

# Cumann Peil Gael na mBan

## The Ladies Gaelic Football Association



### Official Guide

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## **Rules and Constitution**

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

### **Aims and Objectives**

2. The aim of the Association shall be to foster, promote and control Ladies Gaelic Football.
3. The Association shall endeavour to support the advancement of the Irish language and other aspects of Irish culture.
4. The Association shall assist in promoting community development through its clubs at local and parish level.
5. It is recommended that the National Flag be displayed at all matches.

### **General**

6. The Association shall be democratically structured on the basis of:
  - (a) Members
  - (b) Clubs
  - (c) County Committees including Schools and Colleges Committees and any other committees under the control of the County Committee.
  - (d) Provincial Councils
  - (e) Central Council
  - (f) Annual Congress
7. The Central Council and Provincial Council chairperson and vice chairperson shall be titled President and Vice President.
8. The President of each Provincial Council shall be automatically Vice President of Central Council.

9. In the absence of the President of Central Council to chair a meeting, it shall be chaired by the President of the Provincial Council in whose Province the meeting is being held, or another Vice President, or a person nominated by the members at the meeting.
10. In the case of the death or permanent incapacity of the National President, Central Council shall have the authority to appoint from among the Vice Presidents, an acting President, who shall perform the duties of the Presidency, until the next Annual Congress.
11. The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non sectarian and non political. It should co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own.
12. Official correspondence to Provincial and Central Councils in connection with Club and County matters, except in the case of Appeals, must come through the Secretary of the County Committee. If the Secretary is absent, it may come from the Assistant Secretary or from an officer authorised by the committee.
13. All Official Club correspondence must come through the Club Secretary or an Authorised Officer. All official correspondence, including team lists, should preferably be in Irish. However for practical purposes, the English version will suffice.
14. Any irregularities in the affairs of the Association which occurred within the previous 12 months, shall be investigated by the County Committee, Provincial Council, the Management of Central Council or Central Council. The Management Committee shall report to Central Council and the relevant Committee or Council shall deal with the offending parties.
15. In examining any given situation, the Committee or Council in charge shall have recourse to video evidence at its discretion. It shall not be used in relation to the result of a game. Video evidence shall be relevant, authentic and unedited.
16. Payment of Monetary Penalties shall be made within 13 weeks of notification thereof. Failure to do so may result in removal from the Associations activities.
17. Each competing Club, County or Province shall be responsible for the conduct of its members and followers.

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

18. The Secretary shall have charge of correspondence, keeping of records, recording of minutes of meetings and shall submit an annual report at the Annual General Meeting, County or Provincial Convention and Annual Congress.
19. The Treasurer shall have charge of all financial affairs of the Club, County Board, Provincial and Central Council and shall present a financial statement at the Annual Meetings, Conventions and Congress and as requested by the governing bodies. The reports shall also show how the funds are invested.
20. The Committee or Councils represented by the Treasurer, shall furnish a balance sheet of the Accounts for the year just ended, supported by Bank Statements, to the County Committee, Provincial or Central Council on or before the annual County or Provincial Convention and Annual Congress each year. Failure to do so shall involve suspension until they are furnished.

In the absence of a County Committee, these shall be forwarded to Provincial or Central Councils as appropriate.

21. The Registrar shall organise membership and shall submit the list of Club Members to the County Registrar.

## **Voting Procedures**

22. Each county shall be allowed two voting delegates to Provincial and Central Council in addition to any who may hold officership.
23. Should the nominated delegates to Central and Provincial Councils be unable to attend meetings, substitutes may attend, provided they are members of the County Committee concerned.
24. Election of Officers of the Association shall be by secret ballot, except in the case of full time paid officers, who shall not be subject to annual election, unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of their employment.

The candidate who obtains the overall majority of the votes of those present and entitled to vote shall be deemed elected.

In the event of a tie where an Outgoing Officer or Representative is involved, he/she shall be deemed to be re-elected.

If an Outgoing Officer or Representative is not involved, the tie shall be decided on the casting vote of the Chairperson.

25. Decisions may be taken by a show of hands. However, contentious issues shall be decided by secret ballot.
26. Officers, Delegates and Members of Sub Committees of Provincial and Central Councils, shall have voting rights.
27. Decisions of Club and County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils, shall be taken by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the presiding chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.
28. Club or County Committees, Provincial or Central Councils shall have the power to appoint a full time paid official, who shall not have the right to vote and who shall be subject to the terms and conditions laid down by the relevant Committee or Council. Each Committee or Council shall be responsible for the payment of such officials.
29. Officers of Central Council shall be Ex-Officio members of their Provincial Council and of their respective County Committees. Likewise, officers of Provincial Councils shall be Ex-officio members of their respective County Committees.

Ex-officio members shall have voting rights.

## Finance

30. Club or County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils shall have the powers to raise finance and to control, administer and utilise the funds at its disposal in the interest of the Association.
31. Club and County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils shall keep correct accounts and books showing their financial affairs. They shall retain for a period of at least 3 years, all receipts, invoices, etc, to support all transactions.
32. Any real property held by Club or County Committees, Provincial or Central Councils shall not be sold, leased, transferred, conveyed, mortgaged, or otherwise charged or dealt with without the consent of Central Council.
33. Club and County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils shall open their own bank accounts. Cheques and other drawings on these accounts, shall be signed by the Treasurer and by the Assistant Treasurer or Chairperson or Secretary.
34. County Committees Provincial and Central Councils shall be responsible for authorised expenses of its officials and referees acting on their behalf.
35. County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils, shall have the power to request clubs, officials, or players to produce any books, documents, or any other evidence that may be required from time to time.

## Code of Ethics

36. Cumann Peil Gael na mBan shall be entitled to adopt the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport for Young Players (Under 18) as outlined by The Irish Sports Council, The National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, the Childrens Act of Northern Ireland and those of the National bodies of our Overseas Units as may be updated from time to time.

Allegations of misconduct shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with these rules.

## Drugs

37. The Anti Doping Rules of Cumann Peil Gael na mBan are the same as the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.

## Sponsorship

38. The rules governing sponsorship shall be as defined by Central Council.
39. Clubs, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils shall have authority to negotiate sponsorship in accordance with the regulations drawn up from time to time by Central Council, and must be officially approved by the relevant Committee or Council.

40. Sponsorship of playing gear shall be accepted, providing presentation is made to the officials of the appropriate unit of the Association, and that there is no obligation to wear the gear in any particular game or team photographs, and it conforms to the guidelines of Central Council.
41. Markings allowed on Playing Gear, Kit Bags, etc, shall be the manufacturers or sponsors name, crest or logo. The crest or logo shall be confined to an imprint of 10cm x 10cm or 20cm x 5cm. No one such imprint shall exceed 100 sq cm and in total shall not exceed 200 sq cm per specific article. The calculation of the size does not refer to the area covered by the individual letters of a name or logo but to the total area, including any background highlighting.
42. Any unit of the Association which breaches the above sponsorship rules, shall be liable to a fine, disqualification and/or loss of expenses. Individuals in breach of the rules shall be liable to suspension.
43. Playing Gear may also bear the name of the team or any appropriate crests.
44. Units of the Association must also be aware of the GAA Rules governing sponsorship while using their property.

## **Membership**

41. 45. Membership of the Association, shall be granted by Club, County Committee, Provincial or Central Council.
46. Full Membership shall be given to all persons who register with a Club.
47. Youth Membership shall be open to persons Under 18 years of age. They shall have the same privileges apart from voting rights up to and including Under 15 years as Full Members.
48. Each accepted Full and Youth member shall pay a membership fee as decided by the club. Any such member who has not paid their membership fee by the 1<sup>st</sup> June shall cease to be a member from that date.
49. Honorary Membership shall be confined to persons who have rendered exceptional service to the Association. An Honorary Member shall not have voting rights.
50. Associate Membership may be allowed by, the relevant Committee or Council.
51. Social Membership may be granted by, the relevant Committee or Council.
52. Each accepted Associate and Social member shall pay a membership fee as decided by the relevant Committee or Council and must subscribe and undertake to further the aims of the Association.
53. Only Full and Youth registered members 16 years of age and over, shall be entitled to vote at meetings, with the exception of those covered by Rules 56, 57 and 72.

54. In order for a player to be eligible to play for a Club or County team she must be a Full or Youth registered member of a Club.
55. A non-member of the Association may seek election to any Committee or Council providing that, s/he is nominated by a Full or Youth member of the Association. Should they be successful in being elected, they must, become, either Full, Youth or Associate members of the Association within 7 days.

### **Associate Membership**

56. Associate Membership may be granted by, County Committee, Provincial or Central Council. It is conditional on the person accepting the Rules of the Association, and upon payment of a membership fee as decided by the relevant Committee or Council.

An Associate County Committee Member shall not have voting rights unless:

- (a) They are elected as an officer of the County Committee.
  - (b) They are elected as a delegate to Provincial or Central Council.
57. In order for an Associate County Committee Member to be eligible as a candidate for officership, or as a delegate to Provincial or Central Council they must be:
    - (a) Nominated by a club
    - (b) Where a Full Member is nominated for officership or as a delegate, declines the nomination, an Associate Member may be nominated by club delegates attending the Club or County Committee meetings or at County Convention.
  58. An Associate Member elected onto a Sub Committee of the County Committee shall have voting rights only on matters being decided by the relevant Sub Committee.

An entry in the minute book of the election procedure and the status of the Associate Member shall be conclusive evidence of the voting eligibility.

Associate Members of a County Committee shall not be ex-officio members with voting rights of any club within the county, unless they become a Full or Youth member of the Club.

59. The County Registrar shall register Associate Members on an annual basis on a separate registration sheet in the usual way, with the registrations clearly marked "Associate Member of County Committee".

60. Associate Members of Provincial and Central Councils, shall not have voting rights unless they are officers of Provincial or Central Council. For an Associate Member to be eligible as a candidate for officership of the relevant Council they must be nominated by:

- (a) A Club or County

Or

- (b) Where persons nominated for positions, decline to stand for elections, an Associate Member may be nominated, by the Delegates attending Congress, Convention or Council meetings.

Any Associate Member elected onto a Sub Committee of Provincial or Central Council shall have voting rights only on matters being decided by the relevant Sub Committee. An entry in the minute book of the election procedure shall be conclusive evidence of their voting eligibility.

- 61. The Provincial and Central Council Registrars shall register Associate Members on an annual basis on a separate registration sheet. The Provincial Registrar shall forward one copy to the Central Council Registrar, who shall retain it with those of Central Council registrations of Associate Members.

An Associate Member of Provincial or Central Council shall not have voting rights in their respective Clubs or Counties.

## **Social Membership**

- 62. Social Membership shall be open to all persons actively involved in such additional activities as may be promoted by the relevant Committee or Council. They may be admitted for periods not exceeding twelve months after being elected. They shall not be entitled to vote or engage in the management or control of the relevant Committee or Council.

## **Registrations**

- 63. The Club Registrar shall submit to the County Registrar on the Official Registration Form or on the official electronic form, three copies of the club's registered members.

Each registration shall be accompanied by a, Registration Fee, Development Fund Fee and a compulsory Accident Fund Fee as determined by Central Council.

- (a) Under 10 Membership Fee (Dates of Birth must be recorded)  
(Present Fee €5.00 to Central Council + €5.00 Injury Fund + Club, Co Board, Provincial & Development Fund)
- (b) Under 12 to 18 Membership (Dates of Birth of must be recorded).  
(Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + €10.00 Injury Fund with Optional €25 + Club, Co Board, Provincial & Development Fund)
- (c) Over 18 Membership  
(Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + €25.00 Injury Fund + Club, Co Board, Provincial & development Fund)
- (d) Club and Team Officials, Trainers, Coaches and Selectors.  
(Present Fee €15.00 to Central Council + Accident Fund (optional) + Club, Co Board, Provincial & Development Fund)

64. The only exceptions to the Accident Fund Scheme are:
- (a) Those taking part in the official Schools Competition
  - (b) Non Playing Members of the Association, whose participation in the fund shall be optional.
65. The County Registrar shall :
- (a) Sign and forward one copy together with the Registration Fee to the Registrar of Provincial Council.
  - (b) Sign and forward one copy, together with the Registration Fee, Development Fee and Accident Fund Fee to Central Council.
  - (c) Retain one copy for record purposes.
66. A Players Registration is valid only when received by the Registrars of Provincial and Central Councils accompanied by the appropriate fee. Proof of posting, or a postmark, dated prior to the game is not deemed proof of registration.
67. The Registration Year shall be from 1 June to 31 May.
68. Any player registered between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> May, shall be deemed to be registered up to and including, the 31<sup>st</sup> May of the following year.
- Players registered with a **New Club** will be covered until the end of their first competitive season. ie Registered Sept/Oct, competitive season commences the following June – covered until end of May of the following year.
- In the foregoing cases, the players Name, Address and Date of Birth (if applicable) should be entered again in the Club's Official Registration Form for the new Registration Year, with an endorsement in the Registration Fee Column "See Registration dated ..... Line .....
69. All registered female members who have paid their Registration, Development and Accident Fund Fees and who fulfil the appropriate eligibility conditions, shall be eligible to play for a Club, County or Province etc.
70. Only Full and Youth Members so registered and Full Playing Members joining the Club after 1 June shall be entitled to vote at meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, with the exception of those covered by Rules 56, 57 and 72.
71. A team proved to have played an Unregistered, Illegal or Overage Player shall forfeit the game to their opponents.
72. All officers of County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils must be registered members of affiliated clubs, or registered as an Associate Member as in Rule 56. However Officers of Central Council may register directly with the National Registrar and become Full Members by doing so.

## **Affiliation**

73. Payment of an Affiliation Fee shall be as decided by Club and County Committees, Provincial and Central Councils.

Teams shall not compete in official competitions until such Affiliation Fees have been paid.

The North American Board shall pay an Affiliation Fee to Central Council and shall provide a list of Registered Players to Central Council.

## **Injury Fund**

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

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

The rules quoted hereunder are by way of explanation to members who apply to participate in the scheme, of the probable principles, which will govern the distribution of the fund.

75. No person shall be entitled to participate in the games run and organised by the Association, without first paying the application fee for inclusion in this fund. The fee shall be payable with the Registration Fee on the official registration form.

A team playing a player who has not paid the application fee shall, subject to the rules then pertaining, forfeit the match or suffer such penalty, as the Association shall from time to time prescribe.

76. Exemptions from the scheme shall be:

- (a) Players participating in official schools competitions.
- (b) Non Playing Members of the Association whose participation in the scheme shall be optional.
- (c) Overseas Units as sanctioned by Central Council.

77. The subscription to the fund shall be determined by Central Council of the Association.

Present rates are €25 for an Adult Player, €10 for a Juvenile player and €5 for an under 10 Player.

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

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

There is nothing in this rule that shall be construed so as to imply that a person paying the higher rate shall be entitled as of right to compensation for wages or salary.

78. The Injury Fund will not provide cover to any person who develops any condition later on in life as a result of a previous injury received whilst playing Ladies Gaelic Football.
79. The Registration and Injury Fund year shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> June each year and terminate on 31<sup>st</sup> May of the following year.
80. Any player or club registering or affiliating to the Association after 1<sup>st</sup> January in any year, shall be included in the fund up to and including the 31<sup>st</sup> May of the following year, except in the formation of a New Club as provided in Rule 68.
81. Where a Player is registered with an Existing Club between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> May, she should also be included on the Registration Form for the New Registration Year ie. the Registration, which takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June. The Date of Registration between 1 January and 31 May should be endorsed in the column for the Injury Fund.
82. The object of the Fund is to mitigate against hardship incurred by :
  - (a) Medical Expenses to a Maximum of €5,000.00
  - (b) Dental Treatment to a Maximum of €3,000.00
  - © Loss of Wages or Salary to a Maximum of €200.00 per week for 20 weeks.
  - (d) Physiotherapy sessions shall be limited to a maximum of 6 sessions. If subsequent sessions are required, a full report outlining the reasons why and the current situation must be submitted by the registered physiotherapist or registered physical therapist. Further payment will only be considered on receipt of this report.

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

83. The Central Council of the Association shall determine the amount to be paid to any player. Central Council shall be entitled to take all and every matter it considers relevant into account in coming to its determination, including any benefits from Social Welfare, Voluntary Health Insurance, benefits from Hospital Services, Medical Cards, Private Medical Insurance and any other benefit of any nature whatsoever accruing to the injured player, including the players circumstances.

Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to imply any legal right to the applicant, either in terms of amount of entitlement or to be considered for payment.

Central Council shall from time to time decide and fix a sum, which, shall be referred to as the "Maximum Payment" in respect of Treatment, Salary or Wages which players shall be considered for.

**New Rule:** Injury claims will be monitored on a claim by claim basis and a player who plays while receiving treatment, may have her claim disallowed.

84. All applications for payment of monies from the Injury Fund shall come through the County Secretary of the Association on an official application form and shall be accompanied by Medical Certificates, Receipts, Bills, Referees Report where applicable, and any other documentation as required by Central Council from time to time.

Where the injury has occurred in a club game, the claim form, must be signed by the Club Secretary.

Where the injury occurred in training, the claim form, must be signed by the person in charge of the Training Session, preferably a qualified coach and the Club Secretary.  
The County Secretary should be notified of the Claim Notification Number and Dates of Payment

85. In order to be considered for payment, all claims must be lodged with Central Council within 2 months from the date of the injury, unless deemed otherwise by Central Council.

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

It is recommended that County Secretaries' set up a Register of Claims showing, Date of Injury, Date of Claim, Date Received and Date sent to Central Council

**New Rule :** Preliminary claim forms must be submitted within 2 months of the date of injury if treatment is likely to exceed €200.

Where a Preliminary Claim form has been submitted, a report and update on the claim must be submitted by the injured party within one year from the date of the preliminary notice to validate the claim.

86. Should any applicant fail to lodge her claim application in accordance with the rules, or give incorrect particulars on the application form, she shall not be entitled to be considered for any payment.

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

88. An application made by any member which in the opinion of Central Council is not a bona fide application, or which is made for the purpose of obtaining payment to which they are not entitled, shall be declared void. Furthermore, Central Council shall be at liberty to suspend both the applicant and the persons who countersigned the application form, for an indefinite period and make an order for repayment of any monies that may have been paid in respect of the application.

89. A member shall not seek payment from the Fund for Private Treatment where the cost of treatment exceeds or is likely to exceed €200.00, unless:
- (a) Prior sanction is received from the Management Committee of Central Council.
  - (b) In an Emergency Situation.

Any request for Private Treatment must be supported by documentary evidence from a Medical Practitioner, to show the reasons why Private Treatment is necessary.

Private treatment is defined as any treatment that is paid outside of the public health treatment system

**New Rule** All claims for which Preliminary Notices have been received, must be lodged and validated within 2 years of the original Preliminary notice except in exceptional circumstances.

90. Applicants shall submit themselves for examination by Medical Practitioners appointed by the Association from time to time, when and where the Association shall require. Strict compliance with this rule is fundamental to consideration of entitlement to participate in the Fund.
91. The Central Council of the Association shall be, the sole and final arbitrator of all matters connected with the fund and the scheme. In the case of dispute on any matter, without prejudice to the rights of the Association to decline, an arbitration procedure will be available.

## **Arbitration Procedure**

92. The Arbitration Board shall be appointed in a case where arbitration is warranted. It shall consist of one person nominated by Central Council and a member of the Association nominated by the claimant, together with an Independent Professional person nominated by Central Council.
93. Decisions of the Arbitration Board shall be final, binding and conclusive on all parties and under no circumstances howsoever or whatsoever shall either party appeal to any Court of Law in respect of any matter whatsoever or howsoever arising out of the Scheme. It is condition precedent of this Scheme that the finding of the Arbitration Board be the final Authority.
94. The above rules govern the Accident Fund Scheme and it is a condition precedent of entitlement to consideration under the scheme that members, prior to their joining, are fully acquainted with the terms and conditions thereof and agree to be bound thereby. It is also a condition precedent of the Scheme, that members who have not read or do not understand, or have not explained to them the scheme, are deemed to be fully aware of its contents in its entirety.

## **Clubs**

95. A Club must have at least 11 Playing Members and at least one Registered Adult Official before it can affiliate to the Association. Only a properly Affiliated Club can take part in County, Provincial or National Competitions or be entitled to representation on Committees or Councils.
96. A Club shall not be named after a living person or any existing political or semi-political organisation.
97. A Club cannot take part in any official competition until the required Affiliation Fee for the year has been paid to the County Committee, Provincial or Central Council as appropriate.
98. Where a Club has 2 teams competing in adult championship games within the county, it must name at least 15 players for the Higher Grade team for championship games (A Team). Should any other player outside of this list play in the Higher Grade Championship, they shall become ineligible for the championship in the Lower Grade.
99. In counties where County Committees do not exist, Clubs shall affiliate to the Provincial Council, or in the absence of a Provincial Council, to Central Council, who shall decide in which competitions such Clubs shall take part.
100. Each Affiliated Club shall purchase a copy of the Official Guide and shall be bound by the rules and regulations contained therein. Every Affiliated Club and Registered Member shall therefore be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules of the Association.
101. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February. The notice of the time and place of such a meeting shall be conveyed to members at least 5 days beforehand. The Annual General Meeting shall elect :
  - (a) Chairperson
  - (b) Vice Chairperson
  - (c) Secretary
  - (d) Registrar
  - (e) Treasurer
  - (f) Delegates to County Board and County Convention
  - (g) Positions of Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, PRO, Development Officer, and Culture and Language Officer may also be elected.
  - (h) An Executive or Management Committee, which shall comprise of the Officers and any other members that it may decide.

These shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

102. Each Club must appoint a Children's Officer, who should be a member of the Management Committee.

103. A report of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the County Committee, not later than 10 days after the meeting.
  104. The Club may refuse membership to any applicant in the interests of the Association.
  105. Each Club shall register annually on the Official Registration Form its Players, Officials, Team Mentors, (managers, selectors, trainers, coaches). It shall also register its Club Colours on the form. The County Registrar shall then register them with the Provincial Registrar and with Central Council.
  106. In the event of a clash of colours in an inter club game, the Away Team must change the colour of their jerseys. Should the game be played at a Neutral Venue, both teams must change, or come to a mutual arrangement.
- In all games a Goalkeeper must wear a Distinctive Jersey. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of €7.
107. In the event of a Club acquiring its own property, at least three Trustees shall be appointed.
  108. Club and County Rules may be supplemented by Bye Laws, providing such Bye Laws are, not in conflict with the rules of the Association.
  109. Should a Club be expelled from the Association and if there remains any funds or properties after all debts and liabilities have been paid, these shall not be distributed amongst members, but shall be held in trust for the appropriate County Committee to be disposed of, as such County Committee shall direct.
  110. A resolution to wind up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting specially summoned for that purpose. It must be supported by at least three fourths of those present and entitled to vote. If upon such winding up, any funds or properties shall remain after debts and liabilities have been paid, they shall be held in trust by the appropriate County Committee, to be disposed of, as such County Committee shall direct.

### **Club Executive Committee**

111. The affairs of the Club shall be, managed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub Committees.
112. A decision by a meeting of the Executive Committee shall not be altered at a subsequent meeting, except on a motion supported by no fewer than two thirds of the voting delegates.
113. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies that may arise on their Committee.
114. The Executive Committee shall open a bank account on behalf of the Club. All cheques and other drawings on said account shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer or Chairperson or Secretary.
115. A Special General Meeting may be summoned by the Executive Committee, or at the signed request of 10 Full Members. The only business to be transacted at such meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. At least 5 days notice shall be given of the time, place and special business of the meeting

## Player Eligibility for Club

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

- (a) An Underage Player may play for an exclusively Underage Club and a Club in Senior, Intermediate or Junior grade with permission from the County Board.
- (b) An Underage Player who has played with a solely Adult Club, may play Underage Football only, with another club, that may have Adult and Underage teams, subject to County Board approval.
- (c) In exceptional circumstances, where Clubs are not in a position to field Minor, Under 16, Under 14 or Under 12 teams from their own resources, special permission may be obtained from the County Board for the players of not more than two clubs in this position to form an **Independent** Minor, Under 16, Under 14, or Under 12 team.

Applications to form an **Independent** Minor, Under 16, Under 14, or Under 12 Team, must be made on an **annual basis**. The application shall set out the circumstances and details for such a request in full and receive sanction of the County Committee in charge.

- (d) Where a Club is unable to field a team in a particular age group, permission may be granted by the County Board, for a player or players from that club to play with another club or clubs that is providing football at **that age group** except as pertains in Rule 116(c). Permission must be sought from the County Board on an **annual basis** and should be noted in the County Board minutes.
- (e) Students of Schools or Colleges taking part only in competitions, confined to Schools or Colleges, are not regarded as having played for a Club.

117. A Home Club means:

- (a) A Club in the players Native Parish, or
- (b) The Club in the Parish in which she resides, or
- (c) The First Club with which she legally played in an Officially recognised Club Competition.

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

A Parish for the purpose of this rule, shall be subject to, the county boundaries, the district under the jurisdiction of a Parish Priest or Administrator. However where a parish overlaps a county or counties, the club or clubs concerned, have the option of playing within either county. The players concerned may play county football for either county subject to transfer regulations.

The Parish Rule shall not apply within cities or towns. However players residing in cities and towns must play with a club within the city or town unless she is exempt under Rules 116 to 119.

118. A Player who has played her first Club Football with her Native Parish Club and having since transferred to a New Club, following the disbandment of her Original Club, may, with Central Council permission, after taking all circumstances into consideration, remain with her New Club, even if her Original Club reforms.
119. Where a player resides in a Parish where there is a Ladies Gaelic Football Club, she must play with that Club, unless she is exempted as in Rules 117 and 118.
120. Notwithstanding Rules 117, 118 and 119, a player or players may apply in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule or rules in exceptional circumstances and seek permission to play with another club. Such permission may be granted where circumstances are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council.

**New Rule:** A player cannot play club championship for more than one club in a championship year unless exempted by Rules 116 and 150.

121. A player playing illegally for more than one Club within the County, shall be suspended for 3 Months.
122. A team, which illegally plays a member of another Club within the County, shall lose the game and with the Chairperson and Secretary of the Club, stand suspended for at least 3 Months.
123. A Player playing illegally with Two Clubs in different Counties, shall be suspended for 12 Months.

A team playing such a player, may be suspended for a period of not less than 12 months at the discretion of the committee in charge and shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

124. A Player who in the same year plays illegally in a lower grade, even with her own Club, shall be suspended for not less than 3 months. The team concerned shall forfeit the match and may also be suspended for not less than 3 months.
125. A player can only play for a Club or County, providing she is resident in that County and playing club football within that county, unless she is exempted under Rules 117 or 118 for Club and 169 and 170 for County.

### **Schools and Colleges Committees**

126. County Committees, Provincial or Central Councils for the Schools and Colleges may be formed where feasible. Their meetings shall be subject to the rules pertaining to the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.
127. The County Committee, Provincial and Central Councils of the Schools and Colleges are subject to the rules of the relevant Committee or Councils of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. They shall retain authority in the administration of their own affairs. They shall

have the same powers as those of The Ladies Gaelic Football Association in dealing with the organising and controlling of competitions within the Schools or Colleges.

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

128. Any County Committee or Provincial and Central Council of the Schools or Colleges, shall have the right to two voting delegates at County Committee or Provincial or Central Council of the Association.
129. Affiliations will be accepted from any school or college, which has 15 bona fide students.
130. In order to qualify for the official Schools competition a player must be:
  - (a) Attending a class in the school for 3 hours a day.
  - (b) She must have an average monthly attendance of 13 days prior to the game.
  - (c) Under 16 on 1<sup>st</sup> July of the school year to compete in the Junior competition
  - (d) Under 20 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> July of the school year for the Senior competition.

College Identity Cards should be available for inspection on request.

131. In order for a player to qualify to compete in the Third Level Colleges Competition, she must be in full time education.

Post Graduates, must make a special application to the Management of the Central Council of the Third Level Colleges, who shall decide on their eligibility.

For Students in An Garda Siochana who successfully complete their two year basic training in Templemore, the following eligibility condition applies :

October and January intakes – Players entitled to compete for maximum of 3 Seasons.

April and July intakes – Players entitled to compete for a maximum of 2 seasons only.

132. Schools and Colleges shall pay an entry fee to enter the competition. The fee shall be as determined by the Committee or Council of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.
133. Schools must produce Birth Certificates of registered players if requested.

## **County Convention**

134. The Annual County Convention should consist of the officers and members of the outgoing committee and two delegates from each registered club.

135. Failure to hold the Annual Convention before 1<sup>st</sup> February, entails suspension, unless permission for a deferment is granted by Provincial or Central Council.
136. The County Convention shall elect officers of the County Committee and delegates to attend Provincial and Central Council and Annual Congress.
137. Those entitled to vote at the County Convention shall be the outgoing officers together with two delegates from each registered club, delegates to Provincial and Central Council, Officers of the County at Provincial and Central Council and their Sub Committees, members of Sub Committees within the County and two delegates each from the Schools and Colleges Committee.
138. Members of Provincial and Central Councils shall be ex-officio members of their respective County Committee with voting rights at County Board meetings and County Convention.
139. Clubs must nominate candidates for positions on the County Committee. Should all nominated candidates fail to stand for election, nominations may be taken from those present at the meeting.
140. Clubs shall receive at least 4 weeks notice in writing of the date and venue of the County Convention, together with, nomination and motion papers. These papers should be returned to the County Secretary at least 2 weeks before the County Convention.  
  
The Club Secretary should receive a copy of the Agenda, List of Nominees and Motions along with proposing clubs at least 4 days prior to County Convention.
141. The Relevant Reports, Balance Sheets and Agendas shall be prepared by the County Committee for County Convention.
142. County Convention shall have the right to make Bye Laws as they deem necessary for the betterment of the Association. Such Bye Laws shall not become operative until approved by Central Council. The Bye Laws shall not conflict with those of the Official Guide.
143. Counties shall not send forward to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress any motion that was not approved by its County Committee.

## **County Committee**

144. The County Committee should consist of :
  - (a) Chairperson
  - (b) Vice Chairperson
  - (c) Secretary
  - (d) Assistant Secretary

- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Registrar
- (f) PRO
- (h) Culture and Language Officer
- (i) Development Officer
- (j) Children's Officer
- (k) Two representatives from each affiliated Club
- (l) Officers of Provincial and Central Councils from within the County
- (m) Representatives of Sub Committees as the County Board may decide.

Where a County Schools or Colleges Committee functions, it shall be entitled to 2 voting delegates on the County Committee. The County Committee shall hold office until the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of Provincial and Central Council.

145. County Committees shall have within their respective Counties :

- (a) Control of Club Affiliations and Registrations
- (b) Management of County Teams
- (c) Control and Organisation of all competitions within the County.
- (d) Power to investigate irregularities and to warn, suspend, fine, or expel Clubs, Teams or Individuals for breaches of the rules of the Association or Bye Laws.
- (e) Power to raise Finance.
- (f) Power to control, administer, and utilise funds and property of the Association within the County.
- (g) Power to Grade or Re-grade players and teams at Club level. The grading of clubs shall be subject to approval of Central Council who may regrade them where deemed necessary.
- (h) Authority to send Nominations and Motions to Provincial and Central Council.

146. County Committees shall open a Bank Account as soon as monies are acquired. All cheques and other drawings on the account, must be signed by, the Treasurer, and the Chairperson or Secretary or Assistant Treasurer.

147. The County Committee shall be entitled to retain gate receipts of any competition under its control, as well as home games in the National Leagues.

148. County Committees must by the 1<sup>st</sup> February each year

- (a) Affiliate to Provincial and Central Councils.
  - (b) Indicate what grades of Intercounty Championships they intend to participate in for that year.
149. The powers and functions of Divisional and any other Sub Committees shall be as defined by the County Committee.
150. County Committees may allow Junior or Intermediate players to assist Divisional or Group Senior Teams,
- County Committees may allow an amalgamation of players from:
- (a) Not more than 3 Junior Clubs to form a Senior team
  - (b) A Junior and Intermediate Club to form a senior team
- without losing their Junior or Intermediate status.
151. County Committees may allow Junior and Intermediate Clubs participate in championships of a Higher Grade without losing their current status.
- However, should the club win the Higher Grade Championship, it must represent its County in the Higher Grade Provincial Club Championship, eventhough, it may also have won the county championship in the Lower Grade. The team that finishes as runners up in the Lower Grade Championship will then represent the county in the Provincial Club Championship.
152. A Club that wins the Junior or Intermediate County Championship, must move up a grade within the county for the next years championship.
153. A Club that finishes runners up in the County Senior, Intermediate or Junior Championship cannot be downgraded for the following years championship, unless in exceptional circumstances as decided by Central Council.
154. County Committees must notify Provincial and Central Councils of clubs that are downgraded for championship purposes within their counties and the reasons why they were regraded.
155. County Committees shall decide the manner of selecting County teams. The teams must be selected from players living in the County, and from eligible, declared non-resident players.
- Where there is no Adult Intercounty football played, Central Council may give permission for a player to play with a neighbouring county in the same province. This permission shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
156. County Committees may fine Clubs for failure to attend County Board meetings. The maximum fine shall be €25 per meeting.
157. The Executive of the County Committee shall consist of the Officers of the County Committee and shall have authority to submit motions to the County Committee.

158. County Committees must send forward a team or teams for Intercounty Championships. Failure to do so, may result in the entire county being suspended for 12 months. The suspension shall start on the date on which the match should have been played.
159. County Committees who have indicated their intention to compete in the National League or Championship and which subsequently withdraw prior to the commencement of the competition, but after the draw having been made, shall be penalised by a fine of €200
160. Any County Board giving a Walkover after the commencement of the National League or Championship, shall incur a fine of up to €500. The governing body shall review their participation in that competition.
161. County Committees shall have the power to suspend for 6 months, a player who refuses to travel or play for the county.
162. County Officials responsible for fielding illegal teams in Intercounty Competitions shall be suspended.
163. A County, which field in a competition, a player who has already taken part in the same competition with another county, shall forfeit the match. The Officials concerned, may also be suspended.
164. County Colours must be registered with and approved by Central Council. In the event of a clash of colours, an alternative combination of the original colours, or the Provincial colours must be worn.

The Goalkeeper must wear a distinctive jersey in all games. Failure to comply with this rule shall involve a fine of €15.

165. County Committees shall furnish to their Provincial Councils, before the Provincial Convention each year, a Balance Sheet of the County Accounts, together with supporting Bank Statements for the previous Financial Year. Failure to do so may involve suspension until they are furnished.
166. A decision made by the County Committee shall not be altered at a subsequent meeting, except on a motion supported by no fewer than two thirds of the voting delegates.
167. The County Committees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting which shall be held before 1<sup>st</sup> February.
168. The County Secretary must forward to Provincial and Central Councils, the Name, Address and Telephone Numbers, work and home where applicable, of all Officers serving on the County Committee. This must be done by the dates of Provincial Convention and Annual Congress respectively.

## **Home County**

169. A Home County means a players County of Birth ie. The County in which the player's parents were resident at the time of her birth, or the County in which she participated in officially recognised competitions for the first time.

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

170. A player who resides and plays Club Football outside her Home County, may declare for her Home County for Intercounty and Interprovincial competitions.

If she makes such a declaration, she may not play for any other county except her Home County while the declaration binds, unless her Home County fails to field a team in the grade, or she transfers to the county in which she is now residing and playing in.

## **Provincial Convention**

171. Provincial Convention shall be held annually by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

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

County Secretaries should receive a copy of the Agenda, List of Nominees and Motions, indicating the proposing county, at least 4 days prior to the Provincial Convention.

173. The Outgoing Council shall prepare an Agenda, Relevant Reports, Balance Sheets and Minutes of the previous years Convention for the current Convention. These shall be considered at Convention, and when passed, the Secretary's copy shall be, signed by the Provincial President.

174. Those entitled to vote at Convention shall be:

- (a) Members of the Outgoing Council,
- (b) Officers of Central Council from within the Province,
- (c) Members of National and Provincial Sub Committees who hold voting rights in their respective Councils
- (d) 2 delegates from each Affiliated County,
- (e) 2 delegates from each of the Provincial Schools and Colleges Committee.

175. Provincial Convention shall elect by ballot :

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President

- (c) Secretary
- (d) Assistant Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Registrar
- (g) PRO
- (h) Cultural and Language Officer
- (i) Development Officer

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

- 176. Candidates for, positions on Provincial Councils, shall be nominated by County Committees. Should all nominated candidates fail to stand for election, nominations may be taken from those present at the meeting.
- 177. The Provincial President shall not hold office for more than 3 consecutive years.
- 178. The Ex-President shall continue as an Ex-Officio member of the Council with voting rights for 1 year after his/her term of office expires.
- 179. The Provincial Vice President shall be entitled to act as a substitute in the absence of the Provincial President at Central Council meetings.

## **Provincial Council**

180. Provincial Council shall consist of :

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Assistant Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Registrar
- (g) PRO
- (h) Cultural and Language officer
- (i) Development Officer

- (j) Two Delegates from each Affiliated County.
- (k) Two Delegates from the Provincial Schools Council
- (l) Two Delegates from the Provincial Colleges Council
- (m) Officers from Central Council from within the Province

181. Provincial Councils shall present to Annual Congress of Central Council, the Secretary's Report, Treasurers Balance Sheet and a list of all registered Clubs and Counties, within the Province.

182. Any Provincial Council, which fails to furnish a satisfactory statement of accounts to Central Council, shall be suspended.

183. Central Council shall take control of the workings of the Association within the Province until such accounts are furnished.

184. Provincial Councils shall have within their respective Provinces :

- (a) Control of County Affiliations and Registrations.
- (b) Management and Selection of Provincial Teams.
- (c) Organisation and Control of Provincial Championships, which should ensure a minimum of 2 games in each grade.
- (d) Power to Investigate irregularities and to warn, suspend, fine or expel Clubs, Teams, Counties or Individuals for breaches of the rules of the Association or Bye Laws.
- (e) Power to raise finances.
- (f) Power to make Bye Laws, which shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Association.
- (g) All other business pertaining to the Association in the Province.

185. The Management Committee of Provincial Council shall be entitled to submit motions to Provincial Convention and Annual Congress.

Any motions, apart from those submitted by the Management of Provincial Council, being forwarded to Annual Congress must have the approval of Provincial Council. All motions must be forwarded to County Committees for discussion prior to Congress.

186. The powers and functions of subsidiary committees set up by Provincial Council shall be as defined by Provincial Council.

187. Officers of Provincial Council shall be entitled to attend meetings of any County or Club Committee or Sub Committee thereof within their jurisdiction.

188. In the event of suspension of a County Committee, the Provincial Council shall be empowered to exercise all the powers of the County Committee within the county.

## **Provincial Championships**

189. Provincial Championships shall be open to all affiliated Counties within the Province.

Where a County Committee does not exist, Provincial Councils shall have the power to permit a properly affiliated Club or Clubs to represent the County in the Provincial and All Ireland Championships.

190. For playing purposes, Provincial Councils shall recognise existing County boundaries. However, players in a Club of a parish that overlaps a County boundary may play county football in either County or Province, subject to Transfer Regulations.

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

Britain shall be regarded as a Province for this purpose.

191. A Club which wins the Provincial Junior or Intermediate Championship, must move up a grade for the following years championship, with the exception of Britain, where the Intermediate champions may remain at Intermediate grade.

## **Annual Congress**

192. Annual Congress shall be held on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. The venue for Congress shall rotate among the Provinces and will be selected by Central Council.

193. County Secretaries and College Council secretaries where appropriate, shall receive at least 4 weeks notice in writing of the date and venue of Annual Congress together with nomination and motion papers.

The notification should show the names of the Outgoing Officers and the latest date for the return of these papers for inclusion in the Congress agenda.

The returned Nomination Forms must be signed by, the Secretary or Authorised Official of the nominating body.

194. Prior to Annual Congress, each County Secretary shall be supplied with copies of the agenda, list of nominees and motions and indicate the proposing county.

195. All nominations shall come from County Committees through the County Secretary or Authorised Official.

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

196. Those entitled to vote at Congress shall be :

- (a) Members of the Outgoing Council.
- (b) Past Presidents of the Association.
- (c) Two Delegates from each Affiliated County.
- (d) Two Delegates from the National Post Primary Schools Committee
- (e) Two Delegates from the National Third Level Colleges Committee.

197. The functions of Annual Congress are :

- (a) To consider Reports and Balance Sheets of Central Council and its subsidiary committees for the preceding year.
- (b) Examination of Reports and Balance Sheets of each Provincial Council.
- (c) To elect by ballot, the President Elect, one year prior to his/her term as President, which shall not be for more than 3 consecutive years. However s/he may stand for re-election at the end of his/her second year in office to serve two consecutive terms.
- (d) To elect by ballot, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurers, Cultural and Language Officer and other officers it deems necessary.

198. Central Council, through its Secretary shall fully report to Congress on all activities of the Association for the preceding year.

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

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

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

202. A motion to remove or amend an existing rule must be supported by two thirds of the voting delegates.

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

204. Proposals to enact new, or amend existing rules, shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment and also quote the numbers of any other rules affected.

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

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

206. Motions passed at Annual Congress shall be sent to all County Secretaries within 4 weeks of Congress.

## **Central Council**

207. The Central Council shall be the supreme governing body of the Association from Congress to Congress and the sole final authority to interpret the rules. Its jurisdiction shall extend over all aspects of the Association.

208. Central Council decisions on all matters concerning the Association are legal and binding on its members. No appeal from decisions of the Central Council may be made at law or otherwise.

209. Central Council shall consist of :

(a) President, who shall be elected for a 3 year term, but may stand for re-election at the end of his/her second year in office to serve two consecutive terms.

(b) President Elect for one year.

(c) Former Presidents of the Association.

(d) Vice Presidents who shall be representing their respective Provinces.

(e) Joint Treasurers

(f) Secretary and Assistant Secretary

(g) Cultural and Language Officer

(h) Development Officer

(I) Two Delegates from each Affiliated County

(j) Two Delegates from the National Third Level Colleges Council.

(k) Two Delegates from the National Post Primary Schools Council.

210. The Management Committee shall consist of Officers as outlined from (a) to (h) in Rule 209 and will also include Past Presidents of the Association who are active at County, Provincial or Central Council level.

211. The Management Committee of Central Council shall be entitled to submit motions to Annual Congress, providing such motions have been forwarded to the County Committees as well as all other motions for discussion prior to Congress.

212. The All Star team shall be chosen by 2 nominated selectors from each of the four Provinces as well as the National President.

Three players shall be nominated for each position. All nominees shall be invited to attend an Annual Presentation Banquet. The names of the All Stars shall be announced at the banquet.

Each County may submit their All Star team for the guidance of the Management Committee prior to selecting the team.

Representative(s) as nominated by any sponsor may sit with the committee in an advisory capacity as decided by Central Council.

**Should above wording in red be now deleted**

213. Officers at Central Council shall be entitled to attend meetings of any Provincial Council, County or Club Committees and shall be entitled to participate on any Sub Committee of Central Council.

214. Should a vacancy occur on any Committee, such vacancy shall be filled by Central Council.

215. Central Council shall have :

- (a) Complete control of County Affiliations, Registrations and the Accident Fund Scheme.
- (b) Organisation and complete control of All Ireland Intercounty and All Ireland Club Championships and National Leagues.

Where a Schools or Colleges Committee does not function, Central Council shall take control of the All Ireland Post Primary Schools and Third Level Colleges competitions.

- (b) (c) Power to investigate any irregularities and to warn, suspend, fine or expel Clubs, Teams, Counties Provincial Councils or Individuals for breaches of the rules of the Association or Bye-laws.
- (d) Power to examine the structure, grading and amalgamation of Clubs in all Counties and to reclassify and regrade them where they deem necessary.

216. Central Council shall appoint :

- (a) A Fixtures Committee, which should be represented by a member of each Province.
- (b) A Disciplinary Committee, which should consist of at least one representative from each Province, plus two representatives elected by Central Council

The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all matters of discipline and shall have the power to impose suspensions, fines, or such sanctions as they deem necessary. There shall be a right of Appeal against their decisions to Central Council.

- (c) A National Appeals Committee, which should consist of at least one representative from each Province, plus two elected representatives by Central Council.

The Appeals Committee shall deal with appeals from or decisions of Provincial Council, and shall have the power to review or impose penalties, fines, suspensions, refixtures, or other sanctions as they deem necessary.

There shall be a right of Appeal against their decisions to Central Council.

(d) A PR Committee

217. Central Council as the supreme governing body, shall have power to rule on special cases arising between Congresses, eventhough there may be no particular rule of the Association covering the case in question.
218. Central Council may summon a Special Congress should the need arise.
219. Prior approval of Central Council shall be obtained for any action, which may affect the general policy of the Association.
220. The President, President Elect and Ex President shall not be represented by proxies at Central Council meetings.
221. County Secretaries, shall prior to Annual Congress furnish to Central Council, the names of the County Representatives on the Council for the coming year.
222. Any member of Central Council Executive, who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without giving just cause, shall automatically cease to be a member of Central Council for that year. Sub Committee members are also subject to this rule.
223. Central Council shall have power to appoint any Sub Committee it deems necessary for the promotion of Ladies Gaelic Football. All such committees shall submit their findings for approval to Central Council.
224. Central Council shall have the power to review the amount of fees, fines and penalties as referred to in the rules.
225. Central Council shall be responsible to Annual Congress for implementing any policies decided by the preceding Congress.
226. Central and Provincial Council Secretary's shall give 14 Days notice to all members for meetings of their respective Councils. In emergency situations, shorter notice shall suffice
227. In an emergency situation the President, President Elect, Ex President, Secretary, and Officers of Central Council shall have the power to rule on any situation that may develop.
228. In the event of suspension of a Provincial Council, Central Council shall be empowered to take control of all the affairs of the Association within that Province.
229. Central Council may permit or instruct a County or Counties outside a Province to take part in the Provincial Championships of any particular Province.

230. Central Council in consultation with the Provincial Council of Britain or any other relevant authority shall decide what areas in Britain constitute a County for the purpose of participating in the Championship of Britain.
231. A County Committee or Higher Councils of the Association outside of Ireland, may apply in writing to Central Council, for permission to deviate from a specific rule. Such permission may be given where exceptional circumstances are deemed to warrant it.
232. Central Council shall be entitled to adopt a Code of Ethics and Good Practice for young players under 18 years of age and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provisions of that code from time to time. All allegations shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport for young People.
233. Deleted
234. Central Council shall be entitled to take the gate receipts of All Ireland and National League Quarter finals, Semi finals and Finals, All Star matches and other competitions as decided from time to time.
235. Because of the likeness of the Rules of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association to that of the GAA, Central Council shall have the power to implement any changes in the GAA Playing Rules to apply to Ladies Football even if such rules were passed after the Ladies Gaelic Football Congress.
236. If Central Council are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt, that a breach of rule by a Member, Club, or County occurred by default and without knowledge, Central Council in the interest of Natural Justice, could deal with such breach without forfeiture of the game.

### **Grading of Players and Counties**

237. Central Council shall have power to Grade or Regrade a County for Intercounty Championships. Should it deem a county to be of Senior standard and should that County fail to fulfil its Senior Championship fixtures, it shall not be entitled to enter a team in the Junior or Intermediate Championship.
238. Counties who field Senior teams, must play their second best teams in lower grade competitions organised by Provincial and Central Councils. They must not include on their second team:
- (a) Players who have played for the County Senior team in the current championship.
  - (b) Players who have played for the County Senior team in the previous Two Years Championships unless they have been regraded.
  - (c) Players and Substitutes who **played** on the county team winning either of the previous two years All Ireland Intermediate or Junior finals, unless they have been regraded by Central Council.
239. A County may not regrade more than 5 Players for Intercounty purposes except as applies in Rule 238. Applications for the regrading of players, must be received by Central Council by 1<sup>st</sup> May.

240. Members of the Intermediate or Junior Provincial Champions, may participate in the following years Intermediate or Junior Intercounty Championship respectively unless they won the Intermediate or Junior All Ireland Final.
241. A county whose Senior or Intermediate Team played in the previous years championship, but said county has now been graded as Intermediate or Junior, all players in that county and declaring for that county, shall be eligible to play in the Intermediate or Junior Intercounty Championship.

## **Investigations**

242. The constitution of a team taking part in any competition may be investigated on the request of any member of the Committee or Council in charge. Such a request shall set out the points for investigation.
243. A motion to carry out an investigation into any matter, must be proposed and seconded, and must have the support of the majority of the relevant Committee or Council entitled to vote.
244. The Committee or Council shall decide the composition and terms of reference of the Investigating Committee if one is requested.
245. The parties involved in an investigation, shall be entitled to present their case and call relevant witnesses and/or observers.
246. The Investigating Committee shall report its findings to the parent Committee or Council.
247. If following an investigation, illegal constitution is proved, the prescribed penalties for the offences involved shall be enforced.
248. In the interests of Natural Justice, a member of an Investigating Committee cannot sit on the Committee or Council that shall give judgement on the Investigating Committee's findings.
249. A member, Club, County or Council may be disqualified or suspended following an investigation. Where a penalty is imposed, the relevant member or body shall be officially notified of the decision at the meeting or by telephone. This should be followed by notification in writing, fax or electronic mail.

## **Suspension and Reinstatement**

250. Suspension for an offence other than a playing offence, means, suspension from all privileges and competitions under the control of the Association, but not from membership of the Association.
251. Members other than members suspended for a Playing Offence, who take part in the affairs of the Association while under suspension, shall be suspended for a further period of 6 months from the date of the expiry of the original suspension
252. Any member of the Association found guilty of conduct calculated to bring the Association into disrepute, shall be liable for expulsion or suspension by the Committee or Council concerned.

253. In addition to as outlined in Rule 250, Non Playing members who are suspended will not be allowed :

- (a) Hold Officership of the Association or coach a team.
- (b) Be on the Field of Play during a Game.
- (c) Be in the Team Bench area during a game.
- (d) Be in the Dressing Room
- (e) Be inside the paling of an Enclosed Pitch
- (f) Referee Games
- (g) Act as Umpire or Linesperson

This rule does not forbid a suspended member from being present at a game or training session, or drawing up a training schedule for implementation by fellow selectors.

254. The term month means 4 weeks. Where a suspension commences on a Sunday, it ends at midnight on Saturday.

255. Should any player, official or supporter of a team be responsible for the termination of a game, the team concerned shall be liable to disqualification.

256. Where a definite period of suspension is imposed by a Committee or Council, reinstatement takes place automatically at the termination of the period of suspension.

257. All motions for suspension, shall be moved and seconded in the usual way, except where County Byelaws make alternative provision or where a definite minimum period of suspension is provided for in the Official Guide. Where there is a tie in the voting, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

258. Any person expelled by the GAA, would also stand expelled from Cumann Peil Gael na mBan.

259. Where a definite penalty is not stated for any breaches of the rules, the power to impose penalties is vested in properly constituted County Committees and Provincial or Central Councils.

260. The suspension of a player for a Playing Offence, means suspension from playing in games, refereeing, or acting as linesperson or umpire.

261. A suspended player shall not be allowed:

- (a) To be in the Dressing Room with her team mates.
- (b) Be in the Team Bench area, or be inside the paling of an enclosed pitch, during the course of the game.

Penalty – Additional 4 weeks suspension.

A suspended Player may train with her team.

262. A player who is suspended, and takes part in a game, including a Challenge, or Tournament game, shall be suspended for an additional 1 month from the date of expiration of the original suspension.
263. A player, whose name is taken by the referee during a match, may be suspended at the discretion of the Committee or Council in charge of the competition.
264. A player leaving the field without the referee's permission or refusing to continue the game is liable to be suspended for 6 months.
265. A player or official using insulting or threatening language, or abusing a referee, umpires, or linespersons shall be liable to suspension at the discretion of the Committee or Council in charge. Should the offence be sufficiently serious, the whole team may be disqualified from the competition.
266. A player ordered off the field by the referee for 2 Yellow Card offences, shall be suspended for the duration of that game which shall include Extra Time when played.

Any team playing a suspended player shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

A player sent off for 2 Yellow Card offences shall be eligible for consideration of an All Star award.

Where a player has been sent off for a straight Red Card offence during the calendar year (January – December) to the date of selecting the All Stars, she shall not be considered for an All Star award. Should her suspension carry over into the following year, it shall not debar her from being eligible for consideration of an All Star award for that year.

267. A player ordered off for any foul committed in Rule 455 shall be shown a straight Red Card and shall be suspended for a minimum of one month.
268. All suspensions must be notified to Provincial and Central Councils.
269. Where the relevant Committee or Council proposes to adjudicate on any disciplinary matter other than a case in which the automatic 2 Yellow Card suspension applies, it shall give the Member, Club, Committee or Council alleged to have offended, notice of the alleged offence.

The Member or Body may make written representation or seek an oral hearing in relation to the offence.

In the absence of written representation or personal appearance at the hearing, the relevant Committee or Council may make a decision on the evidence before them, or suspend the Member or Body until the request is complied with.

270. The Committee or Council in charge shall have due regard for the gravity and repetition of offences in each case, and shall where appropriate, impose a longer term of suspension than the minimum penalties.

271. In urgent cases between meetings, the following procedure shall apply:
- (a) There shall be an obligation on the player, her club or County Committee as appropriate, to request the Council or Committee responsible, to clarify if the minimum 1 month suspension applies.
  - (b) The Committee or Council on receipt of such a request, shall make emergency arrangements to check and direct on the position of the player concerned, pending a meeting of the said Committee or Council.
  - (c) If it is clear from the Referees Report, that the minimum 1 month suspension applies, the penalty shall be declared between meetings and the player concerned shall be entitled to play on the expiration of the 1 month from the date of the game.
  - (d) The suspension shall be noted at the next meeting of the Committee or Council.
272. A team leaving the field before the end of a match, without the referee's permission, or refusing to continue the game, is liable to forfeit the match and is liable to be suspended for 6 months.
- Any players willing to continue with the match shall give their names to the referee.
273. Should any Club or County play overage players in underage competitions, the officials and players shall be suspended for 12 months.

## **Objections and Appeals**

274. Save as provided in these Rules, there shall be no Appeal to any Council, County Board, or Committee and in particular, no Appeal to any Court of Law or to any outside body on any matter.
275. Individual members, Clubs, Divisional and County Committees, shall have the right of Objection or Appeal against the decisions of higher bodies.
- An Objection or Appeal must in the first instance go to:
- (a) The Committee or Council directly senior to the body against whose ruling the Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal is being made.
  - (b) Any Appeal, Objection or Counter Objection concerning decisions of Sub-Committees of Central Council shall be to Central Council.
  - (c) Any Appeal, Objection or Counter Objection to decisions of the National Management Committee shall be to Central Council.
  - (d) There shall be no appeal against decisions of Central Council, except where fresh evidence is forthcoming that was not available at the time of the original decision.
276. Club and County Committees shall have the right to appeal to Central Council.

277. All Objections, Counter Objections and Appeals must be lodged in duplicate.

They shall set out, the exact grounds for Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal, and quote the rules alleged to have been infringed.

If an incorrect rule number is given, but it is clear from the contents, which rule is involved, the Committee hearing the case may deem it to be in order.

If the Objection or Counter Objection is concerning the playing of overage players, the Club or County being objected to, shall be obliged to provide Birth Certificate (s) for the hearing.

278. Objections or Appeals must be lodged with the secretary of the Committee or Council being appealed to within 5 Working Days of the match or decision under challenge.

279. Overseas Units of the Association shall be allowed 7 Working Days, when objecting or appealing to the National Appeals Committee or to Central Council.

280. Counter Objections, together with a fee as in Rules 282 and 283, must be lodged within 5 Days of the receipt of the original decision.

281. Overseas Units of the Association shall be allowed 7 Days, when the Counter Objection is to the National Appeals Committee or to Central Council.

282. Objections and Appeals to County Committees, must be accompanied by a fee of €50.00.

283. Objections, Counter Objections or Appeals to the National Management Committee, the National Appeals Committee, or Provincial or Central Council, must be accompanied by a fee of €150.00.

284. Where an Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal succeeds, the fee shall be returned to the objecting or appealing party.

285. Where the Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal is withdrawn, the fee, shall be retained by the Committee or Council, to which it was submitted.

286. The Secretary of the body with which the Objection or Appeal has been lodged, shall on receipt of same, notify the Secretary of the Club or Committee against which it has been made and enclose one copy of the original Objection or Appeal.

287. In Appeal Cases, the information should include the following details:

(b) The original circumstance(s) of the alleged breach of Rule(s)

(c) The rule numbers that were allegedly breached

(d) The penalties if any that were imposed

(e) A brief outline of any previous appeals and results.

(f) The reasons for the latest appeal quoting the rules that, were alleged to have been infringed.

288. The Chairperson in consultation with other officers of the body to whom the Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal is lodged, may decide on whether to call a meeting, or make a decision on the facts as presented to him/her outside of a meeting.
289. Committees or Councils may rule out any Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal, if in their opinion, such Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal is petty, or is in any way detrimental to the best interests of the Association. County Committees and Councils should therefore discourage petty Objections.
290. Interested Parties should be given 3 Days notice of the meeting at which the Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal is to be heard.
291. All Interested parties which shall be the party making the Appeal, Objection or Counter Objection and the body against whom the Appeal or Objections are against, shall be officially notified of the result of the Appeal or Objections at the meeting or by telephone. This should be followed by notification in writing, fax or electronic mail.
292. Should a meeting be called, two representatives from each party may attend. The parties may be interviewed separately.
293. After presenting their case, the representatives should be asked to leave the room while a decision is being made. They should be recalled at a later stage to be informed of the outcome.
294. Neither team concerned in an Objection, Counter Objection or Appeal, shall take further part in the same knockout competition until the alleged infringements, have been dealt with by the Committee or Council in charge.  
  
Teams may continue playing in competitions organised on a league basis pending the outcome of the Objections or Appeal by the Committee or Council in charge.
295. In the interests of Natural Justice, any member of a Club or County Committee, Provincial or Central Council, who was party to imposing disciplinary measures in a particular case, cannot sit on an Appeal Body at County Committee, Provincial or Central Council, where an appeal against their decision is being ruled upon. This also applies to members who may hold Officership.
296. Any individual or Committee adjudged guilty of tendering false or forged evidence, shall be suspended for 12 months.
297. A **Non Playing member** who is suspended shall have the right of Appeal. Once the Appeal, is received by the Committee or Council, being appealed to, the suspension shall be lifted. Should the appeal be unsuccessful, the date of suspension shall be from the date the appeal was decided.
298. Central Council may prior to Congress, consider and adjudicate, on applications for re-instatement where strict application of the Rules has resulted in hardship.

## **Transfers**

299. Players who have not played League or Championship football for a period of 3 years are exempt from Transfer Rules providing other eligibility conditions are satisfied.

300. All transfer applications must be made on the Official Transfer Form. It must be completed in duplicate, properly signed and sent to the relevant secretary.

Evidence to prove an address may be requested by Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council or sub committees thereof. Where the relevant body is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the transfer may be refused.

A player transferred to a club who at any time within a period of 6 months from the date of transfer, is found to be no longer resident within the club catchment area may be liable to suspension.

301. A transfer requiring Central Council sanction and which has been approved by, Club and County Committees, may be approved by the National Secretary, subject to ratification at the next Central Council meeting.

302. A transfer becomes effective as soon as it is sanctioned by the appropriate authority unless it is being contested at a lower level than Central Council.

Where it is being contested, the contesting party must lodge an appeal as per Rule 278 or before the player is due to play her first competitive game with her new Club or County, whichever is the shorter period.

Where an appeal is lodged, the player concerned cannot play with her new Club or County until the appeal has been dealt with.

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

(a) Obtain sanction from Provincial Council, if her intended participation is with another county in the same Province.

(b) Obtain sanction from Central Council, if her intended participation is with a county outside of her former Province.

304. Players who intend to play in any of our affiliated Overseas Units excluding Britain, must complete an Official Sanction Form in duplicate and have it signed by the Club, County and National Secretaries.

The sanction shall permit the players to play from 31 March to 30 September, and shall not be granted later than 20 July in any year. These players may play with their Home Club or County in their respective championships.

305. A player may play with her Home Club in Ireland and a Club in her EU Country of **study** and vica versa, provided she is participating in a recognised programme of study in another EU Country, or Ireland, for at least 6 months duration and she obtains sanction 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.

306. A Weekend Sanction Form is required for any player intending to assist a Club in a fixture under the jurisdiction of the European Board. The Sanction Form must be signed by the Club, County and National Secretarys' before 4.00pm on the Wednesday preceeding the game.

The Sanction Form is valid for one weekend only, other than where there is a replay of the fixture for which the Sanction was granted. The maximum number of Authorised Players to assist an EU Club in any weekend is one.

## **Inter Club Transfers**

307. A player, who wishes to leave one club to join another in the same county, must apply to the County Committee on the Official Transfer form for a transfer. This also applies to a disbanded club unless governed by Rule 299.

308. The County Committee shall have power to refuse or grant transfers, taking into account the best interests of the Association.

309. A player seeking an Inter-Club transfer outside the county she last played in, must seek her release from her former Club by completing the Official Transfer form.

The form must then be signed by, her former Club and County Secretaries, who should then forward it to the County Secretary to whom she is transferring.

310. If the player is residing in the parish of the Club to which she is transferring, or if she is returning to her Home Club, the County Secretary may sign the transfer form and forward it to the Provincial or National Secretary as outlined in Rule 303.

311. If the player is **NOT** residing in the parish of the Club to which she is transferring to, or if she is not returning to her Home Club, the transfer must be:

(a) Discussed and cleared by the County Committee to whom she is transferring to.

(b) The Transfer Form endorsed to that effect, signed by the County Secretary and

(c) Forwarded to the Provincial or National Secretary as outlined in Rule 303.

312. Where a player's former Club or County Secretary refuses to sign the Transfer Form, the player should contact the Provincial or National Secretary as appropriate.

313. When the transfer has been sanctioned, one copy will be returned to the applicant, who shall present it to the Club she wishes to transfer to. The Club shall register the player in the usual manner.

314. When a player is transferred to a Club in another County on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September in any year, she shall not be eligible to take part in the All Ireland Club Championship of that year, unless she has played previously with the Club to which she has been transferred.

## **Inter County Transfers**

315. The procedure to be followed to obtain an Intercounty Transfer is :

- (a) The player must seek her release from her former County Secretary by completing the Official Transfer Form
- (b) The Secretary shall sign it and forward it to the Secretary of County where she is travelling to and to the Provincial or National Secretary as outlined in Rule 303.
- (c) The final date for Transfers to New York shall be 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- (d) The sanction for transfers to Overseas Units apart from Britain and New York shall be 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Where football is no longer played officially in the player's former County, she should forward the completed transfer directly to the Provincial or National Secretary as appropriate.

316. An Inter County transfer becomes effective as soon as it is sanctioned by the appropriate authority. The appropriate Secretary shall sign the transfer form and return a copy to the applicant and the County Secretary.

317. In all applications for transfers, the status of the player shall be specified and also the date of the last competitive match in which she played. Schools and Colleges competitions are exempted.

318. A player who has commenced a competition in one County, shall be eligible to finish that competition for her Club, even though, she subsequently left that Club or County, and is playing legally with another Club or County, providing that the transfer is in order.

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

## **Competitions**

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

- (a) Senior
- (b) Intermediate
- (c) Junior
- (d) Minor. Confined to players who are Under 18 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the Championship Year.
- (e) Juvenile. Confined to players who are Under 16 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the Championship Year.
- (f) Under 14. Confined to players who are under 14 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the Championship Year.

- (g) Senior Interprovincial .
  - (h) Senior, Intermediate and Junior Club
  - (i) All Ireland Club 7 A Side
  - (j) Post Primary Senior Schools. Confined to players who are Under 20 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> July of the school year.
  - (k) Post Primary Junior Schools. Confined to players who are under 16 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> July of the school year.
  - (l) Third Level Colleges.
320. Underage Players can only play in their own age group and one grade above it at **Intercounty** level. (eg. Under 14 player can play at U 14 and U 16, but not U 17 upwards. An Under 15 or 16 player cannot play at Junior, Intermediate or Senior level.
321. The All Ireland Club Championships shall be completed in the same calendar year in which they commenced.
322. The All Ireland Post Primary Schools competitions shall be played before the first Sunday in May where possible.
323. The All Ireland Third Level Colleges Competition shall be played on or before the first Sunday In May
324. The Under 14 All Ireland Final shall be played on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September.
325. The Under 16 All Ireland Final shall be played on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September.
326. The Under 18 All Ireland Final shall be played on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September.
327. The Senior, Intermediate and Junior All Ireland Finals shall be played on or before the last Sunday of October.
328. The All Ireland Club 7 A Side competition, shall be played on the weekend of the Senior All Ireland Final.
329. In cases of exceptional difficulties, Central Council may make other arrangements on alternative dates.
330. The venue for the Senior All Ireland final shall be Croke Park, Pairc Ui Caoimh or a recognised County Grounds.
331. The Home Team shall be responsible for the provision of a pitch. Such pitches must be properly lined and nets and flags provided. At least 5 Days notice shall be given to the Organising Secretary for Intercounty games.

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

## **Championship Fixtures**

333. Teams taking part in Intercounty Championships shall be 15 a side.
334. For County, Provincial and All Ireland Championships, there shall be a draw. Draws should be arranged to permit Byes in the first round only.
335. County and Intercounty Championships may be run on a League Basis with three points for a win and one point for a draw.
336. The composition of teams taking part in County Championships may be less than 15 A Side as decided by County Committee, County Convention or County Bye Laws. However, when the County Champions take part in the Provincial or All Ireland Championships, the competition shall be 15 A Side.
337. Clubs and Counties must be notified at least 5 Days in advance for competitive games, except in an emergency situation or by mutual consent of the teams involved, where a shorter period shall suffice.
338. Where a Club or County has delegates at a fixtures meeting, such decisions taken shall constitute official notification.
339. If after official notification, a team fails to fulfil a fixture and neglects to give 2 Days notice in writing of its intended default to the appropriate Secretary, it may be suspended for 6 Months. Its opponents may be awarded the game. Provision of such notice, avoids suspension, but may not entitle the team to a refixture.
340. In the event of a team cancelling a competitive game, without prior notice to the appropriate Secretary, it may be compelled to pay all reasonable vouched expenses incurred under a penalty of 12 Months suspension.
341. A team failing to fulfil a championship fixture may forfeit its place in that competition, and the game may be awarded to its opponents. The team is also liable to a suspension of 6 Months.
342. In the All Ireland Championships, the Provincial winners shall playoff for the title according to the fixtures arranged by Central Council, and at such venues as Central Council may decide.
343. All Intercounty Provincial Championships must be concluded at least 7 Days prior to the dates arranged for the All Ireland knockout stages. Failure to do so shall entail removal from the competition unless otherwise exempted by Central Council.
344. County Club Championships must be concluded at least 7 Days in advance of the first round of the Provincial Club Championship provided such County received at least 4 Weeks notice from the Provincial Council of the date of commencement of the Provincial Club

Championship. Failure to do so shall entail removal from the Interprovincial Club Championship unless otherwise exempted by Provincial Council.

345. A Divisional Team winning the County Championship, shall be permitted to compete in the All Ireland Club Championship.

346. Provincial Councils shall be entitled to take gate receipts for any games under their control.

## **League Competitions**

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

348. League Competitions may be run on a Single or Double round system. Three points shall be awarded for a Win and one point for a Draw.

Should two or more Clubs or Counties be equal on points at the head or bottom of the Table at the end of a League Competition, they shall play off on a knock out system to decide the competition, promotion, relegation, or qualification for the concluding stages.

349. The composition of teams taking part in Club or County Leagues, may be less than 15 A Side as decided by the relevant Committee.

The composition of teams taking part in the National Leagues shall be 15 A Side.

350. Players shall be subject to the regular Club and County qualifications and penalties. The status of players participating in League Competitions shall not be affected.

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

## **Tournament Games**

352. Authorisation to hold and Sanction to compete in all Tournament, Friendly and Challenge Games, shall be sought from:

- (a) The County Committee in the first instance.
- (b) Provincial Council, where the teams are from different Counties within the same Province.
- (c) Central Council, where teams from more than one Province are involved.

353. A player or Team taking part in any Tournament, Friendly or Challenge game not sanctioned may not be covered by the Accident Fund and may be suspended by :

- (a) The County Committee, if only one County involved.
- (b) The Provincial Council, if more than one County in the same Province is involved.

- (c) Central Council if different Provinces involved.
354. The relevant authority shall deal with any disciplinary matters arising out of a Tournament, Friendly or Challenge Game. There shall be no alteration in the rules governing discipline.
355. A Member or Unit of the Association, shall not participate in games of Ladies Gaelic Football promoted by a body not affiliated to Central Council, without prior sanction of Central Council.
356. A player who is not registered with a particular Club or County, may play for that Club or County as a Guest Player in a Tournament Game, providing she has obtained permission from:
- (a) The Organising Committee
  - (b) Her Registered Club
  - (c) Her Affiliated County, if she is on any of her County panels.

## **Medals and Trophies**

357. Central Council, Provincial Councils and County Committees shall have control of selecting all medals and trophies for Championships, Leagues etc under their respective control. All medals and trophies shall be of Irish manufacture, except for Overseas Units of the Association.
358. County Committees shall award at least 20 medals or trophies to League and Championship winners and runners up, unless the competition is 11 or 13 A Side, where at least 5 additional medals or trophies shall be awarded.
359. In all National and Provincial 15 A Side Competitions, the respective Councils shall present 21 Winners medals or trophies, and 21 Runners Up medals and trophies to the teams concerned under their control.
- Exception is in the All Ireland 7 A Side Competitions, where 12 medals or trophies shall be presented to both the winners and runners up.
360. Trophies shall be presented to the All Stars.
361. A trophy or medal shall be presented to the referee of All Ireland finals in all grades and in any other competitions that Committees or Councils may decide.
362. It shall be the privilege of the captain of the winning team to accept the cup or trophy on behalf of her team. The safe custody of the cup or trophy shall be the responsibility of the successful Club, County or Province.
363. All Cups and Trophies shall be returned to the Committee or Council in charge, one month prior to the final date.

## Teams

364. A team shall consist of 15 players. A panel of 30 players and a maximum of 7 officials are allowed on the sideline.
365. Each team must have at least 11 players to commence a match, but a match may be continued or finished with less than 11 players. The full compliment of players may join during the course of the game upon notifying the referee.
366. Any team taking the field more than 15 minutes late for any competitive game, or exceeding 15 minutes for the interval break, shall forfeit the match to their opponents, unless the delay was unavoidable
367. Teams that are more than 15 minutes late taking the field, must fulfil the fixture under penalty of 6 Months suspension. Any team fielding late, after the appointed starting time, shall be fined €2 per minute or part thereof.
368. For Provincial and All Ireland finals, teams must take the field at least 15 Minutes before the throw in. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of €15.
369. Duplicate lists of players, giving Full Christian Names, and in the case of Intercounty games, Clubs to which the players belong, must be given to the referee before the commencement of the game in all official games. Where more than 15 names appear on Team Lists, the first 15 shall be taken as constituting the actual team, unless otherwise clearly indicated.
370. Failure to furnish the Team List shall entail loss of the game, which shall be awarded to the opposing team. The same penalty shall apply, where a player commences a game but whose name is not included in the Team List that has been supplied to the referee.
- There is no onus on the referee to seek the list from either side.
371. Teams shall be 15 A Side in all games in all Provincial and National Competitions except 7 A Side competitions.
372. Any competition involving teams of less than 15 A Side, shall be subject to the rules of The Official Guide, and by other relevant rules as sanctioned by Central Council.
373. Clubs, Counties or Provinces must supply to the Organising Committee or Council, team lists of their starting fifteen players and their substitutes, where required for publication. Failure to do so will result in a fine at the discretion of the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture.
- A N Other** is not considered as a playing member and **must not** be included in the Team or Panel List of players.
374. Teams may be allowed 37 passes into Games and Functions, as decided by the Organising Committee.

## Substitutions

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

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

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

376. Only 5 Substitutes shall be allowed in Provincial and National Competitions, including the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals. However in all other National League Fixtures, Unlimited Substitutions shall apply.

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

377. A substitution may be made only during a stoppage in play, and must be notified to the referee in writing.

378. A team that makes more than 5 Substitutions in Provincial and National Competitions is liable to forfeit the game to their opponents.

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

380. Where a Second Period of Extra Time is played, an additional 5 Substitutions may be used, during the Second Period of Extra Time.

381. A Substitute shall not be allowed for a player that has been sent off by the referee, except for the period of Extra Time, when a player ordered off in Normal Time may be replaced.

382. A player ordered off by the referee in the **First Period** of Extra Time, may be replaced by a substitute for the **Second Period** of Extra Time.

### **Subs and Sin Bin**

383. A player sent to the “Sin Bin” cannot be replaced by a Substitute until she has served her 10 minutes playing time ban (See Rule 459).

A player sent to the “Sin Bin” cannot resume playing without the permission of the referee or a designated official in consultation with the referee and only in a stoppage in play

384. Where Extra Time is played in a game, a player sent to the “Sin Bin” for a **First** Yellow Card offence in Normal Time can be replaced by a substitute in Extra Time until she has served her 10 minutes **Playing Time** in the “Sin Bin”. However her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

Should the Sin Binned Player resume playing after her Sin Bin time has expired and having been replaced by a substitute for Extra Time, her team shall be deemed to have used a Second Substitute.

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

## **Blood Subs**

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

She shall not return to the Field of Play, until the bleeding has stopped, all blood cleaned off, and the blood stained attire, cleaned or replaced.

The injured area should be covered where possible

386. A player who suffers a Blood Injury, may be replaced by a Blood Substitute, who shall notify the referee in writing that, she is a Blood Sub. The Blood Substitute shall **NOT** count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution Rules.

Where the Blood Injured Player returns to the Field of Play as a *Direct Replacement* for the player who replaced her, her team **shall not** be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

387. Where the Blood Injured Player returns to the Field of Play for **any other player**, apart from the player that *directly replaced her*, her team **shall** be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

388. Where a Blood Sub is **Sent Off**, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the **original** Blood Injured Player, back onto the Field of Play. This shall **NOT** count as a Normal Substitution. (See also Rules 460 & 461 in relation to the Blood Sub sent to the Sin Bin).

389. Where a team has used their Full compliment of Normal Subs in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a Blood Injury, she may be replaced by a Blood Substitute.

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

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

## **Player**

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

## **Attire**

392. The attire to be worn shall consist of, jersey, shorts, socks and boots. Bicycle Shorts are prohibited, except on a doctors certificate and are to be the same colour as the shorts.
393. Jerseys worn by County teams in All Ireland Competitions and jerseys worn by Clubs, Schools or Colleges participating in National, Provincial and County Competitions, must be numbered and the numbers must coincide with those listed in any match programme.

Members of the same team shall have uniform attire in shorts and socks.

Penalty for infringement of this rule shall be a fine of €70.

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

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

A player ordered off under these circumstances, cannot be replaced by a substitute for the duration of the game, unless Extra Time is played, when the rules governing substitutions in Extra Time shall apply.

## **Football**

395. A size 4 football shall be used in all grades of competition from Under 11 upwards. A smaller size 3 football may be used in younger age groups.
396. Both teams must provide a football each for all competitive games.

## **Duration of Games**

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

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

398. An interval not exceeding 10 minutes shall be allowed at half time in Normal Time, and 5 minutes at half time in Extra Time.

## **Extra Time and Replays**

399. If a competitive game ends in a draw after Normal Time, there shall be a replay, unless, it is previously arranged by the Committee or Council in charge of the game, or by mutual consent, that Extra Time be played.

400. If a match is a replay after a previous drawn game, Extra Time must be played if the teams finish level at the end of Normal Time.
401. In exceptional circumstances, the Organising Committee or Council, may instruct teams to play 2 periods of Extra Time if necessary to decide a game.  
  
Extra Time shall consist of 10 minutes each way, with a further 10 minutes each way if a Second Period of Extra Time is played.
402. The referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for choice of ends at the commencement of each period of Extra Time.
403. In the event of a re-fixtured game after a drawn game, the team that travelled in the first instance, shall have home venue for the replay. If the drawn game was played at a neutral venue, the Organising Committee or Council shall arrange the time and venue for the replay.
404. In the event of a draw in an All Ireland final, the venue for the replay, shall be arranged by Central Council. There shall be an emergency meeting of same, immediately after the game.
405. Extra Time shall be compulsory in all Inter Provincial ties that end in a draw at the knockout stages.

## **Field of Play**

406. The field of play should not be less than 130 metres or more than 145 metres long, and not less than 80 metres or more than 90 metres wide.
407. Sidelines, Endlines, 13m, 20m, 45m, Halfway Line and Parallelograms shall be clearly marked.
408. The scoring space shall be formed by two goalposts, 7m High and 6.5m apart. There shall be a crossbar 2.5m from the ground. Each goal shall be equipped with a net.
409. Two Parallelograms shall be formed in front of each goal.  
  
The Small Parallelogram shall measure 14m by 4.5m. The endlines of which shall be marked 3.75m from each Goalpost.  
  
The Large parallelogram shall measure 19.5m by 13m. The endlines of which shall be 6.5m from each goalpost.
410. The referee shall report any irregularities in the foregoing rules. Penalty for non compliance may be a fine of €15.00 and the Committee or Council in charge may order a Replay.
411. The captain should before the start of the game call the attention of the referee to any irregularities. There can be no objection to the size of the pitch, lines, etc, unless an official protest has been made to the referee before the game starts.
412. The dimension of the field of play, scoring space, and the duration of the game may be reduced by the organising committee for competitions that are less than 15 a side.

413. All Intercounty and Interclub Championship matches in the Provincial and All Ireland Championship shall be played in enclosed pitches.

The definition of an Enclosed Pitch is whereby the general public has not free access to the field of play. All gates leading from the spectator area to the field of play, must be either locked or properly stewarded. A roped off pitch is not considered an Enclosed Pitch.

The only exceptions are:

- (a) In Emergency Situations.
- (b) Where prior approval is obtained from the Organising Committee.

### **Commencement of Play**

414. Before commencing play, the referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for the choice of ends, and ensure that no team has more than 15 players on the field
415. The referee commences play by blowing the whistle and throwing the ball over the heads of the centrefield players.

### **Ball In Play**

416. The ball is in play until the whole of the ball has passed over the Goalline, Endline or Sideline
417. If the ball strikes the referee in General Play, a throw in shall be given. However if the team that had possession of the ball retained possession of it, the referee should allow play to continue.
418. If the ball strikes the referee from a free, the free shall be retaken.
419. If the ball strikes a Non Player from a free, the free, shall be retaken. However if in the referees opinion, the ball has been impeded from crossing the Goalline, Endline or Sideline, s/he shall award a score, a wide or 45m kick or line ball.
420. If the ball in play, strikes a Non Player, a throw in shall be given at the spot concerned. However if in the referees opinion, the ball was prevented from crossing the Endline or Sideline, s/he shall make the appropriate award against the player who played it last.
- Should the ball be prevented from crossing the Goalline in such instances, the referee shall award the appropriate score.
421. A referee must extend time in each half for delays whether deliberate or incidental in the half, or extend time for a free to be taken.
422. Should the defending team commit a further foul before the referee whistles for full time, s/he shall further extend time for a free to be taken.

423. A score can result from such frees only when no other player of the same side touches the ball.
424. If the ball is played over the Endline and outside the goalposts, by one of the defending side, the opposing team shall be awarded a 45m free kick opposite to where the ball crossed the Endline. The 45m kick shall be taken *off the ground* in all grades from Under 15 upwards.
- In grades up to and including Under 14, the player has the *option* of kicking it from the hands or off the ground.
- Should a player taking the 45m free kick, foul the ball, she shall retake the kick.
425. The last person touching the ball on the Field of Play shall be deemed the last player playing the ball.
426. When a Clashed Ball crosses the Endline, it shall be regarded as a Wide Ball.
427. When a player plays the ball over the Sideline, it shall be a Sideline Kick to the opposing team from where it crossed the line. The player may take the Sideline Kick from the hands or off the ground.
428. Where a Clashed Ball crosses the Sideline, the linesperson shall throw in the ball over the heads of one player from each side at the point where it crossed the line.
429. Should the ball strike the corner or sideline flags and come back onto the field of play, it shall be deemed to have crossed the Sideline and result in a Line Ball.

## **Playing Rules**

430. A player may pick the ball off the ground with the toe, or lift it with one or both hands providing she is in a standing position.
431. A player while on the ground may play the ball away from her, but cannot bring it into her possession.
432. The ball when caught, may be kicked, struck with the fist or open hand or hopped once against the ground with one or both hands.
433. The ball may be knocked from, an opponents hands, by flicking it with the open hand.
434. A player while holding the ball into her body cannot be legally dispossessed. Any attempts to do so, shall result in a free being awarded to her team.
435. A player may change the ball from one hand to the other once, providing the holding hand maintains contact with the ball until the change is completed.
436. A player in possession of the ball, may play the ball from toe to hand any number of times. After any such play, the ball may be hopped once against the ground by the hand.

437. A player, who plays the ball she has not caught, may make a run by hopping it any number of times with one or both hands. Should she catch the ball, she is allowed only one hop.
438. A player shall not kick the ball as an opponent is about to pick it up, or take it into her possession.
439. The ball shall not be held longer than is necessary to kick, fist, hand pass, hop it away, or move 4 steps.
440. The ball shall not be carried. Carrying shall be taking more than 4 steps while holding the ball. Tipping the ball on the hands is considered carrying.
441. A player may not throw the ball. However she may toss the ball with one hand and play it with the same hand.
442. All deliberate body contact shall be eliminated, but:
  - (a) Shadowing an opponent
  - (b) Fielding
  - (c) Blocking the delivery of a ball by an opponent shall be allowed
443. Where a referee stops play to deal with an injured player(s), the team in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage in play, shall retain possession on the restart. Play shall resume with the team that had possession, kicking the ball, and all players shall be 13m from the ball at the point of kicking it. However, they cannot score directly from the Kick Ball.

## **Scores**

444. The game shall be decided by, the greater number of points. A goal shall be equivalent to 3 points.
445. A goal is scored, when the ball is, kicked, flicked on in flight by any part of the body, or played by either team, between the goalposts and under the crossbar
446. Should a Defender cross the Goal line with the ball, a goal shall be given to the Attacking Team, providing the whole ball has crossed the line.
447. Should a Defending Player play the ball in any manner through her own scoring space, it shall count as a score.
448. Should an Attacking Player throw or carry the ball over the Goal line, a score shall not be allowed.
449. A Point is scored when the ball is, kicked, fisted, palmed, or flicked on in flight by any part of the body, by either team between the goalposts and over the crossbar.
450. If the ball strikes anyone other than a player within the goal area, and in the referee's opinion, a goal or a point was prevented, s/he shall allow such a score.

451. When the ball hits the uprights or crossbar and comes back onto the field of play, it is still in play.
452. Should the upright or crossbar become displaced or broken, the referee may allow time for the repair of same. Should the ball pass between or above or below the broken goalposts or crossbar, the referee may in his/her opinion allow a goal or a point as the case may be.
453. Any player who falls or is knocked to the ground whilst in possession of the ball may fist or palm the ball on the ground and may score by doing so.

## Fouls

454. A player may not:
- (a) Trip by hand or foot
  - (b) Pull Down
  - (c) Jersey pull
  - (d) Strike, hit or kick
  - (e) Jump at
  - (f) Charge
  - (g) Obstruct
  - (h) Deliberately shoulder an opponent
  - (i) Dive on the ball as a player is picking it up
455. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being given to the opposing team and the offending player shown the **Red Card** and **ordered off** the Field of Play without caution.
- (a) Striking an opponent or colleague with, hand, arm, elbow, head or knee.
  - (b) Kicking an opponent or colleague.
  - (c) Striking, or interfering with a match official
  - (d) Deliberate charging of an opponent or colleague
  - (e) Deliberate high tackle
  - (f) Spitting at an opponent or colleague

- (g) Deliberate frontal charge on an opponent
- (h) Deliberate pulling of an opponent or colleagues hair
- (i) Biting an opponent
- (j) Stamping on an opponent or colleague
- (l) Using racist language or gestures towards an opponent, colleague, mentor, match official or spectator.

A player sent off for any of the above offences, shall be suspended for a minimum of 1 month. Should any of the above offences be repeated in a calendar year, she shall be suspended for a minimum of 3 months.

- (k) A player using threatening or abusive language to a match official shall be suspended for a minimum of 2 weeks.

456. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being given to the opposing team and the offending player's name taken and shown a **Yellow Card and sent Off the Field of Play (Sin Bin) in grades from and including Under 14 upwards.**

If she repeats any of these Cautionable Offences upon her resumption, she shall be shown a **Second Yellow Card**, followed by a Red Card and **Sent Off** the Field of Play, which shall include Extra Time where played.

In any competition up to and including the **Under 13 Grade**, the Sin Bin Rule **shall not apply**. The player shall be shown the Yellow Card and if she repeats another Cautionable Offence, she shall be shown a Second Yellow Card, followed by a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the duration of the game and any Extra Time that may be played.

- (a) Deliberate Pulling Down, tripping by hand or foot or jumping at an opponent.
- (b) Threatening or using abusive language or gestures towards an opponent or colleague.
- (c) Blocking or Attempting to Block an opponent with the boot, as that player is about to kick the ball from her hands.
- (d) A Sliding Tackle with the boot
- (e) Attempting to Strike or Kick an opponent.
- (f) Dissenting with, or challenging the authority of a Match Official.
- (g.) Persistent fouling
- (h) Kicking the ball with intent as an opposing player is about to pick it up.

457. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team. Repetition of these fouls shall constitute a Yellow Card offence with penalties as outlined in Rule 456.

- (a) Pushing or holding an opponent.
- (b) Bringing the hand or fist in contact with the body of an opponent for the purpose of dispossessing her of the ball.
- (c) Third player tackle, including body checking an opponent
- (d) Diving on the ball as another player is picking it up
- (e) Deliberately delaying the Kick Out
- (f) Kicking the ball away when a free is awarded against the team in possession of the ball.
- (g) Not releasing the ball to the opposing team when a free is awarded against the player in possession of the ball
- (h) Deliberately not moving back to allow a quick free to be taken
- (i) The use of foul or improper language
- (j) Interfering with a free taker by jumping up and down, waving or clapping hands, or any other physical or verbal interference aimed at distracting the free taker.  
  
Should this occur when an Attacking Team is awarded a 13m free in front of their opponents goal, a penalty shall be awarded. A player may hold her hands upright.
- (k) Player in possession of the ball leading with her elbow
- (l) Pushing off a player in the chest
- (m) Chopping down on the arms of an opponent
- (n) Provoking or intimidating players by verbal or physical actions
- (o) Straddling an opponent

458. The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team

- (a) Overcarrying the ball
- (b) Throwing the ball
- (c) Lying on the ball.
- (d) Picking the ball off the ground whilst not in a Standing Position.

- (e) Bringing the ball into her possession whilst On the Ground.
- (f) Changing the ball from hand to hand more than once in succession.
- (g) Hopping the ball more than once in succession after Catching it.
- (h) Handpassing the ball without a Visible Striking Action.
- (i) Fisting or Handpassing the ball up and catching it before it touches the ground, or before being touched by another player
- (m)

## Sin Bin

459. A “Sin Bin” Rule shall apply in all grades from and including **Under 14 upwards**. Where a player commits a First Yellow Card Offence, she shall have her name taken and sent off the Field of Play for **10 minutes Playing Time (Sin Bin)** in games of 1 Hour Duration or more. She may remain with her substitute colleagues.

In games of *less than 30 minutes* a half from and including **Under 14 Upwards** she shall be sent to the Sin Bin for **5 mins Playing Time**. Where such a game goes into Extra Time that may exceed 1 hour duration, the Sin Bin time shall be for 5 mins. – The duration of the Sin Bin is governed by the duration of Normal Time

She can only resume play after completing her 5/10 mins Playing Time Ban, with the permission of the referee or a designated official.

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

460. If the **Blood Substitute** is sent off for a First Yellow Card offence, the Team Management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who had picked up the Blood Injury back onto the field of play before the 10 Min Playing Time Ban has expired – The Team has to be down to 14 Players.

461. Where the Blood Sub was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the Team Management wish to bring her on the after the 10 mins Playing Time has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a **Normal Substitute if the player who she replaced having suffered the Blood Injury has already resumed playing.**

## Free Kicks

462. The penalty for mostly all breaches of the rules shall be a free kick.

463. If a foul occurs, the referee may allow play to continue, if s/he considers this to be to the advantage of the offended team. Once the referee allows play to continue s/he may not subsequently award a free for that foul. Disciplinary action as warranted may be applied to the offender.

464. Once the referee has blown for a free, the ball may be kicked, from the hand, or off the ground, from where indicated by the referee.
465. The ball shall be stationary, before a Free Kick, Sideline Kick and 45m Kick is taken off the ground. Failure to do so shall result, in the kick being retaken
466. In the interests of continuity of play, all Free Kicks except Penalty Kicks and Free Kicks on the 13m Line, may be taken immediately at the spot indicated by the referee.
467. Where in the referees opinion, a free is being taken from the incorrect position, the free should be retaken from where indicated by the referee. Continued breach of this rule shall result in the free being disallowed and the ball thrown in between a player from each side and all other players shall be 13m from the Throw In.
468. All players must be 13m from the ball when a Free Kick is being taken.
469. Should an opposing player stand nearer than 13m from the ball when a Free Kick, Sideline Kick, or 45m Kick is being taken, or illegally charge a Free Kick, the opposing team shall be awarded a Free Kick from where she stood or illegally charged the Free Kick.
470. Should a player taking a quick free kick, deliberately play it against an opponent for the purpose of gaining advantage, without allowing her opponent adequate time to retreat 13m, the player shall lose her free kick and play is restarted by throwing in the ball between a player from each side.
471. Should a Defending Player illegally charge a 13m Free Kick directly in front of the goal by the Attacking Team, the referee shall award a penalty.
472. When a Free Kick has been awarded and the taker passes to a colleague, who is less than 13m from the ball, the referee shall award a Free Kick to the opposing team from where the recipient stood.
473. The free taker may not play the ball again until another player has touched it. Should she do so, the referee shall award a free to the opposing team, from where the foul occurred. The only exception to this rule is where the ball rebounds off the Crossbar or Uprights, whereby the kicker may play it again.

Should the foul occur inside the 13m line, the referee shall award the free from the 13m line opposite to where the foul occurred.

474. Where a foul is committed on a player after she plays the ball, the referee should:
  - (a) Award a free from where the ball lands.
  - (b) Allow a score, should she have scored.
  - (c) Award a free on the 13m line, opposite to where the ball landed on or inside the 13m line or over the Endline.
  - (d) Award a free on the Sideline at the point where the ball crossed the Sideline.

If the free is to the Attacking Team and the ball crossed the Sideline between the 13m line and the Endline, the free shall be taken from the 13m Line.

475. Should a player from each team foul at the same time, the referee shall throw in the ball over the heads of one player from each side.
476. Once the referee has awarded a free, and prior to it being taken, if a player on the team awarded the free, fouls in retaliation, the free shall be disallowed, and play restarted by the referee, by throwing the ball over the heads of one player from each team where the original foul occurred.
477. Where the referee throws in the ball between one player from each team, all other players shall be 13m from both players.
478. At the commencement of the second half, the referee shall throw the ball in between two players from each side and all other players shall be behind the 45m line.
479. Should a player show dissent in any way with the referee's decision to award a free to the opposing team, the Freekick shall be awarded from a point 13m nearer to the defending goal, but not inside the 13m line.

Should the original free be near the Sideline, on or inside the 13m line, the referee shall place the ball on the 13m Line, 13m nearer to the centre of the goal.

480. A player taking a Freekick or a Kickout near the Endline or Sideline, may step outside these lines for the purpose of taking a run.

## **Penalties**

481. A penalty shall be awarded when:
  - (a) Any foul is committed by the Defence within the Small Rectangle
  - (b) A Personal Foul is committed by the Defence on an Attacking player, within the Large Rectangle.
  - (c) Where an Attacking Player in the Large Rectangle has her **hands on the ball** and an opponent kicks the ball.

The referee shall award a penalty, eventhough the boot may not have come in contact with the players hand.

482. A penalty shall be taken from the ground at the centre point of the 13m Line, directly in front of the goal. All players with the exception of the goalkeeper and the player taking the kick shall be outside the 20m Line.
483. The goalkeeper may move along the goalline, but cannot advance from the goalline until the ball has been kicked.

If the goalkeeper moves forward before the ball is kicked and a score does not result (ball goes wide or is saved etc), or she deflects the ball over the bar, the penalty shall be retaken.

484. It is only the player wearing a distinctive jersey, enjoys the rights and privileges of a goalkeeper. ie allowed to pick the ball off the ground, without being in a standing position inside the Small Rectangle.

## **Rectangles**

485. If an Attacking Player is within the Small Rectangle before the ball enters it, the Defending Team shall be awarded a free out from within the Small Rectangle.
486. If an Attacking Player legally enters the Small Rectangle after the ball and the ball is cleared from that area, but is returned before the Attacking Player has had time to leave the Small Rectangle, she shall be deemed, not to have committed an offence, provided, she does not play the ball or does not interfere with the Defence.
487. If an Attacking Player is in the Small Rectangle before the ball, and a point is scored from out the field, the score shall be allowed, providing:
- (a) The ball is sufficiently high to be out of the reach of **all** players.
  - (b) She does not interfere with the defence

## **Kick Out**

488. For the Kick Out from goal after a Wide in competitions from Under 15 upwards, the ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground, from within the Small Rectangle.

The ball must travel at least 13m and cross the 20m Line, before being played by another player.

Where another player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20m Line opposite, to where the foul occurred.

In competitions up to and including Under 14, the Kick Out after a Wide, may be taken from the hands or off the ground from the 13m line and must cross the 20m line before being played by another player. All players must be 13m from the ball when the Kick Out is being taken.

Where a player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20m line if the offence occurred inside the 20m line or from where the offence occurred if outside the 20m line.

489. All players shall be outside the 20m Line except the kicker and the goalkeeper, who shall remain inside the Small Rectangle.
490. Where an opposing player stands nearer to the Goalline than the 20m Line, the Defending side shall be awarded a Free Out on the 20m Line.

491. After a score, the Kick Out shall be taken from the 20m line in front of the goalposts. All players shall be at least 13m from the ball until it is kicked.
492. The player taking the Kick Out, may play the ball more than once before any other player plays it, providing, she does not take it into her hands.

## **Referee**

493. Central Council, Provincial Council and County Committees shall have the power to appoint referees for all games under their control.
494. Neutral referees shall be appointed for all games, on having completed a recognised seminar and rules course of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, where possible.
495. If a referee is unable to officiate at a game, the Secretary or Executive in charge of the fixture shall appoint a substitute who has completed a recognised seminar and rules course of The Ladies Gaelic Football Association, where possible.

However, where a referee is unable to officiate at the last moment, s/he may nominate a substitute referee, under whom the teams shall play.

496. Where County games are played at Neutral Venues, both teams shall pay the referees expenses. These may be refunded from gate receipts or from the organising Provincial or Central Council.
497. In Intercounty games, the Home County shall pay the referees fee, before the commencement of the game.

The fee may be recouped from the gate money taken at that game. A return should be made to the National or Provincial Treasurer as appropriate, showing the total gate receipts (before payment to the referee), referees expenses and any other expenses incurred ie. Fee for use of the pitch.

498. Central Council, Provincial Councils and County Boards shall hold referees Coaching Courses periodically.
499. Referees shall tog out or wear a tracksuit when officiating at all games.
500. A referee's requirements are a whistle, watch, coin, paper, pencil and yellow and red cards.
501. The duties and powers of a referee in addition to those outlined in the Playing Rules shall be :
  - (a) Sign and give a copy of the lists of the teams to the opposing team, before the commencement of the game
  - (b) Report on any failure regarding the receipt of lists to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture.
  - (c) See that the players are properly attired and report on same.

- (d) Obtain if requested by the team captain or team official, the signature, full address and club, of any player whose name appears on the official team list and that of any substitute that takes part in the game.
- (e) Allow or Disallow scores.
- (f) Consult with umpires and linespersons when occasion demands and replace any of them should they withdraw their services before the end of the game.
- (g) Deal with intrusions of unauthorised persons onto the Field of Play.
- (h) Take the names or otherwise identify players or officials interfering during the course of the game and report on it accordingly.
- (i) Report on pitch markings and on any other unsatisfactory aspects of the Field of Play.

502. The referee shall decide:

- (a) Whether ground or other conditions are suitable for playing.
- (b) Terminate a game because of darkness.
- (c) Terminate a game because of persistent outside interference, or for any other reason s/he considers necessary ie. If a player refuses to leave the field, or having been ordered off, returns to participate in the game.

503. When a player, players or a team, refuse to continue with a game, the referee should give the captain of the team approximately 3 minutes to decide their final intentions.

If the team still refuses to play, any player willing to continue with the game should give her name to the referee.

The referee should make a full report of the incident to the Committee or Council in charge.

504. If a game is terminated by the onset of darkness, it must be refixed for full time, unless there was a deliberate delay on the part of one team. In those circumstances the game may be awarded to their opponents.

If the game was terminated for any other reason, the decision rests with the Committee or Council in charge.

505. In cases of rough or dangerous play, the referee shall caution or send off the player, depending on the seriousness of the offence.

506. The referee shall take serious regard of personal fouls.

507. The referee shall give permission to a maximum of 2 officials to attend to an injured player. Such officials shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.

Treatment of injuries shall be given on the Sideline unless in exceptional circumstances where the referee shall use his/her discretion.

508. The referee shall have the power to overrule a Linesperson or Umpire, and give the final decision on scores.
509. The referees decision on any question of fact and in regard to time shall be final. The referee may be assisted in the timing of games by any timing device as approved by Central Council.
510. The referee cannot make the award of a game, but may give the final score if requested. The awarding of the game rests with the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture.
- Video evidence shall not be admissible to review the decision of a referee where the decision relates to the allowance or disallowance of a score, the award of a free or the playing time allowed.
511. The referee shall forward team lists, and a report of the match to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture, showing :
- (a) The Final and Half Time scores.
  - (b) The Time the teams took the field
  - (c) The Time that the match commenced
  - (d) The Attire of players.
  - (e) The Names of any players Cautioned or Ordered Off and the reasons.
  - (f) The Names of any players Injured or any other information s/he deems relevant.
  - (g) The Names of Substitutions used during the course of the game
512. The Team Lists and Referees Match Report shall remain the property of the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture.
513. In the event of a team failing to participate in a game, the referee shall count the players of the team (s) that is present, to ensure that they have 11 players, obtain a Team list, and forward a report to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture.
514. Where a referee fails to forward a report of a game, the Committee or Council in charge shall have the power, to investigate infringements of the rules that may have occurred, and call witnesses who attended the game.
515. Referees from the Associations own panel shall be paid expenses at the rate of 30 cent per kilometre or 50 cent per mile and a match fee of €30.00, or as decided by Central Council. Overseas Units of the Association are exempted.

## **Umpires**

516. There shall be 2 Goal Umpires at each end of the ground. They may be appointed by, the Referee, County Committee, Provincial or Central Council, or by their Sub Committees.

517. The Umpires shall decide, subject to the referees final decision, whether the ball has crossed the Goalline, Crossbar, or Endline, and shall signal whether it is a goal, a point, a wide or a 45m free kick.
518. If an Attacking Player is within the Small Rectangle before the ball enters it and a goal is scored, the Umpires shall with the confirmation of the Referee, disallow the score.
519. If a point is scored, whereby the ball goes directly off or over the crossbar, out of the reach of **all players**, and the defence **was not interfered with**, the Umpires with the confirmation with the referee shall **allow the score**.
520. When a score is disallowed, the umpire shall cross the signal flags (green for a goal, white for a point), in front of the goal.
521. Where a team scores a goal, or a point, the Umpire shall raise the appropriate flag over his/her head.
522. The Umpires shall have the power to deal with and bring to the referees attention :
- (a) Any Off the Ball incidents
  - (b) Any incidents that may have gone unnoticed by the referee.
  - (c) Any incursions onto the Field of Play by a team manager, coach, selector, or any unauthorised person.
523. Umpires shall not change ends at Half Time.

## **Linespersons**

524. There shall be 2 Linespersons, one at either side of the field. They may be appointed, by, the Referee, County Committee, Provincial or Central Council or their Sub Committees.
525. The Linespersons duties shall be:
- (a) To decide where the ball crosses the Sideline and to which team the Sideline Kick is to be awarded to.
  - (b) Point the flag in the direction in which the Sideline Kick is to be taken.
  - (c) Deal with and bring to the referees attention, any incidents which the referee may not have seen, or incursions onto the Field of Play by, the Team Manager, Coach, Selectors or any Unauthorised Persons.
526. The Linespersons may change ends at Half Time.