



## **1. COUNTY CONVENTION (Rules 3.8 to 3.15 T.O.)**

**1.1.** County Convention, convened in accordance with Rule 3.8, shall elect/appoint Officers and Representatives in accordance with Rule 3.9 and Delegates in accordance with Rule 3.10 following nomination in accordance with Rule 3.11.

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer and shall appoint a Planning & Training Officer, Demographics Officer and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

It shall further elect two representatives on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council.

**1.2.** A person nominated for any of the above elected positions shall, 10 days before Convention following a request from the County Secretary, confirm in writing their willingness or otherwise to seek or not seek election.

**1.3.** Rule 3.9 (b) (2) shall not apply to the office of Treasurer i.e., five-year limit applies.

**1.4.** Before publication of Convention Motions submitted in accordance with Rule 3.12 these shall be examined by the Management Committee. Motions considered out of order should be returned to the submitting Unit indicating reasons and affording an opportunity to re-submit by a date specified in advance of County Convention.

## **2. COUNTY COMMITTEE (Rules 3.16 to 3.19 T.O.)**

**2.1.** The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed pursuant to Bye Law No. 1, the two Provincial Council representatives, and the one Central Council representative, (elected pursuant to Bye Law No. 1 above who shall be ex-officio members), one named delegate from each affiliated club, the County Safety and Facilities Officer, Demographics Officer, County Referees' Administrator, the Coiste na nÓg Chairperson, one named representative each from the County Primary Schools Committee, the County Post Primary Schools Committee and the County Handball Committee and the Head of Operations (without voting rights).

**2.2.** Where a vacancy arises for the position of Honorary President, The County Committee, at the first County Committee meeting of the year, shall elect its Honorary President, following nominations from Clubs. The nominees shall be people who have given service in a voluntary administrative capacity to Offaly GAA. They shall hold office for a term of five years. On completion of their term, they shall become Honorary life Vice Presidents of Offaly GAA.

Their duties shall include representing the County at functions or events if requested by the County Chairperson. The Honorary President may attend at meetings of the County Committee and at County Convention but shall not be entitled to vote. They may, provided they are invited by the Chairperson, speak at County Committee meetings and/or at County



**Convention. The Honorary President shall present the Club of The Year Awards at County Convention.**

**2.3.** In accordance with Rule 3.18 and subject to Rules 3.19 and 4.1 T.O. the County Committee shall appoint the following sub-committees whose powers and functions shall be as detailed therein and, in these Bye Laws where appropriate. The County Secretary shall retain a current list of members of each sub-committee and circulate to the County Committee. The membership of each shall be determined as follows:

**(i) Management Committee**

It shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed at Annual County Convention, the Coiste na nÓg Chairperson, representatives to Central and Provincial Council and the Head of Operations Manager (without voting rights).

In accordance with Rule 3.18(i) a recommendation of the County Management Committee on a matter of Finance may not be upset save by a three-fifths majority of members of the County Committee present, entitled to vote and voting.

**(ii) Competitions Control Committee**

It shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary and two other members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, two named nominees of Coiste na nOg, a named representative of the Finance Committee, one Fixtures Analyst together with the County Referees' Administrator (who shall vote only on the appointment of Referees).

**(iii) Fixtures Analysts**

As per Rule 3.18 (iii) T.O.

**(iv) Hearings Committee**

It shall consist of a Chairperson and six other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(v) Safety and Facilities Committee**

It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in Rule 3.18 (v) T.O.

**(vi) Planning and Training Committee**

It shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.

**(vii) Referees' Administration Committee**



It shall consist of the County Referees' Administrator and five other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(viii) Coaching and Games Development Committee**

It shall consist of the County Coaching Officer, as Chairperson, Head of Games Development (who shall act as Secretary), all full-time employed Games Development Coordinators, and four other named members, one of whom shall be the Hurling Coordinator and one of whom shall be the Football Coordinator, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(ix) Cultural Committee**

It shall consist of the Officer for Irish Language & Culture, as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(x) Public Relations/Marketing Committee**

It shall consist of the County Public Relations Officer, as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xi) Youth Committee**

It shall consist of five named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xii) Finance Sub-Committee**

It shall consist of eight named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xiii) Information Technology Committee**

It shall consist of the County Public Relations Officer and three other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xiv) County Teams Management and Panels Sub-Committee**

The membership of the County Teams' Management and Panels' Committee shall be as outlined in the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships and as approved by Árd Chomhairle from time to time and shall be nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xv) Audit & Risk Committee**

It shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

**(xvi) Demographics Committee**



It shall consist of the County Demographics Officer, who shall act as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**(xvii) Health and Well-Being Committee**

It shall consist of the Children's Officer and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

**2.4.** In accordance with Rule 3.17 (m) T.O. the County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose powers and functions shall be as set out in these Bye Laws.

**(i) County Post-Primary Schools Committee**

It shall be responsible for the promotion of the aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in all Post-Primary Schools in Offaly through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes. It shall encourage as wide a participation in Gaelic Games, as is possible. This Committee shall be appointed annually, by the County Committee and shall include a representative of each affiliated Post-Primary School, a representative of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee and an Officer of the County Committee. The County Chairperson shall nominate the Chairperson, for appointment by the County Committee.

**(ii) Coiste na nÓg Committee**

It shall be responsible for the promotion of underage club activities, for minor grades and below, shall be controlled by a Sub-Committee of the County Committee to be known as Coiste na nÓg.

- (a)** Coiste na nOg shall promote underage club activities, for minor grades and below, except where the County Bye Laws provide otherwise. It shall make recommendations to the Competitions Control Committee for arrangements for all Competitions and/or Championships of underage football and hurling up to and including the Minor grade.
- (b)** Coiste na nOg shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary, who shall be appointed at the first meeting of the County Committee each year following a nomination from the Management Committee. One representative from each of Cumann na mBunscol, County Handball Committee, County Camogie Committee (non-voting), County Ladies Football Committee (non-voting) and one representative from each club's underage sub-committee or where clubs combine to form an Independent Underage team one representative from that team (one representative to represent all underage teams up to and including the Minor grade). The Coaching Officer and Children's Officer elected and appointed respectively at County Convention shall act ex officio on Coiste na nOg.
- (c)** Coiste na nOg Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Coaching Officer and Children's Officer shall be responsible for the day to day running of the affairs of Coiste na nOg.



- (d) Coiste na nOg shall meet as required.

### **3. ATTACHMENT TO FIRST CLUB**

**3.1.** In accordance with Rule 6.3 (c) T.O. a person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be restricted to joining a Club in the Catchment area of his permanent residence or where he has other relevant connection with a particular club as defined by 6.2 (b) (i) T.O. A Club Catchment Area shall be defined as within the Parish and within the County boundary, based on the boundary of the Roman Catholic Parish. If a player wishes to become a member of the Association, by joining a club, outside of the catchment area of his permanent residence, he or the club must submit to the County Secretary, his entitlement to do so.

**Exception.**

- (a) The above definition of Club Catchment applies except where an existing agreement approved by the County Committee is in place.

### **4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE**

**4.1.** Permanent Residence is defined in Rule 6.2 T.O. with the following exception.

**Exception.**

- (a) To meet the requirement of permanent residence, a player must be residing at his current address for at least 16 weeks. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant. Acceptance of proof of residence shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Control Committee.

**A utility bill is not acceptable as proof of residence. A Rental Agreement registered with the Residential Tenancies Board is deemed acceptable as proof of residence. In cases that include a move from the principal private residence, proof of disposal of, or rental of, that property shall be required.**

### **5. OTHER RELEVANT CONNECTION**

**5.1.** Rule 6.2 T.O. sets out criteria considered to constitute 'Other Relevant Connection' with a particular Club.

### **6. TRANSFERS**

**6.1.** Transfers within the County shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.4 (a) T.O.

**6.2.** Applications for transfers, within the county, shall be submitted on a duly completed official transfer application form. All Such applications must be submitted to the County Secretary prior to the first meeting of the County Committee each year, which shall be held in January, and no further applications will be considered after that date.



6.3. Such application shall not be granted unless the player is in permanent residence in the Parish in which his new club is located is opting for his First Club or has “Other Relevant Connection” with a particular Club as defined in sub-section (b) (i) of Rule 6.2. T.O.

6.4. The Competitions Control Committee shall process and make initial decisions on all applications for Transfer and Permission to Play within the county. Such decisions shall reflect the ethos of the Association as outlined in Rule 6.1. T.O. and give due consideration to the negative effect, if any, it may have on the player’s First club.

## 7. CLUB TEAM GRADINGS

7.1. No club may have more than one team at each grade.

7.2. A club that wins any grade of championship shall have that team graded at the next highest level for the following year. A club that loses a relegation final (as outlined in Championship regulations) shall have that team graded at the next lowest level for the following year.

### Exceptions.

- (a) If a club that wins a Championship, already has a team in the next highest grade, that team cannot be graded at the next highest level for the following year. In this instance, the team that loses a relegation final, at the next highest grade will not be regraded for that year only.
- (b) If a club loses the relegation final of a particular grade and has a team at the next lower level, no relegation will take place from the higher grade for that year only.
- (c) Clubs entering teams in the Junior A, B or C, Championships may apply to the CCC for for a change of grade, within Junior level.

7.3. Requests for grading of teams in (c) above shall be accepted by the CCC, not less than 10 days prior to the first County Committee Meeting of the year. No other request for grading shall be accepted. The CCC shall make a recommendation in relation to any such applications to the County Committee. The County Committee retains the right to make the final decision on an application for grading by a Club.

## 8. PLAYER GRADINGS

8.1. On a date specified by the CCC, a Club may apply to have players regraded by one level, subject to the Club retaining a minimum of fifteen players, approved by the Competitions Control Committee, in each of the required grades, at the Championship status level of the previous year, other than where a Club has been relegated from a Championship.

8.2. A player may not be regraded by more than one level.

### Exception.

- (a) Players who played on the winning team in Senior B, Intermediate or Junior championship finals shall be considered to be of Senior, Senior B or Intermediate





status respectively for the following year's championships, unless they have been regraded.

- (b) Clubs impacted by Offaly Bye Law 7.2 (a) & (b) may submit an exceptional player regrading application to the Competitions Control Committee as per Code (10.8).

8.3. In Accordance with Code 10.8 (b) a player aggrieved by a decision on his application for Regrading shall have the right of appeal to the County Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final.

## 9. AFFILIATION

9.1. In accordance with Code 4.3 (C) entry fee for Championship shall be €80 for each adult team and €8 for each under-age team.

## 10. PLAYING RESTRICTIONS (Rule 6.7 T.O.)

10.1. Subject to the Exceptions hereunder and Bye Law 3.1 Exception (a), the Parish Rule shall be in force for all grades.

### Exceptions.

- (a) In accordance with Rule 3.17 (o) and Rule 6.7 T.O., Exception (1) (a) or (b): Where there is no under-age team in a Parish (including Minor & U20), a player in that Parish, may play with an Independent Team within the County which shall not bear the name of an adult Club within the County.  
Or
- (b) With another Under 21 or Younger Grade Team within the County. In the case of a team having five or more players under this provision in Rule, the team shall play under and be recognised by the combined names of the Clubs in question or by an independent name which shall not bear the name of an Adult Club within the County.
- (c) Where a player has been granted such permission, in previous years, and a team is formed, in a club or Independent team within his Parish, that player must play with that club or Independent team.
- (d) A Player, who's club is not part of an Independent Team, may not be granted permission to play in a higher age grade than he is currently eligible for e.g. A player who is eligible to play at U13 in the current championship year, may not be given permission to play at U15 level with another club or Independent team.
- (e) In accordance with Rule 6.7 (c) T.O. where there is no adult football team in a Parish, a player from a hurling Club, in that Parish, may play with a football team, and vice versa, within the County. Acceptance of such a request shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Control Committee.

10.2. Applications for Exceptions in 10.1 above shall be processed by the County Competitions Control Committee and approved by the County Committee each year. All applications for Exceptions shall, be submitted, on duly completed application forms, to the Committee, by the relevant Club Secretary seven clear days (168 Hours) in advance of the 1st meeting of the County Committee each year.



When considering such applications the CCC shall consider the playing numbers, in that grade, of the club or Independent team, the player wishes to play for. The CCC may recommend the application not be granted if, it is the view of the CCC that, there are sufficient players in that club or Independent team. In such instances the CCC may recommend playing with an alternative nearby club or Independent team.

Exceptions shall only be approved where all players, at the same grade, from a club are going to the same Club/Independent Team.

**Exception.**

- (a) In exceptional circumstances, the CCC may consider an application **outside the timeframe specified in 10.2 above**, for an individual under-age player (up to and including U17) during the **regular** playing season.

**10.3.** Applications for Independent teams shall only be accepted, on an annual basis, for a team formed in accordance with and complying with the Central Council Policy for the Regulation of Independent Teams.

**10.4.** If a Club or Independent Team fields an ineligible player, the player and club officials shall be subject to the penalties outlined in the codes and rules of the Official Guide. For the avoidance of doubt the officials concerned shall be the Chairperson and Secretary of each club that forms an Independent Team.

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