



## 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:

All Rules set out below are binding on all Units of GAA Handball. They do NOT form part of the Constitution of GAA Handball, and they are subject to amendment by Central Council in accordance with General Rule, NOT by way of Motion to Annual General Meeting.

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## **1. Internal County Championship**

It is envisaged that County championships will mirror the national structures where feasible. However, Counties may run additional competitions. In such instances bye laws must be submitted for approval by Ard Chomairle.

## **2. Adult All Ireland Championships**

Adult All-Ireland Championships under the jurisdiction of the Ard Comhairle shall be held each year in 4-Wall, 1-Wall (Certain Grades Only) & Hardball (Certain Grades Only) and Softball Singles and Doubles and to be completed according to the annual Clár, with the following stipulations:

- (A) A minimum of 8 Entries per Grade in any All-Ireland Championship. If the minimum number is not reached with Inter-County representatives in any Grade, then the All-Ireland Championship will not be held for that Grade; those Entries will move down to the nearest relevant Grade until such time as the minimum number is reached.
- (B) Players can only compete in one grade of singles and one grade of doubles competition in each of the following in any one year:
  - (i) 1-Wall.
  - (ii) Hardball.
- (C) The following Grades, U21, Junior and Intermediate can enter the Senior Singles and Doubles Championship and play their own Grade also in:
  - (i) 4-Wall
  - (ii) Softball.
- (D) Senior 4-Wall, Hardball and Softball Singles and Doubles.
  - (i) 1-Wall Singles
- (E) Intermediate 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles.
- (F) Junior 4-Wall, Hardball and Softball Singles and Doubles.
  - (i) 1-Wall Singles
- (G) Minor 4-Wall, Hardball and Softball Singles and Doubles.
  - (i) 1-Wall Singles
- (H) Under 21 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles.
- (I) Junior B 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles.
  - (i) 1 Wall Singles
- (J) Over 35 Singles and Doubles 4-Wall & Softball Championship.
  - (i) Over 35 - Confined to players over 35 years of age. Must have not won a Provincial Singles in Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate, Masters (all overage) or Senior. Or an All-Ireland Singles titles U14, U16, Junior B, O35B.

**(K)** Masters Singles and Doubles and Masters “A” and “B” 4-Wall, Hardball and Softball Singles & Doubles. (Over 40).

- (i) 1-Wall Singles (“A” & “B” Combined)
- (ii) Masters 'A' - Open to players over 40 years of age.
- (iii) 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.

**(L)** Silver Masters 'A' and 'B' 4-Wall and Softball 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.

**(M)** Golden Masters 'A' and 'B' 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles (Over 50).

- (i) 1-Wall Singles (“A” & “B” Combined)
- (ii) Golden Masters 'A' - Open to players over 50 years of age.
- (iii) 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.

**(N)** Emerald Masters 'A' and 'B' 4-Wall and Softball 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.

**(O)** Diamond Masters 'A' and 'B' 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles (Over 60).

- (i) 1-Wall Singles (“A” & “B” Combined)
- (ii) Diamond Masters 'A' - Open to players over 60 years of age.
- (iii) 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.

**(P)** Ruby Masters 4-Wall and Softball Singles and Doubles (Over 65).

**(Q)** Over 70s Singles and Doubles Championships in 4-Wall and Softball Grades.

### **3. Adult Team Championships**

(A) GAA Handball Ireland shall organise Inter-Club Championships in Junior B, Junior and Senior in 4-Wall and Softball.

(i) Regulations for the Inter Club Championships shall be decided each year by the Central Competitions Control Committee (CCCC).

(ii) Each team to consist of four players and one substitute.

(iii) Duplication in different teams is not permitted.

(iv) The order of play is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Singles = 2 x 15 points

Doubles = 2 x 15 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Singles = 2 x 15 points

(v) Before the match commences each team shall exchange lists showing the team members in the order of play, plus a substitute if available.

(vi) Accumulated scores shall decide the winner. In the event of a tie, any pair from each team shall play one game of 15 points to decide the winner.

#### **Substitute – Explained**

If a game has commenced and a player gets injured, the named sub can take his place for the remainder of the game – only 1 sub can be used in a match and the injured player cannot return to the court once the sub has been used.

The same rule applies if a player gets injured during the warmup.

In the event of a match being tied after the 3 games are played, the sub can be used in the tie break, even if he has not played earlier in the match.

In the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a scoreline of 15-0.

## 4. Juvenile All Ireland Championships

Juvenile All-Ireland Championships under the jurisdiction of the Ard Chomairle shall be held each year in 4-Wall, 1-Wall (Certain Grades Only) and Softball Singles and Doubles and to be completed according to the annual Clár.

### 1. 4-Wall and Softball

- (i) Under 14 Singles & Doubles
- (ii) Under 15 Singles & Doubles
- (iii) Under 16 Singles & Doubles
- (iv) Under 17 Singles & Doubles

### 2. 1-Wall, as decided by CCCC

3. The Under 15 is for non-winners of Provincial Gold at U14 or All-Ireland Gold at Under 15.

4. The Under 17 is for non-winners of Provincial Gold at Under 14 or Under 16 or All-Ireland Gold at Under 15 or Under 17.

5. 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.

6. A player defeated in an earlier round may not be used as a substitute in the same year.

### 7. U14 – U17 Championships Playing Rules

- (A) Full playing rules apply to Championships in both 4-Wall and 60x30. Singles and Doubles matches are for the best of three games of 15 points at Under 12, Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 levels and of two games of 21 points and a tie breaker to 11 at Under 16 and Under 17 levels.
- (B) A game shall be won by the first side scoring 15/21 points as at (i) above.
- (C) Under 14 players shall play with the Challenger No. 3 Ball in 60x30 and the Dark Blue Ball in 4-Wall\*
- (D) Under 15 and Under 16 players shall play with the Dark Blue Ball in 4-Wall and the standard softball in 60x30\*
- (E) Under 17 players shall play with the standard adult ball in 4-Wall\*\* and the standard softball in 60x30\*

*\* In the Girls 60x30 the standard ball for U13-U17 age groups is the Challenger 3 ball.*

*\*\* In the Girls 4-Wall the standard ball for the U17 age group is the Dark Blue ball.*

- (F) Gloves and eye-guards are mandatory in the 4-Wall court. Gloves are optional in the 60x30 court, but eye-guards are compulsory for players up to and including Under 18 level.
- (G) A referee shall not allow a player(s) not complying with the foregoing rule to commence a game.

## **8. Competitions/Championships up to U13 Level**

Championships/Competitions are promoted by County Boards and Provincial Councils for players of 13 years of age and under.

- (A) All players Under 12 use the Challenger No. 2 Ball in 4-Wall and 60x30. Players Under 13 use the Challenger No. 3 Ball in 60x30 and Dark Blue Ball in 4-Wall.
- (B) Full rules apply for Under 13.
- (C) Gloves are mandatory in 4-Wall and eye-guards are mandatory in Softball and 4-Wall.
- (D) Full rules apply for players Under 12 in 4-Wall.
- (E) For players Under 12 in 60x30:
  - (i) The service (inside) line shall be the short line and the player shall serve between the service lines.
  - (ii) A ball reaching the back wall in service before the second hop shall be a "dead ball" and shall not count.
  - (iii) Games are to 15 points.

## **5. Juvenile Team Championships**

### **(A) 4-Wall & Softball Boys Team of 6 U12/13**

1. Under 12/13 Team of Six Championships in 4-Wall and Softball.  
Teams consist of three Under 12 and three Under 13 players who have not represented their County at Under 14 level or over.
2. All counties competing in 4-Wall and Softball Inter-County Team Championship All-Ireland semi- finals and finals, must submit the names of the players on their team of; six in U12/13 and six in U14/15 to the GAA Handball Office not later than the Monday prior to the scheduled Fixture. (Penalty for failure to comply, removal from Championship)
3. A team comprises of 6 players (three of whom must be Under 12) and two substitutes.
4. The team plays in three doubles partnerships of any combination.
5. Each pair plays two games to 15 points.
6. The aggregate score decides the winner.
7. In the event of a tie, each team will select a pair to play tiebreaker to 11 points.
8. Full rules apply in both 4-Wall and 60x30.
9. The Challenger No 2 is the official ball in 4-Wall and Challenger No 3 is the official ball in 60x30.
10. Players must wear eye-guards and gloves in 4-Wall and eye-guards in 60x30 with gloves optional.
11. In the juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.

Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

**(B) 4-Wall & Softball Boys Team of 6 U14/15**

1. Under 14/15 Team of Six Championships in 4-Wall and Softball. Teams to consist of three Under 14 and three Under 15 players who have not won a provincial Championship in any age group.
2. All counties competing in 4-Wall and Softball Inter-County Team Championship All-Ireland semi- finals and finals, must submit the names of the players on their team of; six in U12/13 and six in U14/15 to the GAA Handball Office not later than the Monday prior to the scheduled Fixture. (Penalty for failure to comply, removal from Championship)
3. A team comprises of 6 players (three of whom must be Under 14) and two substitutes.
4. The team plays in three doubles partnerships of any combination.
5. Each pair plays two games to 15 points.
6. The aggregate score decides the winner.
7. In the event of a tie, each team will select a pair to play tiebreaker to 11 points.
8. Full rules apply in both 4-Wall and 60x30.
9. The Dark Blue Ball is the official ball in 4-Wall and the adult ball is the official ball in 60x30.
10. Players must wear eye-guards and gloves in 4-Wall and eye-guards in 60x30 with gloves optional.
11. In the juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.  
Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.



#### **(C) 4-Wall & Softball Boys Team of 4 U16/U17**

1. Under 16/17 Team of Four Championships in 4-Wall and Softball. 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.
2. All counties competing in 4-Wall and Softball Inter-County Team Championship All-Ireland semi-finals and finals, must submit the names of the players on their team of; 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)
3. A team comprises of 4 players (two of whom must be Under 16) and two substitutes.
4. The team plays in three doubles partnerships of any combination.
5. Each pair plays two games to 15 points.
6. The aggregate score decides the winner.
7. In the event of a tie, each team will select a pair to play tiebreaker to 11 points.
8. Full rules apply in both 4-Wall and 60x30.
9. The adult ball is the official ball in 4-Wall and 60x30.
10. Players must wear eye-guards and gloves in 4-Wall and eye-guards in 60x30 with gloves optional.
11. In the juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.  
Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

**(D) Softball Interprovincial Girls Team of 6**

1. A team consists of 6 players, two in each age group at Under 13, Under 15 & Under 17.
2. The order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17.
3. Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before play commences.
4. Each pair plays two games to 15 aces.
5. Total aces scored minus total aces conceded decides the winner.
6. If a Round Robin is to be played, Rule C (5) is replaced as follows. Where only 3 provinces are represented, one point awarded per game won. If teams are level on points, then the place is decided by total aces scored minus total aces conceded.
7. In the event of a tie in (5) or (6), any combination of two players from each Team play a tiebreaker to 11 points.
8. Full Playing rules apply.
9. **Ball:** Challenger 3     **Eye-Guards & Gloves:** Mandatory
10. In the juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.  
Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

**(E) 4-Wall Interprovincial Girls Team of 10**

1. A team consists of 10 players, two in each age group at Under 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17.
2. The order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17.
3. Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before play commences.
4. Each pair plays two games to 15 aces.
5. Total aces scored minus total aces conceded decides the winner.
6. If a Round Robin is to be played, Rule D (5) is replaced as follows. Where only 3 provinces are represented, one point awarded per game won. If teams are level on points, then the place is decided by total aces scored minus total aces conceded.
7. In the event of a tie in (5) or (6), any combination of two players from each Team play a tiebreaker to 11 points.
8. Full Playing rules apply.
9. **Ball:** Dark Blue **Eye-Guards & Gloves:** Mandatory
10. In the juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.

Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

#### **(F) Gael Linn 4-Wall Mixed Doubles**

1. The competition is for mixed pairs at Under 13 level (on 1<sup>st</sup> January of year of competition).
2. One entry per Club. A team consists of one boy and one girl.
3. Provincial competitions will be held to decide on two teams from each province for the All-Ireland competition.
4. Defeated All-Ireland quarterfinalists will play in a Sólaís competition.  
The format will be timed games as follows:  
Girl v Girl 10 minutes  
Boy v Boy 10 minutes  
Pair v Pair 15 minutes

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5. Accumulated score decides the winners.
6. In the event of a tie, the teams will play one doubles game to 11 points to decide the winner.
7. Juvenile playing rules apply.
8. **Ball:** Challenger 2    **Eye-Guards & Gloves:** Mandatory

(Note: Úsáid na Gaeilge is to be encouraged during the competition. Terms such as isteach, amach, fada, scór, aon, liathróid, cluiche and simple phrases should be used.)

## **(G) Boys Colleges (4-Wall & 60x30 Championships)**

### **1. First Years**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to Provincial level only for pupils in their first year in Second Level education.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Dark Blue Softball – Challenger 3

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

### **2. Junior**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to All-Ireland level for pupils Under 15 on 1st September at start of School Year.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Dark Blue Softball – Challenger 3

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

### **3. Intermediate**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to All-Ireland level for pupils Under 17 on 1st September at start of School Year.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Adult Ball Softball – Adult Ball

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

### **4. Senior**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to All-Ireland level for pupils Under 19 on 1st September at start of School Year.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Adult Ball Softball – Adult Ball

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

## **(H) Girls Colleges (4-Wall & 60x30 Championships)**

### **1. First Years**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to Provincial level only for pupils in their first year in Second Level education.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Dark Blue Softball – Challenger 3

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

### **2. Junior**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to All-Ireland level for pupils Under 16 on 1st September at start of School Year.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Dark Blue Softball – Challenger 3

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

### **3. Senior**

#### **Competitions:**

Singles and Doubles to All-Ireland level for pupils Under 19 on 1st September at start of School Year.

**Scoring:** Best of 3 games to 15 points.

**Ball:** 4-Wall – Dark Blue Softball – Challenger 3

**Gloves:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Optional

**Eye-guards:** 4-Wall – Compulsory Softball – Compulsory

## **(B) Feile na nGael**

1. Club team of four players in two pairs and one substitute, team and substitute can interchange before each match. Team in order of play to be supplied to the referee before each match. (The order of play may be changed for second or subsequent matches).
2. If a player gets injured during a game the substitute is allowed to take the injured player's place.
3. Each pair plays one game to 21 aces or maximum of 15 minutes game, with a point for each win. (If a game ends in a draw after 15 minutes, then a half point shall be given to each team). The first service is decided on the toss of a coin. The team receiving in the first game will have first service in the second game.
4. When two or more teams in a group tie on points, the placings are decided on total aggregate aces (Total points scored first, then subtract scores against, highest aggregate will be awarded highest placing). Where aggregate scores are still equal, a play-off to 11 aces between any pair from each side decides the placing's.
5. In case of a tie in any final, rules as in 4 apply. First service to be decided on the toss of a coin.
6. Full playing rules apply in all games for divisions 1 - 4 of the boys and 1 – 2 of the girls (As there is a time element to this competition, no time outs are allowed and each player can only serve 1 fault before it's a hand/side out, i.e. if player 1 serves a short ball it's a serve out and player 2 serve's, if player 2 serve's a long serve it's a hand out).
7. For divisions 5 & 6 in the boys and division 3 of the girls, National Cumann na mBunscol rules apply:
  - In doubles Pair A serves twice, player A, then B, on their next rotation in player B serves first, then A.
  - One foul is allowed.
  - Rally Scoring applies.
  - Outside of these normal handball rules apply.
8. If a player serves the ball and it hits their partner before crossing the short line then a hinder is called. But if a player serves two consecutive hinders this results in a handout.
9. Féile is a Boys or a Girls event - no mixed teams allowed.
10. Teams wear Club colours in all matches unless requested to change when colours clash.
11. Teams must comprise of Players who are over 11 and under 15 years of age on 1st January in the year of the competition. In 2023 players eligible must be born in, 2008, 2009, 2010, or 2011.
12. The following balls will be used in each code.
  - (i) In the 4-Wall competition the Dark Blue Ball is used for Divisions 1-4 boys & 1-2 girls.
  - (ii) In the 4-Wall competition the Challenger 2 Ball is used for Division 5-6 & girls 3.
  - (iii) In the 60x30 (Softball) competition the Challenger 3 Ball is used.
  - (iv) In the 1-Wall Ball competition the One Wall Ball is used.

(Note: Feile rules may change each year as per the National Feile or Handball Feile Committee and sanctioned by CCCC)

## **6. Championships / Competitions Qualification & Age Criteria**

- (A) A minor player must be 17 years of age or under or celebrate his/her 18th birthday on the 1st of January or after, of the current year's Championship.
- (B) The Under 21 Championships are confined to players in the 18-21 age bracket. Players must be 18 years of age or over and under 21 years of age on 1 January of the year of the Championship.
- (C) Juveniles: in all underage 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 the Overage Adult Championships shall be based on the qualifying age being reached in the year of the Championship.
- (E) Players in Adult Inter-County Championships shall have celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the Championship year.
- (F) Players in Adult Inter-Club Championships shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship year.

## **7. Grading**

- (A) There shall be separate Grading for all 4-Wall, 1-Wall, Softball and Hardball Championships.
- (B) Players are confined to one Grade of Singles or Doubles in Inter-County Competition in 1-Wall and Hardball.
- (C) The following Grades, U21, Junior and Intermediate can enter the Senior Singles and Doubles Championship and play their own Grade also.
- (D) 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 Ard Comhairle provided he/she has not won an All-Ireland Championship in that Grade. Any player can only be re-Graded once.
- (E) Re-Grading in 4-Wall, 1-Wall and Softball Codes is subject to sanction of the County Committee, Provincial Council and Ard Comhairle.
- (F) A player retains his/her Grade for the duration of that Championship year and is not promoted on winning an All-Ireland title until the start of the next Championship year in that Code.

**(G) Junior 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 O35 'A' or 'B', Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', or Golden Masters 'A' or 'B', Emerald Masters 'A' or 'B', Diamond Masters 'A' or 'B'.
- (iii) A Junior B shall not have won a Junior or Senior All-Ireland Inter Club Championship.
- (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 their County in Junior, Intermediate or Senior Singles or Doubles Championship (Unless Subsequently Re-Graded).
- (vi) A Junior B player must be over 18 years of age, except when competing in the Inter-Club Championship.
- (vii) That Ladies Junior B All Ireland Singles and Doubles Championship in 4-Wall and Softball 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.

**(H) Junior**

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 B Singles or Doubles All-Ireland Championship.
- (iv) A Junior player in Singles or Doubles Championship shall not have won a Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate or Senior All-Ireland Championship.
- (v) A Junior player must be over 18 years of age, except when competing in the Inter-Club Championships.

**(I) Intermediate**

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.
- (ii) Players who have won a Junior All-Ireland Inter Club Championship.
- (iii) An Intermediate player must be over 18 years of age.



#### **(J) Definition of a Senior Player**

- (i) A Senior is a player who has won, Intermediate or Senior Singles or Doubles All Ireland title.

#### **(K) Senior Eligibility in 4-Wall and Softball:**

- (i) The All-Ireland 4-Wall/Softball 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.
- (ii) The following grades can enter the Senior Championship and play in their own grade also, U21, Junior and Intermediate. (This only applies to 4-Wall and Softball.)

#### **(L) Junior Eligibility in 4-Wall and Softball:**

- (i) Players who have won a Junior B All Ireland Inter Club Championship can elect to play Junior.

#### **(M) Masters Grades Eligibility**

- (i) Masters Grades are defined by being 40 years of age in the championship year or over.
- (ii) Players are confined to either the A or B Championship in any one Code, they may not compete in both.
- (iii) Players in Masters Grades who do not have a Doubles partner in their Grade, can play Singles in their own Grade and play Doubles in another Grade, for which they are eligible.

#### **(N) All-Ireland Inter 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 an All-Ireland Junior B/Junior/Senior 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 an All-Ireland Junior/Senior Club Championship winning team.
- (iii) The Senior Club Championships are open to all Grades of players.
- (iv) All Inter-Club Championship players shall have celebrated their 17th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship year.

## 8. All Ireland Championships and National Competitions General

- (A) Ard Comhairle shall be the promoting body for all Championships and Competitions organised on an All-Ireland basis and shall be empowered to formulate and administer the rules governing such Championships, Competitions and National Team Trials.
- (B) The annual Clár is to be drafted by CCCC and ratified by Ard Comhairle.
- (C) The All-Ireland Championships, National Competitions and Team trials format shall be decided annually by CCCC and ratified by Ard Comhairle in.
- (i) 1-Wall
  - (ii) 4-Wall
  - (iii) Softball
  - (iv) Hardball
  - (v) All Inter-Club Championships.
  - (vi) All National Competitions/Tournaments/Team Trials
- (D) The All-Ireland 4-Wall, 1-Wall, Softball and Hardball Championships / National Competition shall be played in the period specified on the National Clár each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- (E) All Ladies Championships and National Competitions shall be decided annually by the Ladies Committee and sanctioned by CCCC and ratified by Ard Comhairle.
- (F) Men's Singles Rankings shall apply to all Championships, Irish Nationals and Ranking Tournaments.
- (i) Any points that a player has accumulated on the National Rankings will decide their seed/position in any of the competitions listed in (8.F) regardless of their Grade.
  - (ii) Masters' Players who have Ranking points, this will determine their Seed/position for the Irish Nationals or Ranking Tournaments. If they opt to play Senior Championship the points that they have accumulated will decide their seed/position.
- (G) Ladies Singles Rankings shall apply to all Championships, Irish Nationals and Ranking Tournaments. [\(See Note Below\)](#)
- (i) Any points that a player has accumulated on the National Rankings will decide their seed/position in any of the competitions listed in (8.G) regardless of their Grade. [\(See Note Below\)](#)
  - (ii) Masters' Players who have Ranking points, this will determine their Seed/position for the Irish Nationals or Ranking Tournaments. If they opt to play Senior Championship the points that they have accumulated will decide their seed/position. [\(See Note Below\)](#)
- [\(Note: Any rules or regulations concerning the ladies' \*\*championships\*\* will be decided by the ladies committee during a trial period and this committee will have the final say on all matters\)](#)
- (H) All National Senior Championships/Competitions shall be done on an Open Draw Format where no Seeding's Policy Exists.
- (i) The previous year's winners will attain the Number one seeding and the runner ups will be number two.
  - (ii) In Doubles, if the same partnership plays together then (H) (i) applies.

- (I) Where Entries are made on behalf of a player or where a player enters themselves either on-line or by other means for Provincial, All Ireland Championships and National Competitions in 4-Wall, 1-Wall, Softball and Hardball, they do so knowingly that it's on behalf of their respective County. They must be approved by their County who must submit confirmation of eligibility of players to their respective Provincial Councils and/or CCCC, within the time frame specified. Failure to do so will result in a player being removed from the competition.
- (i) Where a County has confirmed eligibility, but a player is NOT eligible, a fine of €100 will be imposed per offence, and that player will be disqualified from that Championship.
  - (ii) Counties are responsible for their representatives and for any fines a player may incur during any competition regardless of them entering a competition as an individual.
- (J) Entries for all GAA Handball Competitions/Championships must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fees where applicable. Entries not accompanied by the appropriate fees shall not be entered into the competition.
- (K) A player withdrawing, conceding a walkover or failing to turn up for a game is deemed to have taken part in that Championship and cannot be listed as a replacement or substitute in the same Championship in the same year. Circulated means by email to County secretaries or via GAA Handball website. Championship means any Singles and/or Doubles Championship run by Provincial Council or GAA Handball Ireland. • Applicable to; **Competition Regulations 2. (A), (i) & (ii), (B), (C), (i) & (ii) (D), (i) & (ii), (E), (F), (G), (i) & (ii), (H), (i), (ii) & (iii), (I), (i), (ii), (J) (i), (ii) & (iii), (K), (i) & (ii), (L), (i), (ii) & (iii), (M), (N).**
- (L) A Championship Fixture is an Inter-County Fixture and not an individual Fixture.
- (M) In the Doubles Championship a player must play with a partner from his/her own County.
- (i) Unless in the case of Ladies Doubles where the Ladies committee can form a doubles team from individual entries from the same province. With the following limitations:
  - (ii) The Player in question does not have a partner available in their own County.
  - (iii) Players ranked in the Top 8 at Senior level cannot be paired together, unless they are from the same County. [\(Note: i, ii and iii is for the ladies championship during a trial period\)](#)
- (N) 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 set out in, **Competition Regulations 9. A, B & C).**
- (O) All National GAA Handball Finals will have a referee appointed by the National Referee's Committee and sanctioned by CCCC.
- (P) A referee cannot make an award of a game. The award rests with the relevant Competitions Control Committee acting on the referees' report. **(Reference rule 6.43, Official Guide: Award/Facts of Game)** Moved from Constitution.
- (Q) Where a referee fails to submit their report within a period of 14 days after the game, the Competitions Control Committee in charge has power to deal with the facts of the match, to include any webcast material openly available.

- (R) That in the case where a player cannot fulfill a Championship game, (except in the case of the death of an immediate family member, as per **Competition Regulations, 11. (C)**) on the dates outlined in the National Clár then the County must field a substitute or concede the match. This applies to all Grades.
  - (i) In the event of a county being unable to replace the affected player with a Sub, then the Provincial Runner-Up in that Grade shall be used. This only applies to All-Ireland Semi-Finals.
- (S) The wearing of protective Eye-guards, lensed or un-lensed, shall be compulsory for All Grades in 4-Wall, 1-Wall and Hardball, and for All Juvenile Grades, including Minor in Softball. Eye-guards shall comply with relevant Safety Standards.
- (T) All Players, Coaches, Trainers, Mentors, Parents/Guardians, Supporters, Referee's, and Officials are governed by the rules of GAA Handball and the GAA Code of Behavior.

## 9. Permits for Tournaments

- (A) All National Ranking Events/Tournaments must have the sanction of CCCC. Requests for National Ranking Events must be submitted 40 days prior to the date of the event.
- (B) All Inter County Tournaments/Events must be notified to Provincial Council at least 30 days prior to date of event.
- (C) All Inter Club Tournaments/Events within a County must be notified to the County Committee at least 30 days prior to date of event.

## 10. County Colours

- (A) Each County shall register before the commencement of that year's Championships with GAA Handball & their respective Provincial Councils/Provincial CCC its distinctive Jersey & Shorts with County Colours, through a Digital Image, where applicable. Counties can also register an alternative Jersey & Shorts if they wish. A combination of both sets can be worn in Singles.
- (B) In Doubles Players must have matching Jerseys & Shorts in all Championship matches/games.
- (C) Penalty per player for noncompliance of **Competition Regulations 10. (A) & (B)** are as follows.
  - (i) **€70.00** for a first offence.
  - (ii) **€100.00** for any subsequent offence/s by the same player/team.
- (D) The penalties for noncompliance in all Inter-Club Competitions as set out in **(Rule 10, CLG Liathróid Láimhe Constitution)** are the same as **Competition Regulations 10. C, (i) & (ii)**

## 11. National Fixtures & Postponements Policy

- (A) A Fixture is such only when it has been decided by CCCC when and where a match between two sides is to take place.
- (B) No postponements allowed, (except in the case as outlined in **11 (C)** below.)
- (C) A postponement is allowed only in the case of a death of an immediate family member (Parent, Spouse, Sibling, Child, or Grandparent or other at the discretion of CCCC) and a re-Fixture shall be made no earlier than seven days after the burial, unless by the agreement with the bereaved player.
- (D) Requests for Changes of Date(s) or Seeking a Specific Day scheduled in Clár na Bliana must be submitted on the Official Request Form and comply with the following conditions:
- (i) The request must be submitted to [Competitions.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:Competitions.handball@gaa.ie) and both provincial representatives on CCCC on the Official Request Form, Emailed by the Rúnaí Contae no later than **Midday on the Monday after the provincial finals weekend**.
  - (ii) If a county can accommodate a change of date, then they will have a choice of venue. This only applies to a change of date from the original weekend as per the Clár, not for a specific **day** requested on the original weekend.
  - (iii) If the opposing county cannot accommodate the request for a change of **date**, then the county must field a substitute or concede the match.
  - (iv) As per Clár a weekend fixture is Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
  - (v) Where a county submits a request for a day that doesn't suit the opposing county on the original weekend as specified on the Clár, CCCC will decide the fixture for that original weekend or before if an agreement cannot be reached by both counties and a neutral venue will apply.
- (NOTE: Any request made directly to the office by a player(s) regarding any fixture will not be tolerated under any circumstances.)
- (E) Where a County cannot fulfil a Fixture, the office must be notified immediately and certainly no less than 48 hours before the time of the Fixture. The office shall then notify the opposing County, the venue official, the referee and CCCC.
- (F) If, for genuine reasons, a County cannot fulfil a Fixture and the office is closed (within 48 hours of the Fixture) the Rúnaí Contae must contact his/her counterpart in the opposing County and notify him/her of the County's inability to fulfil the Fixture. He/she must also notify the venue, and the provincial representative on the CCCC.
- (G) A County failing to notify the office, or the opposing County and venue; as per **Competition Regulations 11. (D) or (E)**, CCCC impose a fine of **€70.00**

- (H) Players shall not re-schedule Fixtures between themselves, without first seeking permission from CCCC.
- (i) A fine of €100 per offence will be imposed for breach of **Competition Regulations 11. (G).**
- (I) County officers shall not re-schedule Fixtures already made, without first seeking permission from CCCC.
- (i) A fine of €100 per offence will be imposed for breach of **Competition Regulations 11. (H).**
- (J) All players must check in with the venue official before the allotted start time of their Match. In the case of a multi game program, Players should assume that each match lasts 30min, in order to calculate their match time.
- (i) A player who is more than 30 minutes late for a match start time/calculated start time will have a point deducted from them for every minute they are late and after the second 30 minutes the match will be forfeited.
- (K) All games must be played as per the dates specified on the Clár or before if requested.
- (L) Where possible there will be no standalone Semi-final or Final Fixtures.
- (M) Juvenile All Ireland Semi Finals
- (i) A home venue is a home provincial venue and not necessarily a home county venue.
- (N) In exceptional circumstances the CCCC has the right with a majority consenting to change a Fixture.