COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Competition Regulations of G.A.A. Handball, revised and corrected up to date, and published by authority of the GAA Handball Central Council. This publication replaces all previous versions published.

NOTE:

These are included for record purposes only. They shall not be construed so as to form part of the Constitution. They are subject to amendment by Central Council in accordance with General Rule NOT by way of Motion to Annual General Meeting.

CONTENTS:	**Rule:**	**Page**:
Permits for Tournaments	Rule 46	2
Championships	Rule 47-58	2
County Colours	Rule 59	9
Championships & Competitions	Rule 60	9

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PERMITS FOR TOURNAMENTS

46.

(A) All county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the County CCC.

(B) All provincial inter-county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the Provincial CCC

(C) All National inter-county tournaments, challenge matches etc, must have the sanction of the National CCC

(D) That Handball, as a virtual non-contact sport, is suitable for Female players to take part in organised challenge games/tournaments/training, playing with both male/female partners/opponents, organised in accordance with the requirements of (i), (ii), & (iii).

CHAMPIONSHIPS

47.

The following **All-Ireland Championships** shall be promoted each year where facilities offer:

(A) (i) Senior Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.
(ii) Men's only Senior Hardball Singles and Doubles.

(B) (i) Intermediate Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.
(ii) Men's only Intermediate Hardball Singles and Doubles.

(C) (i) Junior Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.
(ii) Men's only Junior Hardball Singles and Doubles.

(D) (i) Minor Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.
(ii) Minor Boys Hardball Singles and Doubles.

(E) Under 21 Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.

(F) Junior B Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.

(G) Over 35 A & B Singles and Doubles 40x20 & 60x30 Championship.
- (i) Over 35 'A' - Confined to players over 35 years of age.
- (ii) Over 35 'B' - Confined to players over 35 years of age, who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, 35B, Masters or Senior

All-Ireland titles.

(H) Masters Singles and Doubles and Masters “A” and “B” Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles. (Over 40).

(i) Masters 'A' - Open to players over 40 years of age.

(ii) Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 40 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21,Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.

(I) Silver Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 45).

(i) Silver Masters 'A' - Open to players over 45 years of age.

(ii) Silver Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 45 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B, or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.

(J) Golden Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 50).

(i) Golden Masters 'A' - Open to players over 50 years of age.

(ii) Golden Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 50 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21,Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.

(K) Emerald Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 55).

(i) Emerald Masters 'A' - Open to players over 55 years of age.

(ii) Emerald Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 55 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21,Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.

(L) Diamond Masters 'A' and 'B' Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 60).

(i) Diamond Masters 'A' - Open to players over 60 years of age.

(ii) Diamond Masters 'B' - Confined to players over 60 years of age who have not won Minor, Under 21,Junior B, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Over 35 A or B or any Masters 'A' or 'B' All-Ireland titles.

(M) Ruby Masters A Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles (Over 65).

(i) Over 70s Singles and Doubles championships in 40x20 and 60x30 grades.

(N) Junior B, Junior and Open Team of Four 60x30 and 40x20 All-Ireland Club Championships.

(O) The Irish Handball Council shall organise Inter-Club Championships in Novice, Junior and Open in 60 x 30 and 40x20. Each team to consist of four players and one substitute. Duplication in different teams is not permitted. Regulations for the Inter Club Championships shall be decided each year by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

(P) All players are confined to one grade of singles or doubles in inter-county competition in 40x20, Softball and Hardball in any one year, except players competing in the Senior championship who can also compete in their own grade, and players in Masters grades who do not have a doubles partner in their grade in their own county who can play singles in their own grade and play doubles in another grade, for which they are eligible, with a player from their own county.

(Q) **Juvenile Championships** under the jurisdiction of the Central Council shall be held each year in Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles. The All-Ireland 40x20 Championships to be completed by 30th April each year and the 60x30 Championships by 15 November each year. All-Ireland Juvenile Championships in the following age groups will apply:

(i) Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 Grades: The Under 15 is for non-winners of gold, silver or bronze medals at Under 14 and non-winners of gold at Under 15. The Under 17 grade is for non-winners of gold, silver or bronze medals at Under 14 or Under 16 and non-winners of gold medals at Under 15 or Under 17. Duplication is not permitted i.e. a player may not play in both Singles and Doubles nor in more than one age group in the same year. A player defeated in an earlier round may not be used as a substitute in the same year.

(ii) Under 12/13Team of Six Championships in Softball and 40x20. Teams to consist of three Under 12 and three Under 13 players who have not represented their county at Under 14 level or over.

(iii) Under 14/15 Team of Six Championships in Softball and 40x20. Teams to consist of three Under 14 and three Under 15 players who have not won a provincial championship in any age group.

(iv) Under 16/17 Team of Four championships in Softball and 40x20. Teams to consist of two Under 16 players and two Under 17 players who have not won a provincial championship in any age group, including Team events.

(v) All counties competing in 40/20 and 60/30 Inter County team championship All-Ireland semi- finals and finals, must submit the names of the players on their team; six in U12/13, six in U14/15 and four in U16/17 to the GAA Handball Office not later than the Monday prior to the scheduled fixture, Penalty for failure to comply; removal from championship.

(R) **Inter-provincial Girls Team of 6 & 10 Competitions. 60x30 Team of 6**

a) A team consists of 6 players, two at each age group at Under 13, Under 15 & Under 17
b) Order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17
c) Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before game before play commences
d) Each pair play two games to 15 aces
e) The aggregate score decides the winner

f) In the event of a tie any two players from each side play a tie-breaker to 11 points,
g) Full Playing rules apply

40x20 Team of 10

(a) A team consists of 10 players, two at each age group at Under 13, 14, 15, 16 & Under 17
(b) Order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17
(c) Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before game before play commences
(d) Each pair play two games to 15 aces
(e) The aggregate score decides the winner
(f) In the event of a tie any two players from each side play a tiebreaker to 11 points.
(g) Full Playing rules apply

(S) **County Championships**

(i) Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Junior B, Minor and Juvenile in Hardball, Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles.
(ii) Team Championships
(iii) Players can only compete in two grades of competition in 40x20, Softball and Hardball in any one year.

48.

UNDER-AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

(A) A minor player must be under 18 years of age on 1 January of the current year's championship.
(B) The Under 21 Championships are confined to players in the 17-21 age bracket. Players must be 17 years of age or over and under 21 years of age on 1 January of the year of the championship.
(C) Juveniles: In all championships and competitions the players must be the specified age on 1 January of the year of the championship or competition.
(D) The age qualification for overage Championships shall be based on the qualifying age being reached in the year of the Championship.

49.

GRADING

(A) There shall be separate grading for all Softball, Hardball and 40x20 Championships.

(i) A player who has represented his/her county in any code at senior level may be re-graded by his/her Provincial Council and subject to ratification by Central Council provided he/she has not won an All-Ireland Championship in that grade.
(ii) Re-grading in 60 x 30 or 40x20 codes is subject to sanction of the County Committee, Provincial Council and Central Council.
(iii) A player winning an All-Ireland Singles, or Doubles Championship may still play in the same grade, provided he/she has participated in the Championship prior to winning the All-Ireland title, i.e. promoted immediately on winning the All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship unless still involved in the Singles or Doubles Championship.

(B) The Junior B Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championship shall be confined to the following players:

(i) A Junior B shall not have won a Provincial and/or All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship in Minor, Under 21, Junior B, Junior, Intermediate or Senior.
(ii) A Junior B shall not have won an All-Ireland Championship in Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', or Golden Masters 'A' or 'B'.
(iii) A Junior B shall not have played on a Junior, Senior or Open All-Ireland Club Championship winning team.
(iv) A Junior B shall not have won an Under 14 or Under 16 All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship.
(v) A Junior B shall not have represented his/her county in Junior, Intermediate or Senior Singles or Doubles Championship (unless subsequently re-graded).
(vi) A Junior B shall be over 16 years of age.
(vii) A Junior B, having commenced a playing year in that grade, retains Junior B status for the duration of the year, regardless of the number of Junior B Championships, provincial or national, he may win in the course of that year.
(viii) That Ladies Junior B All Ireland Singles and Doubles Championship in 40x20 and 60x30 be confined to players who have not won a Ladies All Ireland Junior B Singles or Doubles Championship or any All Ireland championship above this grade. Provincial Junior B Championship success does not rule a player from competing in the Ladies Junior B Championship in the years following said success.

(C) The Junior Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championships shall be confined to the following players:

(i) Players who have won an Under 14 or Under 16 All-Ireland Championship in Singles or Doubles.
(ii) Players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or Junior B Provincial Championship in Singles or Doubles.
(iii) Players who have won a Junior All-Ireland Club Championship.
(iv) Players who have won a Junior B Singles or Doubles All-Ireland Championship.
(v) A Junior player in Singles or Doubles Championship shall not have won a Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate or Senior All-Ireland Championship and shall not have represented his/her county in the Intermediate or Senior Championships.

(D) The Intermediate Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championships shall be confined to the following players:

(i) Players who have won a Minor or Under 21 or Junior All-Ireland Singles or Doubles Championship.

(E) In Doubles a player must play with a partner from his/her own county. A player who is not eligible to play in the Senior grade may play Senior Doubles to partner a player who is eligible to do so and also play in his/her own grade.(without affecting their grading) A Senior is a player who has represented his/her county in the Senior All-Ireland Championships and/or won: an Intermediate or Senior men's Singles or Doubles All Ireland title or a Ladies Junior Singles or Doubles All Ireland title.

60x30 Softball:

(h) The All-Ireland 60 x 30 Senior Singles and Doubles Championships shall be open to all players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or adult All-Ireland title in that code, seeding to apply. Players who take part in the Senior championship may compete in one other grade if they are eligible to do so.

40x20:

(i) The All-Ireland 40x20 Senior Singles and Doubles Championships shall be open to all players who have won a Minor, Under 21 or adult All-Ireland title in that code, seeding to apply. Players who take part in the Senior championship may compete in one other grade if they are eligible to do so.

(F) All-Ireland Club Championships

(i) A player in the All-Ireland Junior B Club Championships must be eligible to play Junior B in the Singles or Doubles Championship and not have played on a Junior B Club Championship winning team.
(ii) A player in the All-Ireland Junior Championships must be eligible to play

Junior B or Junior in the Singles and Doubles Championships and must not have played on a Junior Club Championship winning team.
(iii) The Open Club Championships are open to all grades of player.

50. (A) All-Ireland Championships shall be decided on the one-day match system.

51.

(A) Entries for the All-Ireland championships must be made by County Committees to the Provincial Council or, where there is no County Committee, by the Club, on or before the date specified, except in the case of all grades of Hardball, and in Senior Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles, where entries are sent direct to the Central Council by the County Committee or, where there is no County Committee, by the Club.

(B) Entries must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fees.

(C) Entries not accompanied by the appropriate fees shall not be entertained.

52.

(A) The All-Ireland Ladies Senior Softball and 40x20 Singles and Doubles Championships shall be run on an Open Draw system.

(B) The Senior, Junior and Minor Hardball Singles and Doubles Championships shall be run on an Open Draw system.

53. The Ladies Intermediate, Junior, Junior B and Minor championships in Softball and 40x20 shall be run on a provincial format.

54. The 40x20 championships shall be played in the period of March to May each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

55. The All-Ireland Senior Softball Singles and Doubles Championships shall be played in the period of July to September each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

56. The All-Ireland Open Hardball Championships shall be played in the period May/June each year unless there are extenuating circumstances. Multiple entries from counties are allowed in each grade where eligible.

57. Eye-guards shall be compulsory in all grades of hardball and up to 18 years of age, including Minor in softball.

COUNTY COLOURS

58. Each county shall register annually with the Central Council its distinctive county colours, which shall be worn in all inter-county matches. Counties shall also register alternative colours or an alternative combination of their original colours. Where the controlling Council determines that a similarity of colours occurs, the two counties shall wear their alternative colours or other colours authorised or directed by the Council.

Penalty:

(a) €38.00 for a first offence.

(b) €63.50 for any subsequent offence/s by the same player/team.

CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

59. That in the case where a player cannot fulfill a championship game, including Senior, (except in the case of the death of an immediate family member) on the dates outlined in the National Clar then the County must field a substitute or concede the match. However if the opposing county is willing to refix the match, then it shall be played at a venue nominated by the opposing county.

60. The following All-Ireland Championships shall be promoted each year where facilities offer: (A) One Wall Singles, in accordance with the present trial format as decided by CCCC.

61. The Central Council shall be the promoting body for all Championships and Competitions organised on an All-Ireland basis, subject to the directions of Annual Congress, and shall be empowered to formulate and administer the rules governing such Championships and Competitions.

62. That in Juvenile All Ireland Championship competition, that an All-Ireland Final cannot be refereed by a fellow club member of any of the players contesting the final.