the event of a tie for the election of any officer position the outcome must be decided by drawing lots. Tellers must be appointed to carry out the draw.

**16.8.** Any member of the Executive Committee who has absented her/himself from three consecutive meetings, without reasonable explanation, will be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

### 17. Extraordinary General Meetings

**17.1.** At all levels of the Association an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Unit concerned may be summoned by the appropriate Executive Committee. Members will receive at least five days'

notice of the date, time and venue of such meeting and the special business to be transacted.

- 17.2.** An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned by a Unit's Executive Committee on a written request signed by:
- In the case of a Club, no fewer than 33 per cent of the members registered;
  - In the case of a County or Council, no fewer than 33 per cent of affiliated Units.
- 17.3.** The only business to be transacted at such a meeting will be the special business for which it is summoned.
- 17.4.** A Special Meeting of Ard Chomhairle will be summoned by the Ard Stiúrthóir on the written request of five members. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting will be the special business for which it is summoned. Members will receive at least five days' notice of the date, time and venue of such meeting and the special business to be transacted.
- 17.5.** Ard Chomhairle may summon a Special Congress should the necessity arise. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting will be the special business for which it is summoned. Members will receive at least fourteen days' notice of the date, time and venue of such meeting and the special business to be transacted.

## **18. Notice of Club, County & Council (Provincial/Education/International) Meetings**

- 18.1.** Members will be notified by the Unit Secretary of the date, time, venue and agenda of meeting at least five days beforehand.
- 18.2.** Each Unit will hold an AGM/Annual Convention at a date decided upon by the relevant Executive Committee on or before -
- a. November 15th in the case of a Club AGM except in the case of camogie Units whose AGM is part of a GAA club AGM;
  - b. December 8th in the case of a County Board Annual Convention; and
  - c. The third weekend in January in the case of a Provincial/Education Council or International Board Annual Convention.
- 18.3.** The AGM/Annual Convention will be comprised of the Executive Committee and in the case of
- a. a Club AGM, all members of the Club who have paid their membership at least three months in advance of the AGM for the year

under consideration by the AGM. Paid up members aged 16 and over have voting rights.

- b. a County Board Annual Convention, two delegates from each affiliated Club and where applicable, two delegates from each Divisional/Subsidiary Board; one delegate from Cumann na mBunscol and one delegate from Comhairle Chamógaíochta na hIarbhunscoileanna.
  - c. a Provincial Council Annual Convention, two delegates from each affiliated County Board within the Province and where applicable, one delegate from Cumann na mBunscol, one delegate from Comhairle Chamógaíochta na hIarbhunscoileanna, and one delegate from Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas each of whom will have the right to vote.
  - d. An International Camogie Board, two delegates from each affiliated Club and where applicable, two delegates from each Divisional/Subsidiary Board.
  - e. National Education Councils:  
As outlined in Unit bye laws.
- 18.4.** At least five weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention the Unit Secretary will forward to all eligible persons/Units:
- a. a nomination form on which to return the proposals for Officers and other elected personnel, motions and bye-laws.  
For Provincial Council Executives the nominating bodies are County Boards. For County Board Executives the nominating bodies are Clubs. For Club Executives the nominators are paid up Club members subject to Rule 18.3.a. For Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas the nominating bodies are affiliated colleges. For Comhairle na nIarbhunscoileanna the nominating bodies are provincial councils and for international camogie boards the nomination bodies are clubs.  
The name, and Unit name if applicable, of each outgoing office-holder will be shown on the form, together with the latest date for the receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws which will be at least three weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention.
  - b. Nomination forms will be acceptable only if;
    - lodged with the Unit Secretary by the stated date
    - signed by the Unit Secretary, or if applicable by the Club member in the case of a Club AGM

- 18.5.** At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.
- an Agenda for the AGM/Annual Convention, showing date, venue and time of same;
  - minutes of previous year's AGM/Annual Convention;
  - Unit Secretary's Report for year;
  - accounts prepared to professional accounting standards prepared by an independent accountant, except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:
    - Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
    - Units that have employees
    - Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies

All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November.

Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.
  - nominations for the Executive Committee and other elected personnel as relevant, indicating proposer;
  - notices of motions and bye-laws, indicating proposer.
- 18.6.** The Unit AGM/Annual Convention will
- consider the Minutes of the previous AGM/Annual Convention;
  - consider and approve reports and accounts for the previous year;
  - elect and appoint the Officers who will hold office until the next AGM/Annual Convention subject to compliance with Rule 3.6. and 3.7. In the event of a county chair intending to and succeeding in serving a fifth consecutive year a Cathaoirleach Tofa must be elected at county convention.

The Cathaoirleach of the Provincial Council is an exception to Rule 3.6. S/he will be elected for a term of three years, preceded by a year as Cathaoirleach-Tofa. The Cathaoirleach will be a Leas Uachtarán of the Association. The outgoing Cathaoirleach will not be eligible for immediate re-election

- elect and appoint members of Sub-Committees and any other personnel as required by Rule or Bye-laws, and
- approve or disapprove motions and bye-laws. Bye-laws will not be contrary to Rule and will not become binding until ratified by Ard Chomhairle.

**18.7.** Only those motions, bye-laws or recommendations which have been approved at an Annual Convention may be submitted to the appropriate higher body, as appropriate.

**18.8.** Immediately after the Unit Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Secretary of the appropriate higher body and in all cases except a Club Annual Convention, to the Ard Stiúrthóir:

- a copy of Unit Secretary's Report;
- a copy of the Unit Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts. At Club level Accounts are not required to be audited but must be presented in accordance with financial procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle;
- the names of the elected and appointed Officers and of the delegate(s) to the higher body.
- a copy of approved motions and bye-laws.

**18.9.** In the event of a Unit AGM/Convention failing to elect an Executive Officer or Officers as outlined in Rule 3.4, the AGM has the power to nominate a person or persons to call a reconvened AGM for the purpose of these elections.

The issuing of a nomination form for proposals for officers to be elected at a reconvened AGM is require to issue to all eligible persons/Units, no less than two weeks and no later than three weeks, prior to the date of the reconvened AGM.

Nomination forms must be lodged with a person appointed at the original AGM and by a date set at the original AGM. Seven days' notice is required for a reconvened AGM and the notice must include nominations received for the Executive Committee vacant positions.

## **19. Notice of Ard Chomhairle Meetings**

**19.1.** Members will be electronically notified by the Ard Stiúrthóir of the date, time, venue and agenda of meetings at least seven days beforehand. In cases of emergency, shorter notice will be sufficient.

## **20. Notice of Annual Congress**

**20.1.** At least eight weeks prior to the date of Congress, the Ard Stiúrthóir will send to the Secretary of each

Unit (excluding Clubs) a Nomination form on which to return each Unit's nominations and motions for Congress and bye-laws for ratification by Ard Chomhairle. The latest date for receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws from all nominating Units will be at least six weeks prior to the date of Annual Congress.

- 20.2.** Nomination forms will be acceptable only if -
- lodged with the Ard Stiúrthóir by the stated date;
  - signed by the Secretary of the nominating Unit.
- 20.3.** Proposals to enact new or to amend existing, Rules will give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the number of any Rules affected thereby.
- 20.4.** Motions to revise the Playing Rules will only be tabled every three years.
- 20.5.** Four weeks prior to Annual Congress the Ard Stiúrthóir will send to the members of Ard Chomhairle and to the Secretary of each Unit (excluding Clubs):
- Agenda for Congress, showing date, venue and time of same;
  - Annual Report from the Ard Stiúrthóir;
  - Audited Accounts;
  - Annual Report from all Provincial Councils, National Education Councils and International Boards;
  - Annual Report from all Ard Chomhairle Sub-committees;
  - Nominations for Uachtarán, indicating Unit (excluding Club) of proposer and proposed;
  - Nominations for Ard Chomhairle members as per Rule 10.2.g.as appropriate;
  - Proposals for motions, indicating Counties/Council/Board of proposer.

## **21. Fees and Charges**

- 21.1.** Every club affiliated to An Cumann Camógaíochta is required to purchase tickets for the All-Ireland Camogie Finals in Croke Park, to the value of two full priced adult tickets.
- 21.2.** Fees for objections and appeals are set out in Official Guide Part IV Disciplinary Code and THDC Mandatory Procedures.

## **22. Code of Conduct and Accountability**

- 22.1.** That all Officers of the Association shall comply with the Code of Practice for all Officers of the Camogie Association. Any alleged breach of the

Code must be investigated according to the procedure outlined in the Code. This procedure only applies to non-games related breaches.

- 22.2.** Each Unit within the Association is responsible for its finances. Financial management practices must be compliant with all legal requirements. All Units will have power to acquire, hold and develop, sell, lease, mortgage charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal Property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the objects of the Club, subject to the overall authority of Ard Chomhairle. The property shall not be leased, mortgaged, charged, exchanged, sold, conveyed, transferred or otherwise dealt with without the consent of Ard Chomhairle, or as may be set out in any separate Declaration of Trust.
- 22.3.** All county boards and national education councils must comply with financial procedures as agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle. Sanction for failure to comply is withdrawal of voting rights for the Unit concerned at Annual Congress. For Provincial Councils see Rule 12.1.b.
- 22.4.** The funds of any Unit of the Association must be lodged in a bank or other financial institution approved by the Unit. All payments issued on behalf of the Unit must be authorised by at least two members of the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned. All payments are required to have at least two signatories from the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned one of which must be the treasurer. Decisions on signatories and payment procedures must be formally agreed and recorded at Executive Committee meeting(s) of the relevant Unit.
- 22.5.** A Unit failing and refusing to comply with Rules 22.2 to 22.4 will be suspended until compliance is agreed and implemented.

## **23. Insurance**

- 23.1.** Each club must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members who officiate at games and members involved in managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance. Any member not insured may not play, officiate at games or manage/coach teams.
- 23.2.** Executive Committees at all levels within the Association must indemnify its Executive members.
- 23.3.** In order that all fixtures other than official fixtures are recognised for insurance purposes notification must be given on the following basis:
- To the County Board when both teams are within the County;
  - To the relevant County Boards and Provincial Council when teams are from different Counties;



- To the relevant County Boards, Provincial Council and National Fixtures Administrator when teams are from different Provinces or International.

Notification to hold or participate in fixtures other than official fixtures must be sent by email by the relevant Secretaries prior to the date of the proposed fixture.

Approval to host inter-county underage blitzes will be provided by the Director of Camogie Development.

Permission must be requested by a date specified by the Ard Stiúrthóir each year.

## 24. Sponsorship

- 24.1. Sponsorship may only be accepted by Units within the Association when the sponsorship meets the criteria set down in the Mandatory Code for Sponsorship, Official Guide Part V.

## 25. Safeguarding of Children/Young People (under 18 years)

- 25.1. The Association will safeguard and promote the interests and well being of members under 18 years of age.
- 25.2. The Association will take all practical steps to protect them from all discernable forms of abuse, harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and will respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- 25.3. Members of the Association must comply with the binding Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code*, (including the disciplinary and other procedures to be applied in the event of a breach of that Code). Ard Chomhairle is entitled to amend or revoke any provisions of that Code from time to time.

That Code will provide for the manner in which it is determined whether the procedures under the Code, or the Association's mandatory investigative and disciplinary procedures are invoked in any particular case.

The Code will specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code.

This Rule constitutes authority for carrying out all functions and actions in accordance with the Code.

- 25.4. Ard Chomhairle must have in place guidelines and procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse. Complaints and allegations will be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the binding Code of

Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code* and not under any other provision of these Rules or Club Constitution.

## 26. Anti-Doping Compliance

- 26.1. The Association forbids the use of prohibited substances or methods, generally known as doping in sport.
- 26.2. The Anti-Doping Rules and application of them to our playing membership as agreed with the relevant statutory sports authorities will have effect and be construed as Rules of the Association in those statutory jurisdictions.
- 26.3. The ordinary disciplinary and appeals procedures, as set out in an Treoir Oifigiúil will not apply in cases of alleged violations of the Anti-Doping Rules. The anti-doping Rules of the Camogie Association are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time. Any Anti-Doping Rule violation will be dealt with under the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

## 27. Rules and Disciplinary Enforcement Powers

- 27.1. Ard Chomhairle and all Units in the Association have within their respective jurisdictions the power:
- a. to enforce Rules and Bye-Laws
  - b. investigate breaches of Rules and Bye-Laws
  - c. investigate misconduct considered to discredit the Association
  - d. impose upon Members, Teams, Officials, Units and supporters such penalties as may be prescribed
  - e. where no penalty is prescribed impose proportionate and reasonable penalties, for such breaches.
- 27.2. Disciplinary procedures will be administered by the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee at county, provincial and Ard Chomhairle levels. The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee has the powers to hear and adjudicate on transfer requests, objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine or disqualify Clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.
- 27.3. The National Final Appeals Committee will hear and decide on appeals arising from decisions first heard by the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committees.

- 27.4.** The Clemency Committee will hear appeals from members/Units only in the event of a period of suspension being of more than twelve months duration and after the adjudication of the National Final Appeals Committee
- 27.5.** Any penalty imposed will apply throughout the Association. Members, Teams, Officials and Units subject to investigation by a Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee must attend those meetings when requested. Failure to comply will result in automatic suspension until they appear.
- 27.6.** The secretary of the committee in charge of a hearing, investigation or appeal must inform the parents or guardians of players under 18 of the allegation and investigative procedure. Children must be accompanied by an adult at investigations, hearings and appeals. Such adults are not required to be members of the Association.

**27.7. Arbitration**

- (a) In the event of any dispute or difference between any member or Unit of the Camogie Association with any other member or Unit of the Camogie Association, as to the legality of any decision made or procedure used by any Unit of the Camogie Association in pursuance of the Rules and Bye Laws of the Association, which cannot be settled by amicable means within the Rules of the Camogie Association, such dispute may be referred by either party to Arbitration under the GAA Disputes Resolution Code (see [www.sportsdra.ie](http://www.sportsdra.ie)), as initially approved by GAA Congress and from time to time amended by the GAA Disputes Resolution Authority with the approval of GAA Central Council.
- (b) Such Dispute Resolution shall be conducted in accordance with that Code and the Arbitration Act 2010 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof. The Rules of the Camogie Association, the GAA Disputes Resolution Code and the Laws of Ireland shall govern such Disputes Resolution.
- (c) No member or Unit of the Camogie Association may issue proceedings relating to any such Dispute in any Court of Law in any jurisdiction.
- (d) No member or Unit of the Camogie Association shall refer such Dispute to the Dispute Resolution Authority (DRA) until all available avenues of appeal under the Rules of the Camogie Association have been exhausted.
- (e) Disputes arising from or concerning doping control under the Rules of the Camogie Association, any rules of the Irish Sports

Council or under general law shall not be the subject of any Arbitration under this Rule.

- (f) Arbitration shall only apply to Disputes raised by members/Units from Ireland or Britain.

**27.8. Disciplinary hearing timeframes**

Disciplinary hearing timeframes are outlined in the Official Guide Part IV Disciplinary Code and THDC Mandatory Procedures.

**28. Player Eligibility**

- 28.1.** Before taking part in competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. A player may play in a competition three days after her registration has been received by the Committee in charge or by the person nominated by the Committee in charge to accept registrations.

- 28.2.** In Inter-County Competition a player is automatically eligible to represent her native County. If the County in which a player is registered is not her native County, she may declare for her adopted County in Inter-County competition.

Such declaration must be made on Official Form CC3, properly completed in duplicate, and lodged with the Ard Stiúrthóir by 31st January. However where the adopted County is outside of Ireland then a player may still declare for her adopted County in Inter-County competition after this date.

This declaration will become effective three days after acknowledgement by the Ard Stiúrthóir.

A player will not represent more than one County in the same season. Once permission to declare for an adopted county is granted to a player, it is not necessary to repeat application, unless the player wishes to declare back to her native county.

- 28.3.** A member will not register or play with two Clubs except in the following instance:

- a. A full time student of one of the affiliated Institutes of Higher Education may play for both her College Club and her home Club in the same season's competitions. She will not represent both Clubs in the same competition. Where a Club in an Institute of Higher Education participates in competition under the auspices of the County Board, a student will not represent both her College Club and another Club in that County in the same season's competitions in any grade. In the event of both her College Club and her home Club being County Champions in their respective Counties in the same season, a student must, prior to participation at the



next level, notify the Ard Stiúrthóir by the last day in February in writing with which Club she intends to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship competition;

- b. 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 another European Country, or Ireland, for at least three months duration and she obtains permission from Central Council. These players may play with their home Club or County in their respective championships or other competitions. This does not apply to Irish home Club players studying in Ireland or Britain;
- c. Where a CC6 sanction has been granted in accordance with Rule 32.1

**28.4.** A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12	Be Under 12 and Over 8
U14	Be Under 14 and Over 10
U16	Be Under 16 and Over 12
U18	Be Under 18 and Over 14
Adult	Be Over 15 except in the case of inter-county competitions where a player must be over 16

‘Under’ means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

‘Over’ means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

**28.5** Where Clubs have insufficient numbers of players in underage competitions, they may combine with a team from another club to participate in competitions, subject to prior approval from the Unit in charge

**(Effective until 31st December 2016)**

**28.5.** Where Clubs have insufficient numbers of players **to compete** in underage competitions, they may combine with a team **from only one other specific club** to participate in **underage** competitions,

subject to prior approval from the Unit in charge.

**A team is deemed to be a combined team if it comprises three or more players from a different club(s). Players from no more than three clubs may combine to compete as a single team.**

**(Effective from 1st January 2017)**

**28.5.1** When underage clubs do not have sufficient numbers of eligible players to play in adult competition, they may combine with a team from only one other specific club to participate in adult competition until the Unit in charge determines that the club has sufficient numbers to play the adult competition. Such combinations are subject to the annual prior approval of the Unit in charge. **A team is deemed to be a combined team if it comprises three or more players from a different club(s). Players from no more than three clubs may combine to compete as a single team.**

**(Effective from 1st January 2017)**

**28.6.** Adult club teams from lower grades may only combine to participate in higher grade competitions e.g. two intermediate teams combine to play Senior Championship/League. The Unit in charge of the competition must approve this in advance. Where a Club already has a team participating in the higher competition it may not avail of this provision. Where teams combine under Rules 28.5 and 28.6 players’ registrations and player grading will remain with their home club (Also see Rule 28.3).

**28.7.** Combination or divisional teams may not enter the provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship competitions. In the case where a combination/divisional team being county champions, the beaten finalists will represent the county. In the event of the finalists being two divisional/combined teams the beaten semi-finalists will play-off to represent their county.

## **29. Player Grading for Club Competitions**

**29.1.** Any player who plays a higher graded Championship is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower graded league or championship in the same year. This applies to all graded competitions e.g. adult and under-age A, B and C competitions.

**29.2.** In the case of teams participating in Club Championships in accordance with Rule 28.5 and 28.6 their grading status with their registered Club is not affected by participating in a higher grade competition.

**29.3.** A player may apply to the County Board, by a date specified by the Board, to be re-graded in the following year. A player’s application must specify

the reason for her grading request. The County Board may delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for Re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to the County Board for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful, within five days, the player must be personally notified in writing of the reasons.

- 29.4. A player who transfers to a lower graded club is automatically re-graded to the highest grade in that club.
- 29.5. In the event of two or more transfers from a higher graded club to a lower graded club being granted in one year, the grading of that team may be considered by the committee in charge.
- 29.6. A player who has not taken part in any league or championship match with a club, for a period of 24 months from the date of her last game, will be automatically re-graded to the next immediate grade down in that club.

### 30. Player Grading for Inter-County Competitions

- 30.1. Any player who plays a higher graded Championship is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower grade championship or national league. Grading of players for Inter-County competitions will be defined as follows:

#### Senior

- a. Any player who plays senior championship is only eligible thereafter to play Division 1 national league and senior championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- b. An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has played senior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- c. An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has not played senior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2

#### Intermediate

- a. Any player who plays intermediate championship is only eligible thereafter to play Divisions 1 and 2 national league and intermediate championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- b. An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has played intermediate championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2

- c. An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has not played intermediate championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2

#### Junior

- a. Any player who plays at a higher level in the All-Ireland junior championship is only eligible thereafter to play higher level junior championship or higher level national leagues. For re-grading see Rule 30.2
- b. An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has played junior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading to a lower junior graded for a further two years. For re-grading see Rule 30.2
- c. An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has not played junior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.

#### Minor (Under 18)

An Under 18 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Minor Championship. She may participate in adult competitions, including the All-Ireland Senior Championship, without prejudice to her eligibility for Minor competition.

#### Under 16

An Under 16 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Under 16 Championship and Minor Championship.

- 30.2. A player must apply to Ard Chomhairle to be re-graded in the following year by a date specified by Ard Chomhairle. Ard Chomhairle must delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to Ard Chomhairle for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful the player must be personally notified in writing within five days of the reasons.

### 31. Transfers

- 31.1. Clubs are prohibited from approaching players to transfer from their home club. See Rule 4.1 for designation of a player's home club.
- 31.2. A player who wishes to transfer from one Club to another must:
  - Fully complete Section A of Transfer Form CC4
  - Must specify the reasons for her transfer request

- Give the CC4 form to her Club Secretary thereby putting her Club on notice of her intention to apply to the County Board for permission to transfer Club.
- 31.3.** A transfer must not be refused to a player already registered with a Camogie club who wishes to transfer to a newly established camogie club in the locality where she is ordinarily resident.
- 31.3.1.** A transfer may be refused on one or several of the following grounds:
- If a player or a player's immediate family or guardian are not ordinarily resident within the area of the club to which she wishes to be transferred;
  - Where the county board has objective evidence that a player has been approached by the club she wishes to transfer to;
  - Where the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee has adjudged that the receiving club has sufficient playing members
  - Where the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee has adjudged that the player's current club would be negatively affected by her transfer
  - Where the relevant Transfers, Hearing and Disciplinary Committee has adjudged that the transfer would not be in the best interests of Camogie.
- 31.4.** Where a Club/County Board/Provincial Council **agrees** to a transfer the following procedures apply:
- (i) On receipt of a Transfer Form CC4 from a player, the Club Executive Committee must consider the application within seven days, except in the case where the transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code* (see Rule 31.6.1).
  - (ii) On agreement of the transfer the Club Secretary signs Section B of Transfer Form CC4, and submits it to the County Board Secretary no later than the seventh day.
  - (iii) The County Board Secretary must immediately on receipt refer it to the Transfers, Disciplinary and Hearings Committee ratification, except in cases where the transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working With Working with Underage Players, *Our Games, Our Code* (see Rule 31.6.1).

The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee will confer and inform the County Secretary of their decision within three days. The Board Secretary must sign Section C of Form CC4 and inform the player accordingly by returning a signed copy of Form CC4 to the player and immediately inform the affiliated Units of the transfer.

- (iv) Where the club transfer request is to a club outside the County but within the Province the County Board Secretary must send the CC4 form to the Provincial Secretary within three days of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee's decision. The Provincial Council Secretary must immediately on receipt refer it to the Transfers, Disciplinary and Hearings Committee.

The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee will confer and inform the Provincial Secretary of their decision within three days. In the case of a positive decision the Provincial Council secretary must sign Section C of Form CC4 and inform the player accordingly by returning a signed copy of Form CC4 to the player and immediately inform the affiliated Units of the transfer.

- (v) Where the club transfer is from a club in one Province to a club in another Province, following completion of the transfer at provincial level, the Provincial Secretary must lodge the transfer form with the Ard Stiúrthóir for notification to the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee.
- (vi) The player must lodge her copy of the accepted Transfer Form with the Secretary of the Club with which she wishes to register. Rules governing her eligibility then apply.

- 31.5.** When a club, county or province **does not agree** to the transfer the following procedures apply:

- (i) On receipt of a Transfer Form CC4 from a player, the Club Executive Committee must consider the application within seven days, except in cases where the transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code* (see Rule 31.6.1).

If the club does not agree to the transfer the Club Secretary does not sign Section B of the Transfer Form CC4, and must return the transfer form to the player within two days of consideration of the transfer. The club secretary must notify the player of the reasons for the non-agreement. The player seeking the

transfer may then submit the CC4 form to the County Secretary for the County Board's consideration.

- (ii) The County Board Secretary must immediately on receipt of a transfer request refer it to the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee, except in cases where the transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code* (see Rule 31.6.1). The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee must consider the application within seven days and decide to accept or reject the transfer.
- (iii) If the transfer is rejected by the County Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee, the Board Secretary, must set out the reasons why the transfer was rejected and must inform the player of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee's decision and return Form CC4 (unsigned at Section C) to the player within seven days. The player may appeal this to the Provincial Council's Transfers, Hearings, Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- (iv) If the transfer is first rejected by the Provincial Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee, the Provincial Council Secretary, must set out the reasons why the transfer was rejected and must inform the player of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee's decision and return Form CC4 (unsigned at Section C) to the player within seven days. The player may appeal this to the National Council's Transfers, Hearings, Appeals and Disciplinary Committee.
- (v) If the transfer is rejected by the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee, the Ard Stiúrthóir, must set out the reasons why the transfer was rejected and must inform the player of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee's decision and return Form CC4 (unsigned at Section C) to the player within seven days.

**31.6** Where a transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code*, it must immediately be passed to the Club Children's Officer, who must deal with the concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's *Our Games Our Code*, under the provisions of *Our Games Our Code*.

If the subsequent investigation finds no cause for

concern the Club Secretary must be so informed by the Club Children's Officer.

If however the investigation finds cause for concern the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport Committee may subsequently advise the Club Executive Officers to allow the transfer in the best interests of the child.

The Club Children's Officer must also notify the County Children's Office that an investigation has taken place and its outcome. The transfer process will then proceed as per Rule 31.4

**31.6.1** Where a transfer request raises a concern about alleged practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code*, the County Secretary must immediately contact the County Children's Officer to check that the concern has been fully investigated at club level.

**31.6.2** If the concern has been investigated and concluded, transfer procedures as per Rule 31.4 will be applied.

**31.6.3** If a club has failed to carry out an investigation into the concern, the transfer process must be put on hold. The County Children's Officer must investigate the concern about practice that is contrary to the Association's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players, *Our Games Our Code*, under the provisions of *Our Games Our Code*.

If the subsequent investigation finds no cause for concern the County Executive Secretary must be so informed by the County Children's Officer. Transfer procedures as per Rule 31.4 will be applied.

If, however, the investigation finds cause for concern the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport Committee may subsequently advise the County Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee to allow the transfer in the best interests of the child.

**31.7.** Transfers are not necessary in the following instances:

- From one club to another within a county or in another county if the player has not taken part in any competitive match with a Club for a period of twenty-four months
- From a club which has disbanded.

**31.8.** A player who has commenced a competition in a county will not be eligible to complete that competition with her club or county, if she has legally transferred and is playing with another club or county except in instances where the player is playing on a CC6 when Rule 32.5 will apply. She will not represent both clubs or counties in the same competition.

## 32. Permission to Play Internationally

- 32.1.** Any player who is temporarily domiciled outside of the country in which she is registered and who wishes to play with a club in another country for the duration of such domicile, must notify her club secretary of her intention to seek permission to so do.
- 32.2.** Applications for permission to play on a temporary basis for a club in another country will be accepted only on Official Sanction Form CC6, properly completed and signed by the relevant Secretaries. All such applications require the sanction of the current club and County Board Secretaries.
- 32.3.** The County Board Secretary must notify the Registrar of the relevant International Board. That Board will reserve the right to grant or refuse the applicant permission to play with a club on a temporary basis. The original form must be forwarded by the County Secretary to Ard Stiúrthóir.
- 32.4.** Official sanction to play on a temporary basis with a club abroad will be valid for the period specified on the Official Sanction Form CC6, which should not exceed a period of four months in the calendar year. A transfer will be required for a longer period.
- 32.5.** A player who avails of these Rules will remain a registered member of her current club during the period specified on the Official Sanction Form CC6. A player may only play for the club to which she is temporarily transferred for the duration of the period outlined on the CC6 form. A player who returns to play with her home club before the end of this period automatically rescinds her CC6.



## SECTION E

# *Competitions Management and Administration, Control of Matches and Penalties*

### **33. Competitions Management and Administration**

**33.1.** Ard Chomhairle, Provincial Councils and county boards must prepare a draft fixtures schedule for all competitions for the following year under their control as follows:

- a. Ard Chomhairle by end of October of preceding year
  - b. Provincial Council by end of November of preceding year
  - c. County Board by end of January of current year.
- Eligibility to participate in competition will be on the following basis:

- a. County competitions will be open to all affiliated clubs within the county and as otherwise agreed at the county convention (Ref 6.4(b)).
- b. Provincial competitions will be open to all affiliated counties within the province (Ref 7.4 (b)).
- c. All-Ireland competitions will be open to all affiliated counties (Ref 10.6 (o)).

**33.2.** For all competitions, participating Units will be notified of the date of a fixture by the Unit Secretary or by a Fixtures Sub-Committee delegated this task in accordance with the following timeframes:

- at least five days email notice for competitions run by County Boards unless otherwise provided for in County bye-laws;
- at least five days e-mail notice for all Inter-County and All-Ireland competitions. E-mail notification of venue and time must be given no later than 48 hours prior to the fixture.

**33.3.** Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 33.2 of a fixture and fails to fulfil that fixture, the committee in charge of the competition must impose the following penalties:

- in all cases the match will be awarded to that team's opponents in the fixture;
- in the case of leagues or championships run on a league basis the defaulting team(s) will be deducted two points;

- In the case of national inter-county, club or inter-provincial competitions under Ard Chomhairle's auspices, any team who concedes a game cannot progress to the knock-out stages of a competition, i.e. quarter-final, semi-final or final.

**33.4.** The committee in charge may also impose one or several of the following penalties should it consider that the situation warrants such:

- defaulting team lose home advantage for fixtures in competition(s) in the following year; and/or
- a fine on the Committee responsible for the defaulting team;
- any vouched expenses incurred in connection with the fixture will be paid by the Committee responsible for the defaulting team except where at least 72 hours notice has been confirmed with the committee in charge

**33.5.** The following exemptions apply to Rules 33.3 and 33.4:

- an independent decision by the Referee and the host club/ground that the pitch is unplayable
- a death which is deemed by the Unit in charge to warrant postponement of the fixture.

**33.6.** Should a team withdraw or be disqualified during the course of a competition, the results of its played games will be null and void and no points will be awarded for un-played matches.

**33.7.** For fixtures other than official competitions see Rule 23.

**33.8.** All games activities organised for all players aged U12 by all Units of the Association must be:

- Child centred
- Small sided games
- Developmentally appropriate
- Provide all players with meaningful playing time.

### 34. All-Ireland Inter County Competitions

- 34.1. All-Ireland inter-county competitions, club competitions and inter-provincial competitions will be run annually in a manner decided by Ard Chomhairle.
- 34.2. Should Provincial, County or Club teams from other countries enter any All-Ireland competition, the manner of their participation will be decided by Ard Chomhairle.
- 34.3. Venues for All-Ireland quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of competitions under the auspices of Ard Chomhairle will be decided by the National Competitions Management Sub-Committee.
- 34.4. The Finals of All-Ireland competitions must be played on or before the dates specified hereunder:
- Senior, Premier Junior and Junior Championships: the last Sunday in September;
  - Intermediate Championships: the last Sunday in October;
  - Minor Championships: the last Sunday in October;
  - Under 16 Championships: the last Sunday in October;
  - National Leagues: the last Sunday in May;
  - Senior and Junior Inter-Provincial Championships: the last Sunday in November;
  - Senior, Intermediate and Junior Club Championship: the 17th March of the following calendar year
- 34.5. Unless notified by Ard Chomhairle the home County Board/Provincial Council will make arrangements to collect gate receipts at all fixtures under the auspices of Ard Chomhairle. Such gate receipts must be forwarded by the County/Provincial Secretary to the Ard Stiúrthóir within fourteen days of the date of the fixture. Failure to do so will result in a fine being imposed by Ard Chomhairle on the County/Council. Gate receipts from National League games run under the auspices of Ard Chomhairle excluding the semi-finals and finals will be shared on a 50/50 basis with the host county.

### 35. All-Ireland Club Championships

- 35.1. County Champions will be eligible to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship(s), except where the winners are comprised of a representative or divisional team. In this event, the County Board must nominate the Club team which advanced furthest in the County Championship to represent the County.
- 35.1.1. The winners of the Provincial club championships

will contest the All-Ireland semi-finals, except where Ard Chomhairle decides that the competition should be run on an open draw or other basis.

- 35.2. The grading of Counties for the All-Ireland Club Championship(s) will be decided by Ard Chomhairle.
- 35.3. Where a County Board does not exist, the Provincial Council will have the power to permit properly affiliated Clubs to represent the County in Provincial and All-Ireland competitions.
- 35.4. In the event of a draw in Semi-Finals, extra-time must be played.
- 35.5. Each Provincial Council Secretary must notify the Ard Stiúrthóir of the winners of Senior and Intermediate Provincial Club Championship Finals by the 30th of November, winners of Junior Provincial Club Championship Final by the 31st of October.
- 35.6. Unless notified by Ard Chomhairle the home County Board/Provincial Council will make arrangements to collect gate receipts at all fixtures under the auspices of Ard Chomhairle. Such gate receipts must be forwarded by the County/Provincial Secretary to the Ard Stiúrthóir within fourteen days of the date of the fixture. Failure to do so will result in a fine being imposed by Ard Chomhairle on the County/Council.

### 36. Inter-Provincial Championships

- 36.1. In the event of a draw in Semi-Finals and Finals, extra-time must be played.

### 37. Trophies

- 37.1. Ard Chomhairle will each year present:
- a. An All-Ireland Perpetual Cup/Trophy and up to thirty medals to the winning team in each All-Ireland competition under its auspices. As the design of All-Ireland and National League medals is the property of Ard Chomhairle, the awarding of more than thirty such medals will not be permitted.
  - b. Runners-up medals to the losing teams in every All-Ireland minor competition under its auspices
- 37.2. Provincial Councils will each year present up to thirty medals or trophies to the winning team in each competition under its auspices.
- 37.3. County Boards will decide on the nature of awards to be made to the winners in competitions under their auspices.
- 37.4. All official medals and trophies should be of Irish

manufacture where possible. Inscriptions, if any, will be in Irish.

**37.5.** It will be the responsibility of the Committee in charge of a competition to have the winners' names inscribed on cups/trophies.

**37.6.** All Perpetual Cups/Trophies must be returned in good condition by the holders to the relevant Committee at least one month prior to the conclusion of the following season's competition. The committee in charge of the cup or trophy holder is liable for the cost of any damages and cleaning to perpetual cups or trophies.

### **38. Catering Arrangements for Competing Teams**

**38.1.** Catering arrangements and costs for competing teams (30 each) will be the responsibility of the relevant Unit in charge of the team.

**38.2.** Catering arrangements and costs for match officials will be the responsibility of the relevant Unit in charge of the competition.

### **39. Control of Matches**

**39.1.** Matches will be under the control of the Referee, four Goal Umpires and two Line Umpires. All matters affecting play will be decided on the field of play by these officials.

**39.2.** Matches must begin at the appointed time. Referees are required to report late starts in the official Referee's report and the reasons for same. For club games an automatic fixed penalty of €50/Stg£45 will apply for reported late starts. For inter-county games an automatic fixed penalty of €100/Stg£90 will apply to the relevant parties for reported late starts. These penalties are subject to review by Ard Chomhairle.

**39.3.** The Committee in charge of a team participating in any officially sanctioned league or championship competition must:

- have the players and substitutes clearly numbered, such numbers must correspond with those in the official match programme and official team list;
- in the case of All-Ireland semi-finals and finals, submit to the Ard Stiúrthóir at least six days prior to the fixture the names of its panel of players up to a maximum of 30 panel members. The numbered team line out must also be submitted.

**39.4.** Should the competing Inter-County teams in any fixture have similar team colours, both teams must change if requested to do so by the Unit in charge

of the fixture (Ref Rule 5.6. re similar colours).

**39.5.** Should a competitive match end in a draw it must be replayed except where:

- the competition is run on a league basis and a point will be awarded to each team
- the Unit in charge of the fixture has made a prior decision to play extra-time and has advised the participating teams in advance of same; **or**
- both teams agree, with the approval of the Unit in charge of the fixture, to play extra-time.

**39.6.** In the case of competitions run on a home and away basis the team which travelled in the first instance will have a home venue for the replay. Should a replay finish in a draw, extra-time must be played. Should the teams finish level again after extra-time, the match must be replayed.

**39.7.** All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship games must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

### **40. Appointment of Match Officials**

**40.1.** The Committee in charge of a competition or a sub-committee with the appropriate delegated powers will appoint Referees for all fixtures under its auspices or decide other methods for the appointment of Referees.

**40.2.** Appointed Referees are required to be knowledgeable of the official playing Rules of Camogie and at the earliest opportunity are expected to attend a recognised Camogie Referees course. Referees must co-operate with assessment procedures as required.

**40.3.** Referees must be members of the Camogie Association or the GAA, except for referees on the national panel who must be registered members of the Camogie Association.

**40.4.** Referees must wear regulation uniform or a tracksuit while officiating at matches.

**40.5.** Ard Chomhairle will ratify the appointment of all match officials for All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals. Ard Chomhairle will be responsible for the authorised expenses for match officials acting on its behalf.

**40.6.** All officials including line and goal umpires must be 18 years of age or over to officiate at inter-county matches.



## 41. Duties and Powers of the Referee

**41.1.** The Referee must fairly enforce the playing Rules. During the match, her/his decision on all matters connected with play will be final.

**41.2.** The Referee will:

- Decide whether ground or other conditions are suitable for play; (Also see Rule 33.5.)
- Deal with the intrusion of unauthorised persons on to the playing pitch;
- Record and report the names of players or officials interfering during the course of a match;
- Take the name of the offender and request him/her to go outside the pitch area, when a team mentor or known team partisan is adjudged by the Referee to have been abusive or behaving in a threatening manner to any Match Official. The nature of the abuse must be included in the Referee's Report;
- Ensure the game starts on time and report teams that fail to comply (Also see Rule 39.2);
- Temporarily suspend play for a serious injury to a player, sudden deterioration in the weather, broken goalposts, pitch invasion or for any other matter/incident that s/he feels warrants such a decision.

Play should be temporarily suspended for a maximum of 15 minutes. If the issue cannot be resolved during this period, then the match should be abandoned. The Referee, having decided to temporarily suspend play, should simultaneously inform team officials from both teams that play is being suspended. Teams may retire to their dressing room and if the issue is resolved within the specified period, play will be resumed within 5 minutes of the team managers of both teams being informed by the Referee that the issue has been resolved.

As the Referee so instructs team officials from both teams, the sideline official should inform the public announcer (PA) of this, where operable, so that spectators may be informed what is happening.

**41.3.** The Referee must keep a record of the match and must lodge with the Committee in Charge a report of the match including the score and commencing and finishing time of each half. Such report must be submitted on Official Form CC5, together with signed Team Lists, on or before the sixth calendar day after the date of the match. The Referee's report must be considered as final except where the Committee in charge is satisfied beyond all

reasonable doubt that the match was not Refereed in accordance with the Rules. Failure of a Referee to submit a report does not render the game null and void.

For a trial period, should Ard Chomhairle so decide, a Referee or Goal Umpire may seek and/or obtain a clarification, from the officially sanctioned Score Detection System where operable, that a sliotar has gone between the posts for a point or outside the posts for a wide. The protocols for the operation and use of the system must be in accordance with the specific provisions determined and authorised by Ard Chomhairle.

**41.4.** The Referee must, in the event of one team failing to field, count the players of the team present and obtain a Team List for submission with her/his report. In the event of both teams failing to field, the Referee should record this fact on his/her report for submission to the Unit in charge of the competition.

**41.5.** The Referee must:

- Give a final decision on scores or wides where the Goal Umpires disagree, or where there is only one Goal Umpire or no Goal Umpire. The Referee must not over-rule the joint decision of both Goal Umpires;
- Give a final decision on side-line pucks and may over-rule the decision of a Line Umpire. In the absence of a Line Umpire, the Referee's decision must be final.

The Referee may:

- Consult the Goal and Line Umpires on any matter during the course of the match;
- Apply the appropriate penalty when his/her attention is drawn to a Rule infringement by a Goal/Line Umpire. (See Rules 42.2 and 42.3)

**41.6.** The Referee must extend time in each half:

- For delay, deliberate or incidental, in that half. In the case of injury to a player, play may be stopped at the discretion of the Referee. Such stoppages must not exceed two minutes at which time the player will be required to leave the field for treatment. The exception to the two minute Rule above is when an injury is so serious as to require treatment in place or where a stretcher is required to remove player from the field of play.
- To allow for a free to be taken. A score will result from such a free only when no player from the attacking team other than the free-taker touches the sliotar. Should the defending team commit a further foul before the Referee

whistles for the end of the half, she/he must further extend the time to allow for an additional free to be taken.

**41.7.** The Referee may terminate a match because of:

- persistent outside interference;
- failing light;
- the refusal of a player to leave the field of play when dismissed by the Referee, the team captain or official having been given a three minute warning by the Referee;
- a team or player(s) leaving the field without the Referee's permission, or refusing to continue to play, the team captain or official having been given a three minute warning by the Referee;
- any other reason deemed by the Referee to be sufficient.

**41.8.** The Referee must specify in his/her report the reason(s) for terminating a match and, where applicable, include the names of offending players and officials and known partisans. If a match is terminated because of failing light, it will be re-fixed for full-time by the Committee in charge, except where there was a deliberate delay on the part of one team, in which case the match may be awarded to its opponents. If terminated for any other reason, the decision will rest with the Committee in charge.

**41.9.** The Referee must dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances:

- a. by showing a red card when a player is adjudged by the Referee to have struck an opponent, unless the Referee is satisfied that such was accidental.
- b. Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card;
- c. Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated by showing the player a Red Card
- d. for a first offence should she/he deem that the

player's conduct warrants such. Such player shall be dealt with by the committee in charge in accordance with Rule 44.

- e. A player dismissed from the field of play in a, b, c, or d above stand suspended until they appear before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee which will decide on the action to be taken (Section 27 and Section 44).

In all instances, substitution of a dismissed player will not be permitted. In the event of extra time teams revert to fifteen players. Players dismissed under Rule 41.9 a, b, c or d above during normal time may not play in extra time.

**41.10.** The Referee must:

- at the time of dismissal, ascertain and record the player's name and jersey number.
- in her/his report, give the name of any player dismissed and jersey number, state the reason.

**41.11.** The Secretary of the Committee in charge of a competition must retain a permanent record of the names of players dismissed from the field of play. The Secretary of a Provincial Council must immediately notify the Ard Stiúrthóir of dismissals in Provincial competition, and the Ard Stiúrthóir will inform the relevant Provincial County Secretary of dismissals in All-Ireland competition.

**41.12.** Should the appointed Referee be unable to officiate at a match, a substitute must be appointed by any Officer of the Committee in charge present at the match. In the absence of an Officer, a Referee may be agreed upon by the Officials of both teams.

## **42. Duties and Powers of Goal Umpires**

**42.1.** There must be four Goal Umpires, two at each goal, one at each goalpost. They must not change ends during the match.

**42.2.** The Goal Umpire must:

- make decisions on scores, wides, forty-five metre frees and parallelogram infringements;
- indicate decisions to the Referee with the following signals: a goal by raising a green flag; a point by raising a white flag; a wide by outstretched arms; a forty-five metre free by standing where the sliotar crossed the end-line and raising one arm; a parallelogram infringement by crossing arms in the sign of an "X";
- give the Referee any assistance she/he may seek in relation to play in the area; and
- draw the Referee's attention to any Rule infringements.

Where possible, Goal Umpires should wear an umpire's coat unless otherwise agreed by Ard Chomhairle.

### 43. Duties and Powers of Line Umpires

43.1. There must be one Line Umpire on either side of the field of play. They must change sides at half-time.

43.2. The Line Umpire must:

- make a decision on where the sliotar crosses the side-line and which team is entitled to the consequent side-line puck;
- indicate decisions to the Referee with the following signals:
- raise a flag and point it in the direction in which the side-line puck is to be taken; point to the spot from which the side-line puck is to be taken;
- raise the flag upright in the event of a clashed sliotar, or if unable to decide which team put the sliotar out of play; point to the spot at which the Referee should throw in the sliotar;
- give the Referee any assistance she/he may seek in relation to play;
- draw the Referee's attention to any Rule infringements.

43.3. Where possible, Line Umpires should wear regulation uniform or a tracksuit.

43.4. Where appropriate the committee in charge will appoint a Fourth and Fifth Official. The fourth official administers full substitutions and blood substitutions from both teams. On behalf of the Referee s/he indicates time added on. The Fifth Official announces the substitutions entering the field of play and time added on.

### 44. Penalties

#### 44.1. *Player/official/mentor dismissal*

44.1.1. A player dismissed from the field of play during a match by the Referee will stand suspended until the decision of the Transfers Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is advised to her per Rule 27. Subject to the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee, the player may be further suspended at their discretion and where applicable in accordance with Rule 44.1.2 below.

44.1.1.a There are three exceptions to Rule 44.1.1

- (i) Where the player waives her right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The player must notify in writing, no later

than seven days, of her dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

- (ii) Where an official/mentor waives her/his right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The official/mentor must notify in writing within 7 days of her/his incident/dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her/his decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.
- (iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (i). If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee.

44.1.2. The following mandatory penalties apply in the following circumstances:

- a. Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a Referee's decision
  - An automatic two match ban for the player or official in the competition that the offence took place.
- b. To use abusive or threatening language, gestures or behaviour, (including but not limited to anything which could be construed as sectarian, racist or homophobic), towards a Referee, match official, any player or team official.
  - An automatic two match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in. For the purposes of a match ban tournaments and challenge/friendly games are not considered official competitions.
  - The Unit which the player/official was representing in competition will be fined €100 for a first offence. The fine will increase by €100 for each subsequent guilty offence within the calendar year, i.e. for the 3rd guilty offence in same year the fine will be €300

- Should the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
- c. Punching, hitting (without a hurley) or kicking a player in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental
  - An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
- d. Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
  - An automatic 48 weeks suspension from all Camogie membership and activity.
- e. Striking a player with a hurley in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
  - An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.

In the case of a. to e. above, all penalties will carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Ard Chomhairle auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Ard Chomhairle as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Provincial Council auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Provincial Council as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under County Board auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by County Board as the Committee in Charge.

#### **44.2. Player playing illegally (also see Rule 28.4 for breaches of underage eligibility)**

- 44.2.1 A player adjudged guilty of the offence of knowingly playing illegally with a Club or team in any of the following circumstances will be

suspended by the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee for a period of 3 months. An investigation must be undertaken to ascertain whether the player knowingly played illegally. The team with which the player played illegally must forfeit the match to its opponents.

- 44.2.2. The following penalties will be imposed by the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee (THDC) on a Unit adjudged guilty of fielding an illegal or suspended player, players or team:

- The team must forfeit the match to its opponents and may be disqualified from the remainder of the competition in question;
- Team Officials responsible will, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least three months;
- Unit Officers will, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least three months.

- 44.2.3. Where a competition is confined to a specific underage group, the following penalties will be imposed by the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee (THDC) on a Unit adjudged guilty of fielding an illegal player, players or team:

- The team must forfeit the match to its opponents and may be disqualified from the remainder of the competition in question;
- Team Officials responsible will, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least six months;
- Unit Officers will, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least six months.

#### **44.3. Player leaving field without Referee's permission**

- 44.3.1. A player who leaves the field before the end of a match without the Referee's permission will stand suspended until the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is advised to her as per Rule 27.7. Subject to the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee, the player may be further suspended at their discretion.

- 44.3.2. A team which leaves the field before the end of a match without the Referee's permission, or which refuses to continue with the match, will stand suspended until the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is advised to the team per Rule 27.7. Subject to the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee, further suspensions may be issued at their discretion.

**45. Power to impose penalties  
when not stated**

Where a definite penalty is not stated under the foregoing or any other Rules, the power to impose penalties is vested in the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committees.







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