

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

Aibreán, 2006

AN TREORAÍ OIFIGIÚIL

CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The name of the Association shall be Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.
- 1.2 The Association is a national organisation which shall legislate for and promote the game of Camógaíocht, The membership and resources of the Association shall be utilised for this purpose, together, with other activities sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.
- 1.3 The Association is a democratic organisation structured on the following basis:
 - (i) Members
 - (ii) Clubs
 - (iii) County Boards
 - (iv) Provincial Councils
 - (v) Ardchomhairle
 - (vi) Annual Congress
- 1.4 The Central Colleges Bodies, i.e. Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nInstitiúidí um Ardoideachas, Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarlbhunscoileanna, and Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nBunscoileanna, shall be subject to the rules in the Official Guide. Each Central Colleges Body shall affiliate as a unit to Ardchomhairle.
- 1.5 Where Councils are established abroad, each Council shall affiliate to Ardchomhairle. Such Councils, and their subsidiary units, shall be subject to the rules in the Official Guide.
- 1.6 The Association shall be non-political and non-sectarian. No member shall seek to identify the Association with any political movement, nor shall political questions be raised or discussed at any meeting of the Association.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

- 1.7 The aims and objects of the Association shall be the:
 - (a) Promotion and development of Camógaíocht;
 - (b) Promotion of Gaelic ethos;
 - (c) Fostering of an awareness of the richness of our national culture;
 - (d) Advancement of the Irish language as a medium of communication;
 - (e) Advancement of Irish dancing, music and song, and other aspects of Irish culture.
- 1.8 The Association should:
 - (a) co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own;
 - (b) assist in promoting community development and in fostering a community spirit;
 - (c) support Irish industry.
- 1.9 It is recommended that the National Flag be properly displayed at matches.

GENERAL

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2.1 Official correspondence may be issued in either hard copy (paper) or in electronic format (email) including communication of information to the Association's units. These shall be accepted forms of communication for notification of fixtures, notices of meetings, circulation of minutes of meetings and circulation of disciplinary findings. Official correspondence in electronic format shall be issued from a designated email address of the Secretary of the relevant Committee and the Secretary's name shall be printed in Irish. Official correspondence in hard copy shall be signed in Irish.

Exceptions:

The following shall be acceptable only in hard copy:

Objections/appeals, nominations and papers for Annual Conventions at all levels, Bye-laws for ratification, request for special meetings, and investigations, Declaration Forms (CC3), Transfer Forms (CC4), Referee's Reports (CC5), Sanctions to play abroad (CC6) and sponsorship approval form (CC7).

- 2.2 All official correspondence shall come through the Secretary of the relevant committee. In the absence of the Secretary, correspondence shall be acceptable only from the officer authorised by the committee.

OFFICERS

- 2.3 Officers at all levels of the Association must be registered members of affiliated Clubs or Colleges.
- 2.4 The term "Officer" shall refer to any of the following: Cathaoirleach (Chairman), Leas-Cathaoirleach (Vice-Chairman), Rúnaí (Secretary), Cisteoir (Treasurer), Cláráitheoir (Registrar), Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí (P.R.O.). Such Officers shall be entitled to vote at meetings by virtue of that office.
- 2.5 The duties of Officers shall be as set out in the Association's Administration Guide.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 2.6 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Officers and such additional members as provided for in bye-laws. The functions and powers of the Executive Committee shall be defined in the relevant Club, County Board or Provincial Council bye-laws.

The Executive Committee may fill vacancies among Officers or committee members should such vacancies occur between Annual General Meetings.

1.

OFFICIALS

2.7 The term "Official" shall refer to appointees such as team mentors and coaches, referees, umpires, or any person appointed by a Committee to act on its behalf.

FUNDS

2.8 The funds of any unit of the Association shall be lodged in a bank or other financial institution. All cheques issued on behalf of the unit shall be signed by the Cisteoir and any one of the Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, or Trustee. The names of all four authorised signatories shall be lodged with the bank or other financial institution.

MEETINGS AND DECISIONS AT MEETINGS

2.9 The quorum for meetings at all levels of the Association shall be 20% of those entitled to attend and vote in addition to the Officers present.

2.10 Decisions taken at meetings at all levels of the Association shall be taken by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote, and voting, motions for such decisions having been proposed and seconded. Decisions so taken shall not be rescinded at any subsequent meeting except with the consent of two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote, and voting, prior written notice of intended rescindment having been conveyed to each member in the convening of said meeting.

2.11 Decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting at all levels of the Association shall not be rescinded except at a subsequent Annual General Meeting, and then, only with the consent of two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting, prior written notice of intended rescindment having been conveyed to each member in the convening of said Annual General Meeting.

2.12 Enactment of a new Rule at Annual Congress requires a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote, and voting. Deletion or alteration of an existing Rule requires a two-thirds majority of those present, entitled to vote, and voting.

2.13 Election shall be by ballot. Candidates for positions at all levels must be nominated, and, in each instance, the candidate's Club/County/College as applicable must be stated. The candidate who obtains the overall majority (i.e. more than half) of those present, entitled to vote, and voting, shall be elected.

2.14 In the event of a tie in voting, the Cathaoirleach shall exercise her/his casting vote whether or not she/he exercised her/his vote in the original division.

2.15 A special meeting may be summoned by the appropriate Executive Committee at all levels of the Association. A special meeting shall be summoned by the Executive Committee at Club, County and Provincial levels on the written request of 20%, exclusive of the Officers, of members, affiliated clubs and affiliated County Boards, respectively.

URRAÍOCHT (SPONSORSHIP)

2.16 Permission must be obtained by Clubs, County Boards, Provincial Councils prior to accepting sponsorship. Directives on Sponsorship are set out in the Addendum.

Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport

2.17 Ardchomhairle shall be entitled to adopt a Code of Conduct for the protection of children (under 18) 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 provisions of the Code and not under any other provision of these Rules or Club Constitution. This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and acts in accordance with such Code.

Anti-Doping Code

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is dedicated to the ideals that in its game the spirit of fair play prevails, the health of players is paramount and that doping can have no place in Camógaíocht. Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is committed to co-operate with An Chomhairle Spóirt (The Irish Sports Council) to advance these ideals.

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael also recognises that in enforcing this Anti-Doping Code the constitutional and legal rights of the individual must always be respected.

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael realises that any finding of a breach of the Code has the potential to damage the good name of the person involved. Therefore, where a doping infraction is alleged, the case must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. All practical steps must be taken to avoid the identification of any person under investigation for any alleged infraction of this code.

2.18 The Anti-Doping Rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.

Ardchomhairle shall appoint a Drugs Disciplinary Committee and a Drugs Appeals Committee which shall deal with all cases arising from the violation of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as stipulated in clause 8.61 of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The ordinary disciplinary and appeals procedures, as set out in An Treoraí Oifigiúil shall not apply in such cases.

Supporters' Club

2.19 A Supporters' Club at any level of the Association may be set up only by the Committee in charge at the relevant level, i.e. County Board or Council. The constitution of such a Club shall be as set out in the "Camogie Supporters Club Constitution" as contained in the Addendum of An Treoraí Oifigiúil.

2.

An Treoraí Oifigiúil

2.20 Current copies of An Treoraí Oifigiúil and all Official Forms of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael may be downloaded from the Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael website, with due security precautions.

Arachas (Insurance)

2.21 Each Club shall have Player Injury Insurance cover for all of its members. Any member not insured may not play or officiate at games.

THE CLUB

- 3.1 No Club shall be named after a living person.
- 3.2 Membership of the Association shall be granted only by a Club or College.
- 3.3 Membership shall be open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objects of the Association, but membership may be refused to any applicant in the interests of the Association.
- 3.4 Members shall pay to the Club an annual membership fee, which shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. Only registered and paid-up members shall have a right to vote at meetings and at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.
- 3.5 A Club must have at least twelve playing members before it may affiliate to the Association. Application for affiliation must be made to the relevant County Board. On acceptance of initial affiliation by the County Board, the Club shall be entitled to a copy of the Official Guide from the County Board. Each affiliated Club, and each member of each affiliated Club, shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Constitution, Aims and Objects of the Association, and of the rules set out in the Official Guide, and shall be bound by them.
- 3.6 By 1st April each year, each Club shall submit/register with the County Board:
 - (a) a list, in duplicate, of its registered members;
 - (b) the required affiliation fee;
 - (c) the Club colours.
- 3.7 The registration list shall be acceptable only on Form CC1 either hard copy (paper) or in electronic format, (floppy disc), and shall give the names in Irish and in English of its members. Alterations and additions to the initial list must be submitted on CC1 form. All lists must be signed in Irish by the Club Secretary or have her/his name printed on it in Irish.
- 3.8 The affiliation fee shall be subject to revision at Congress each year. A percentage of each Club fee shall be retained by the County Board; the balance shall be remitted to the Provincial Council which shall retain a percentage of same and shall forward the balance to Ardchomhairle. The percentage to be retained by the County Board and Provincial Council shall be decided by Annual Congress.
- 3.9 No two Clubs in the same County shall have identical colours detail. The Club whose colours have been longest registered shall have prior claim to definition.
- 3.10 Only those Clubs who have complied with Rule 3.6 may take part in any competition.
- 3.11 Each Club shall be answerable for the conduct of its members and known partisans.
- 3.12 In all matters, the Club shall be subject to the County Board.
- 3.13 In Counties where County Boards do not exist, Clubs shall affiliate direct to the Provincial Council, which shall decide in which competitions such Clubs are eligible to participate. Where no Provincial Council exists, Clubs shall affiliate direct to Ardchomhairle.

CLUB MEETINGS

- 3.14 Members shall be notified by the Secretary of the date, time, venue and agenda of meeting at least five days beforehand.
- 3.15 Each Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting on or before 15th November of each year.
- 3.16 At least seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall send to each member;
 - (a) Agenda for the meeting, showing date, time and venue of same;
 - (b) Minutes of the previous year's Annual General Meeting;
 - (c) Secretary's Report for the year;
 - (d) Nominations of Officers and other elected personnel;
 - (e) Notices of motion and bye-laws.A copy of the Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts for the year shall be given to each member at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, such copies shall be returned to the Treasurer at the end of the meeting. The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts shall be considered by the Executive Committee at least fourteen days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.17 The Annual General Meeting shall:
 - (a) Consider the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - (b) Consider reports and accounts for the previous year;
 - (c) Elect the Officers who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting;
 - (d) Elect representatives to Committees and Conventions as required by Rule and County Bye-Laws, and any other required personnel or sub-committees;
 - (e) Consider notices of motion and bye-laws.Bye-laws shall not be contrary to Rule and shall not become binding until ratified by County Convention.

3.

3.18 A Special General Meeting may be summoned by the Executive Committee. A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Executive Committee on a written request signed by no fewer than 25% of the registered members. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. Members shall receive at least five days' notice of the date, time and venue of such meeting and the special business to be transacted.

ADMINISTRATION AND CLUB PROPERTY

3.19 The Executive Committee may appoint two Trustees to hold the Club property in trust for the Club. Trustees so appointed shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee but shall not have a vote by virtue of that position.

3.20 A decision to disband a Club may only be taken at a meeting specially convened for that purpose. Such meeting shall be convened in accordance with Rule 3.18. Officers of the County Board shall be requested to attend such meeting. A motion to disband a Club shall be carried only if supported by 75% of those present, entitled to vote, and voting. Should a Club disband, any property remaining after the satisfaction of debts and liabilities shall not be distributed among the members. Such property shall be held in trust by the Club Trustees for the County Board. In the absence of Trustees, the County Board shall assume the trust. A decision to disband shall be conveyed immediately to the County Board.

COUNTY BOARDS

4.1 On the establishment of three Clubs within a County, a County Board shall be formed.

4.2 Each County Board shall be comprised of the Officers, the delegate to Provincial Council, one representative of each affiliated Club, who must be a registered member of that Club, and where applicable, one representative of each Subsidiary Committee, each of whom shall have the right to vote. (Subsidiary Committees: Divisional, Junior, Minor, Colleges' Boards).

The Officers of Ardchomhairle shall be ex-officio members of County Boards.

4.3 The Officers shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of the County Board.

4.4 Each County Board shall, within its own County, have:

- (a) Control of Club affiliations;
- (b) Control of County competitions;
- (c) Power to make bye-laws which shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved by Ardchomhairle;
- (d) The right to submit motions to Provincial Convention or Annual Congress, as applicable. Such motions must in the first instance be approved by County Convention.
- (e) Power to investigate irregularities, suspend, fine, disqualify or expel Clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder, to hear and decide on objections and appeals by Clubs or individuals;
- (f) The right to determine the manner of selecting teams to represent the County in Inter-County competition;
- (g) Responsibility to raise finances, to control, administer and utilise the funds and property of the Association as set out in Rule 1.2;
- (h) The right to appoint special committees as required to work to specific terms of reference;
- (i) The right to delegate to Subsidiary Committees the administration of competitions or other specific business within the County. The functions and powers of such Subsidiary Committees shall be defined in County bye-laws. Subsidiary Committees shall not assume the powers, rights and authority which are vested in the County Board.

4.5 By 1st May each year, each County Board shall submit to/register with the Provincial Council:

- (a) A list on Form CC1, of registered members within the County. All lists must be signed by the County Secretary;
- (b) The required percentage of Club affiliation fees;
- (c) Details of County colours.

4.6 Only those County Boards which have complied with Rule 4.5 may participate in Inter-County competition.

4.7 Each County Board shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of Officers and officials acting on its behalf.

4.8 Each County Board shall be answerable for the conduct of its members and known partisans.

4.9 In all matters, the County Board shall be subject to the Provincial Council and Ardchomhairle

4.10 Where a Provincial Council does not exist, a County Board shall affiliate direct to Ardchomhairle, which shall decide in which competitions such Counties are eligible to participate. In the case of County Boards abroad, the manner of their participation in Inter-County competition shall be decided by Annual Congress.

COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

4.11 Members shall be notified in writing by the Secretary of the date, time, venue and agenda of meetings at least seven days beforehand.

4.12 Each County Board shall hold an Annual Convention on or before 15th December of each year.

4.13 The Annual Convention shall be comprised of the Officers of the outgoing County Board, the outgoing delegate to Provincial Council, two delegates from each affiliated Club, and, where applicable, two delegates from each Divisional/Subsidiary Board, each of whom shall have a vote.

4.

COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS continued

- 4.14 At least five weeks prior to the date of Convention the County Secretary shall forward to each Club Secretary a Nomination form on which to return the Club's proposals for Officers and other elected personnel, motions and bye-laws. The name and Club of each outgoing office-holder shall be shown on the form, together with the latest date for the receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws which shall be at least three weeks prior to the date of Convention.
- 4.15 Nomination forms shall be acceptable only if:
- (a) Lodged with the County Secretary by the stated date;
 - (b) Signed by the Club Secretary.
- 4.16 At least ten days prior to the date of Convention, the County Secretary shall forward to each Officer of the County Board, to the delegate to Provincial Council, to each Club Secretary and to the Secretary of each Divisional/Subsidiary Board:
- (a) Agenda for Convention, showing date, venue and time of same;
 - (b) Minutes of previous year's Convention;
 - (c) Secretary's Report for year;
 - (d) Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts;
 - (e) Nominations of Officers and other elected personnel, indicating Club of proposer and proposed;
 - (f) Notices of motion and bye-laws, indicating Club proposing.
- 4.17 The County Convention shall:
- (a) Consider the Minutes of the previous Convention;
 - (b) Consider reports and accounts for the previous year;
 - (c) Elect the Officers who shall hold office until the next County Convention;
 - (d) Elect representatives to Committees and Conventions as required by Rule or County bye-laws, and any other required personnel or sub-committees;
 - (e) Consider notices of motions and bye-laws. Bye-laws shall not be contrary to Rule and shall not become binding until ratified by Ardchomhairle.
- 4.18 Only those motions, bye-laws or recommendations which have been approved by Annual Convention may be submitted to Provincial Convention, Ardchomhairle or Annual Congress as appropriate.
- 4.19 Immediately after the County Convention, the County Secretary shall forward to the Secretary of Provincial Council and to the Ardstiúrthóir:
- (a) A copy of Secretary's Report;
 - (b) A copy of the Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts;
 - (c) The names of the elected Officers and of the delegate to Provincial Council.
- 4.20 A Special Convention may be summoned by the Executive Committee. A Special Convention shall be summoned by the Executive Committee on a written request signed by no fewer than 50% of affiliated Clubs. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. Members shall receive at least five days notice in writing of the date, time and venue of such meeting and of the special business to be transacted.

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

- 5.1 On the establishment of three County Boards within a Province, a Provincial Council shall be formed.
- 5.2 Each Provincial Council shall be comprised of the Officers, the delegate to Ardchomhairle, one representative of each affiliated County Board within the Province, and, where applicable, one representative of each of the Provincial Colleges Councils, each of whom shall have the right to vote. Officers of Ardchomhairle shall be ex-officio members of Provincial Councils.
- 5.3 The Officers shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of Provincial Council. A County representative may, with the prior approval of the County Board, be represented by a proxy, provided the County Secretary notifies the Provincial Secretary in advance of same.

5.

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS continued

- 5.4 Each Provincial Council shall, within its own Province, have:
- (a) Control of County affiliations;
 - (b) Control of Provincial competitions;
 - (c) Control of Camógaíocht, in a County where no County Board exists or where a County Board has ceased to exist;
 - (d) Power to make bye-laws which shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved by County Convention and only become binding when ratified by Ardchomhairle;
 - (e) The right to submit motions to Annual Congress. Such motions must in the first instance have the approval of Provincial Convention;
 - (f) Power to investigate irregularities, to suspend, fine, disqualify or expel County Boards, Clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder, to hear and decide on objections and appeals by County Boards, Clubs or individuals;
 - (g) The right to determine the manner of selecting teams to represent the Province in inter-provincial competition;
 - (h) Responsibility to raise finances, to control, administer and utilise the funds and property of the Association as set out in Rule 1.2;
 - (i) The right to appoint special committees as required to work to specific terms of reference;
 - (j) The right to delegate to Subsidiary Committees the administration of competitions or other specific business within the Province. The functions and powers of such Subsidiary Committees shall be defined in Provincial bye-laws. Subsidiary Committees shall not assume the powers, rights and authority which are vested in the Provincial Council.
- 5.5 By 31st May each year, each Provincial Council shall submit to / register with Ardchomhairle:
- (a) A list of affiliated Clubs within each County;
 - (b) The required percentage of Club affiliation fees;
 - (c) Details of County colours.
- 5.6 Each Provincial Council shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of Officers and officials acting on its behalf.
- 5.7 In all matters, the Provincial Council shall be subject to Ardchomhairle.
- 5.8 Members shall be notified in writing by the Secretary of the date, time, venue and agenda of meetings at least seven days beforehand.
- 5.9 Each Provincial Council shall hold an Annual Convention by the end of January of each year.
- 5.10 The Provincial Council Convention shall be comprised of the Officers of the outgoing Provincial Council, the outgoing delegate to Ardchomhairle, two representatives of each affiliated County Board within the Province, and, where applicable, two representatives of each Provincial Colleges Council, each of whom shall have the right to vote.
- 5.11 At least five weeks prior to the date of Convention, the Provincial Secretary shall forward to each County Secretary a Nomination form on which to return the County's nominations of Officers and other elected personnel, motions and bye-laws. The name of each outgoing office-holder shall be shown on the form, together with the last date for receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws, which shall be at least three weeks prior to date of Convention.
- 5.12 Nominations forms shall be acceptable only if:
- (a) Lodged with the Provincial Council Secretary by the stated date;
 - (b) Signed by the County Secretary.
- 5.13 At least fourteen days prior to the date of Convention, the Provincial Secretary shall forward to each Officer of the Provincial Council, to the delegate to Ardchomhairle, to each County Board Secretary and, where applicable, to the Secretary of each Provincial Colleges Council:
- (a) Agenda for Convention, showing date, venue and time of same;
 - (b) Minutes of previous years Convention;
 - (c) Secretary's Report for the year;
 - (d) Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts;
 - (e) Nominations of Officers and other elected personnel, indicating County of proposer and proposed;
 - (f) Notices of motion and bye-laws, indicating County proposing.
- 5.14 The Provincial Council shall:
- (a) Consider the Minutes of the previous Convention;
 - (b) Consider the reports and accounts for the previous year;
 - (c) elect the Officers who shall hold office until the next Provincial Convention. The Cathaoirleach, who shall be a Leaschathaoirleach of Ardchomhairle, shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years;
 - (d) elect representatives to Committees and Conventions, as required by Rule or Provincial bye-laws, and any other required personnel or Subsidiary Committees;
 - (e) consider notices of motion or bye-laws.
- 5.15 Only those motions, bye-laws or recommendations which have been approved by Annual Convention may be submitted to Ardchomhairle, or Annual Congress, as appropriate.

6.

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS continued

- 5.16 Within fourteen days of the Provincial Convention, the Provincial Secretary shall forward to the Ardstiúrthóir:

- (a) A copy of the Secretary's Report;
 - (b) A copy of the Treasurer's Audited Statement of Accounts;
 - (c) The names of the elected Officers and of the delegate to Ardchomhairle;
 - (d) A list of affiliated Counties together with the name and address of each County Secretary.
- 5.17 A Special Convention may be summoned by the Executive Committee. A Special Convention shall be summoned by the Executive Committee on a written request signed by no fewer than 50% of affiliated County Boards. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. Members shall receive at least five days notice in writing of the date, time and venue of such meeting and of the special business to be transacted.

CENTRAL COLLEGES COUNCILS

- 6.1 Each Central Colleges Council shall have the authority to:
- (a) Manage its own affairs;
 - (b) Control competitions under its auspices;
 - (c) Make bye-laws which shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Association. Such bye-laws must in the first instance be approved by Annual Convention and only become binding when ratified by Ardchomhairle;
 - (d) Submit motions to Annual Congress. Such motions must in the first instance have the approval of Annual Convention;
 - (e) Investigate irregularities, suspend, fine, disqualify or expel schools, colleges or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder, to hear and decide on objections and appeals by schools, colleges or individuals;
- 6.2 Within fourteen days of its Annual Convention, each Central Colleges Council Secretary shall forward to the Ardstiúrthóir:
- (a) A copy of the Secretary's Report;
 - (b) A copy of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts;
 - (c) The names of the elected Officers and of the delegate to Ardchomhairle.
- 6.3 By 31st May each year, each Central Colleges Council shall submit to Ardchomhairle the required affiliation fee which shall be decided by Annual Congress.
- 6.4 Each Colleges Council shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of Officers and officials acting on its behalf.
- 6.5 In all matters, the Colleges Council shall be subject to Ardchomhairle.

ARDCHOMHAIRLE

- 7.1 Ardchomhairle shall be the supreme governing body of the Association from Congress to Congress, and the sole final authority to interpret and apply the Rules. Its jurisdiction shall extend over the whole Association in all matters, including those that pertain to the funds, investments and property of the Association. Its prior approval shall be obtained for any action affecting the general policy of the Association. Its decisions on all matters appertaining to the Association are binding on the members of the Association.
- 7.2 Ardchomhairle shall be comprised of the Uachtarán, the Cathaoirleach of the Provincial Councils who shall be Leas-Uachtarán of Ardchomhairle, Ardstiúrthóir, Riarathoir Airgeadais, the National P.R.O., one representative of each Provincial Council, one representative of each Central Colleges Council, and two Trustees who shall be appointed by Ardchomhairle for a period of five consecutive years. Outgoing Trustees shall be eligible for re-appointment. Each member, with the exception of appointed Officers, shall have the right to vote. Should a vacancy occur in representations, such a vacancy shall be filled by the Council concerned.
- 7.3 The Officers, Leas-Uachtarán and Trustees shall not be represented by proxies at meetings of Ardchomhairle. A representative may, with the prior approval of the relevant Council, be represented by a proxy, provided the Secretary of the Council notifies the Ardstiúrthóir in advance of same.
- 7.4 Ardchomhairle shall have:
- (a) Control of All-Ireland competitions;
 - (b) Control of Camógaíocht in the Province where no Provincial Council exists or where a Provincial Council has ceased to exist;
 - (c) The right to submit motions to Annual Congress;
 - (d) The right to rule on special cases, even where no particular Rule of the Association relates to those cases. A record of such rulings shall be maintained by the Ardstiúrthóir. Such rulings shall be conveyed to Councils and County Boards. Where the subject matter warrants, Ardchomhairle shall submit such ruling as a motion for ratification at the next Congress;
 - (e) Power to investigate irregularities, to suspend, fine, disqualify or expel Councils, County Boards, Clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder, to hear and decide on objections and appeals by Councils, County Boards, Clubs or individuals;
 - (f) Responsibility to raise finances, to control, administer and utilise the funds and property of the Association as set out in Rule 1.2;
 - (g) The right to appoint special committees as required to work to specific terms of reference;
 - (h) The power to ratify bye-laws as submitted by County Boards, Provincial Councils and Colleges Councils, such bye-laws to be considered for ratification before Annual Congress each year. 7.

ARDCHOMHAIRLE continued

- 7.5 Ardchomhairle shall, at its first meeting after the election of a new Uachtarán, appoint a Management Committee, Fixtures Committee, Coaching Committee, Referees Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Clemency Committee. The Uachtarán and Ardstiúrthóir shall appoint an Administration Committee and advise Ardchomhairle at the same meeting of the names of the members. The composition, functions and powers of these Subsidiary Committees shall be as defined by Ardchomhairle. Subsidiary Committees shall not assume the powers, rights and authority which is vested in Ardchomhairle.

Exception: Disciplinary Committee

Central Disciplinary Committee

- (a) It shall consist of a Cathaoirleach appointed by the Management Committee, one member from each of the four Provinces appointed by the Management Committee and one member appointed by the Central Council on the recommendation of the Management Committee. Members shall have a three year term of office.
- (b) It shall be responsible for all disciplinary matters, including misconduct and breaches of match regulations, arising from games under the jurisdiction of the Central Council.

7.6 Ardchomhairle shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of Officers and officials acting on its behalf.

MEETINGS

7.7 Members shall be notified in writing by the Ardstiúrthóir of the date, time, venue and agenda of meetings at least seven days beforehand. In cases of emergency, shorter notice shall be sufficient.

7.8 A Special Meeting of Ardchomhairle shall be summoned by the Ardstiúrthóir on the written request of five members.

ANNUAL CONGRESS

8.1 The Annual Congress shall be held on the last Saturday of March each year, except where that coincides with Easter Saturday, and on the succeeding day should the business warrant it. Each Congress shall fix the date, time and venue for the next Congress. Ardchomhairle may summon a Special Congress should the necessity arise.

8.2 The annual Congress shall be comprised of:

- (a) The members of outgoing Ardchomhairle;
- (b) Delegates from affiliated units on the following basis;
 - (i) Counties: 3 - 24 Clubs, two delegates
25 - 34 Clubs, three delegates
with entitlement to additional delegates pro rata to the above scale;
where a county is entitled to three or more delegates, at least one of those delegates should be under the age of twenty one.
 - (ii) Comhairle Chamógaíochta na n-Institiúidí um Ardoideachas, two delegates;
 - (iii) Comhairle Chamógaíochta na nIarbhunscoileanna, two delegates;
 - (iv) Comhairle Chamógaíochta na mBunscoileanna, two delegates;
 - (v) Thar lear: Each of those Councils abroad which affiliate as a unit to Ardchomhairle, two delegates.

Each of the foregoing, with the exception of appointed officers at Ardchomhairle level shall have the right to vote.

8.3 At least eight weeks prior to the date of Congress, the Ardstiúrthóir shall send to the Secretary of each County Board, Provincial Council and Central Colleges Council a Nomination form on which to return each County's and Council's nominations and motions for Congress and bye-laws for ratification by Ardchomhairle.

The name and County of each outgoing officer holder shall be shown on the form, together with the latest date for receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws, which shall be at least six weeks prior to the date of Annual Congress.

8.4 Nomination forms shall be acceptable only if:

- (a) Lodged with the Ardstiúrthóir by the stated date;
- (b) Signed by the Secretary of the nominating body.

8.5 Proposals to enact new, or to amend existing, rules shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the number of any rules affected thereby. Motions to revise the Playing Rules may be tabled every three years.

8.6 Four weeks prior to Annual Congress the Ardstiúrthóir shall send to the members of Ardchomhairle and to the Secretary of each County Board, Provincial Council and Central Colleges Council:

- (a) Agenda for Congress, showing date, venue and time of same;
- (b) Report for year from the Ardstiúrthóir;
- (c) Audited Accounts from the Riararthoir Airgeadais;
- (d) Reports from the National P.R.O., the Provincial Councils, the Central Colleges Councils and Councils abroad;
- (e) Nominations for Officers and other elected personnel, indicating County/Council of proposer and proposed;
- (f) Proposals for motions, indicating County/Council of proposer.

8.

ANNUAL CONGRESS continued

8.7 Annual Congress shall:

- (a) Consider the Reports and Accounts of Ardchomhairle and its subsidiary Councils for the preceding year ending on 31st December;
- (b) Elect the Uachtarán for a term of three consecutive years, and the National P.R.O., who shall hold office until the next Congress. The outgoing Uachtarán shall not be eligible for re-election;
- (c) Consider motions.

8.8 Unless otherwise decided by Congress, new and amended rules shall become operative one calendar month from the date of Congress.

8.9 Within one month of Annual Congress, the Ardstiúrthóir shall forward to the Secretary of each County Board, Provincial Council and Central Colleges Council the minutes of Annual Congress including the text of new and amended rules and attendance at same. The County Board and Colleges Council Secretaries shall distribute the text of new and amended rules to Clubs and Colleges.

COMPETITIONS

9.1 Eligibility to participate in competition shall be on the following basis:

- (a) County competitions shall be open to all affiliated Clubs within the County;
- (b) Amalgamated teams/clubs may participate in county competitions in accordance with its respective Bye-Laws;
- (c) Provincial competitions shall be open to all affiliated Counties within the Province;
- (d) All-Ireland competitions shall be open to all affiliated Counties.

9.2 County and Provincial competitions shall be run in accordance with their respective bye-laws.

9.3 All-Ireland competitions shall be run as directed by Annual Congress.

9.4 At all levels, where competitions are run on a league basis, whether on a single or a double round system,

- (a) Two points shall be awarded for a win and one for a draw;
- (b) Should two or more teams be equal on points at the head of the Table at the end of the competition, they shall play off on a knock-out system to decide the winner;
- (c) Should a team retire or be disqualified during the course of a League, the results of its played games shall stand. Points from its unfulfilled fixtures shall be awarded to its nominated opponents in those fixtures.

NOTIFICATION RELATING TO COMPETITIONS

9.5 For all competitions, participating Clubs/Counties/Provinces shall be notified of the date, time and venue on the following basis by the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the competition:

- (a) Seven days notice for County competitions unless otherwise provided for in County bye-laws;
- (b) Fourteen days notice for all Inter-County and All-Ireland competitions.

9.6 Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 9.5 of a fixture and, without clear notice in writing of intended default, fails to fulfil that fixture at the time and place appointed:

- (a) The committee in charge of the competition shall impose the following penalties:
 - (i) The match shall be awarded to that team's opponents in the fixture;
 - (ii) Any legitimate expenses incurred in connection with the fixture shall be paid by the Committee responsible for the defaulting team,
- (b) The committee in charge may also impose the following penalties should it consider that the situation warrants such:
 - (i) A fine on the Committee responsible for the defaulting team;
 - (ii) A period of suspension on those adjudged to be responsible for the default.

9.7 Clear notice shall be deemed to be:

- (a) Seven days for Club matches within a County, unless otherwise defined in County bye-laws;
- (b) Ten days for all Inter-County and All-Ireland competitions.

Notice shall be acceptable only in writing from the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the defaulting team.

The giving of clear notice does not automatically entitle the defaulting team to a refixture.

ALL IRELAND COMPETITIONS

9.8 The following All-Ireland competitions shall be held on an Annual basis:

Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor "A" and Minor "B" Championships;
National Leagues;
Inter-Provincial Senior and Junior Championships;
Senior and Junior Club Championship

9.9 The winners of the Provincial Inter-County and Club Championships shall contest the All-Ireland Semi-finals, except where Annual Congress decides that a competition be run on an Open Draw or other basis.

9.10 Should Provincial, County or Club teams from other countries enter any All-Ireland competition, the manner of their participation shall be decided by Annual Congress.

9.11 All-Ireland Quarter-final, where applicable, Semi-final and Final, Open or other Draw pairings and venues shall be decided by Ardchomhairle. All-Ireland Senior, Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Junior Club Championship games to be played at neutral venues with the two Semi-Finals to be played on the same day.

9.12 Quarter Finals, Semi-finals and Finals of All-Ireland competitions, and all Open or other Draw matches, shall be played on enclosed pitches.

9.

ALL IRELAND COMPETITIONS continued

9.13 The Finals of All-Ireland competitions shall be played on or before the dates specified hereunder:

Senior and Junior Championships:	the last Sunday in September;
Intermediate Championships:	the last Sunday in October;
Minor Championship	the last Sunday in August;
National Leagues:	the last Sunday in July;
Senior and Junior Inter-Provincial Championships:	the last Sunday in November;

Senior and Junior Club Championships: the last Sunday in November.

The Minor A Championship be played on a Provincial basis.

The Minor B Championship be played on an open-draw basis.

9.14 Each Provincial Council Secretary shall notify the Ardstiúrthóir of the winners of all Provincial Championship Finals by the dates specified hereunder:

Senior, Intermediate, Junior, as applicable: 15th July;

Minor: 30th June;

Club: 31st October.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

9.15 County Champions shall be eligible to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship(s), except where the winners are comprised of a representative or divisional team. In this event, the County Board shall nominate the Club team which advanced furthest in the County Championship to represent the County. The grading of Counties for the All-Ireland Club Championship(s) shall be as defined by Ardchomhairle.

9.16 Where a County Board does not exist, the Provincial Council shall have the power to permit properly affiliated Clubs to represent the County in Provincial and All-Ireland competitions.

9.17 In the event of a draw in Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, extra time shall be played.

INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS

9.19 The Committee in charge of a competition shall appoint match officials for all fixtures under its auspices.

9.20 Ardchomhairle shall appoint Referees and goal umpires for All-Ireland Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, Finals and Open or other Draw fixtures, and shall appoint line umpires for the Senior and Junior Finals.

Ardchomhairle shall be responsible for the authorised expenses for such officials acting on its behalf.

9.21 Each competing County shall appoint a line umpire in uniform for fixtures other than those listed in rule 9.20. Each County Board shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of such officials acting on its behalf.

9.22 Each Provincial Council shall provide two goal umpires and a line umpire in uniform for Semi-Finals of the Inter-Provincial competitions, and a line umpire in uniform for the Finals.

Each Provincial Council shall be responsible for the authorised expenses of such officials acting on its behalf.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS AND COST OF SAME

9.23 Catering arrangements for competing teams (25 each) and match officials shall be the responsibility of those as set out hereunder:

(a) The home County Board for all Inter-County fixtures, including the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals of the All-Ireland Club Championship;

(b) The home Provincial Council for Inter-Provincial fixtures;

(c) Ardchomhairle for the Finals of all competitions under its auspices.

Rule 9.23 is now superceded by Rule 9.24 (c)

9.24 Catering costs for competing teams (25 each) and match officials shall be the responsibility of those as set out hereunder:

(a) Ardchomhairle for the All-Ireland Finals of all competitions under its auspices, and for the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals of the All Ireland Club Championship;

(b) The home Provincial Council for the Semi-Finals of Inter-Provincial competitions;

(c) All Inter-County teams be responsible for their own catering arrangements whether it be home or away fixture.

GATE RECEIPTS

9.25 The home County Board/Provincial Council shall make arrangements to collect gate receipts at all fixtures under the auspices of Ardchomhairle. Such gate receipts shall be forwarded by the County/Provincial Secretary to the Ardstiúrthóir within fourteen days of the date of the fixture. Failure to do so shall result in a fine being imposed by Ardchomhairle on the County/Council.

GENERAL

9.26 Any team taking the field more than fifteen minutes late for a competitive match shall forfeit the match unless the Committee in charge is satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.

10.

GENERAL continued

9.27 The Committee in charge of a team participating in Inter-County, Inter-Provincial, and All-Ireland Club Championship fixtures shall:

(a) Have the players and substitutes clearly numbered, such numbers shall correspond with those in the official match programme;

(b) In the case of Semi-Finals and Finals of All-Ireland competitions, submit to the Ardstiúrthóir at least ten days prior to the fixture the names of its panel of twenty five (25), indicating numbered team line-out.

- 9.28 Should the competing teams in any fixture from County level upwards have uniforms similar in colour, both teams shall change if requested to do so by the Committee in charge of the fixture.
- 9.29 Each participating team in a fixture shall provide a sliotar. Ardchomhairle shall provide sliotar for All-Ireland Finals under its auspices.
- 9.30 Should a competitive match end in a draw it shall be replayed except:
- (a) The Committee in charge of the fixture has made a prior decision to play extra time and has advised the participating teams in advance of same;
 - or
 - (b) Both teams agree, with the approval of the Committee in charge of the fixture, to play extra time.
- The team which travelled in the first instance shall have a home venue for the replay. Should a replay finish in a draw, extra time shall be played. Should the teams finish level again after extra time, the match shall be replayed.

TOURNAMENTS, FRIENDLY AND CHALLENGE GAMES

- 10.1 Permission shall be sought for all Tournaments, Friendly and Challenge matches on the following basis:
- (a) From the County Board where teams are within the County;
 - (b) From the relevant County Boards and Provincial Council where teams are from different Counties;
 - (c) From the relevant County Boards, Provincial Councils and Ardchomhairle where teams are from different Provinces.
- 10.2 Applications for permission to hold or participate in Tournaments, Friendly and Challenge matches shall be made in writing by the relevant Secretaries prior to the date of the proposed matches.

TROPHIES

- 11.1 (a) Ardchomhairle shall each year present an All-Ireland Perpetual Cup/Trophy and twenty five medals to the winning team in each All-Ireland competition under its auspices.
- As the design of All-Ireland and National League medals is the property of Ardchomhairle, the awarding of more than twenty five such medals shall not be permitted.
- (b) Ardchomhairle shall each year present runners-up medals to the losing teams in every All-Ireland Minor Competition under its auspices.
- 11.2 (a) Provincial Councils shall each year present twenty five medals or trophies to the winning team in each competition under its auspices.
- (c) Provincial Councils shall each year present runners-up medals to the losing teams in every All-Ireland Minor Competition under its auspices.
- 11.3 County Boards shall decide on the nature of awards to be made to the winners in competitions under their auspices.
- 11.4 All official medals and trophies should be of Irish manufacture. Inscriptions, if any, shall be in Irish.
- 11.5 It shall be the responsibility of the Committee in charge of a competition to have the winners' names inscribed on trophies.
- 11.6 All Perpetual Cups/Trophies shall be returned by the holders to the relevant Committee one month prior to the conclusion of the following season's competition.

ELIGIBILITY

- 12.1 All affiliated female members shall be eligible to play for a Club, County or Province.
- 12.2 A player may register for the Club of her choice within her County of residence. A Provincial Council may, in exceptional circumstances, permit a player to play for a Club outside her County of residence.
- 12.3 Before taking part in competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. A player may play in a competition seven days after her registration has been accepted at a meeting of the committee or, in the absence of a meeting, seven days after confirmation of receipt of same by the Secretary of that Committee.
- 12.4 A player shall be automatically eligible to represent in Inter-County Competition the County in which she is registered. If the County in which a player is registered is not her native County, i.e. her County of birth or upbringing, she may declare for her native County in Inter-County competition. Such declaration must be made on Official Form C.C.3., properly completed in duplicate, and lodged with the Ardstiúrthóir by 31st January each year. This declaration shall become effective seven days after acknowledgement by the Ardstiúrthóir. A player shall not represent more than one County in the same season's Inter-County competition.

11.

ELIGIBILITY ELIGIBILITY continued

- 12.5 A player who has commenced a competition in a County shall be eligible to complete that competition with her Club or County, even if legally playing with another Club or County except in instances where the player is playing on a CC6, when Rule 14.2 shall apply. She shall not represent both Clubs or Counties in the same competition.
- 12.6 A member shall not register or play with two Clubs except in the following instances:
- A full time student of one of the recognised Institutes of Higher Education may play for both her College Club

and her home Club in the same season's competitions. She shall not represent both Clubs in the same competition;

A student who avails of this rule must declare by 31st January, in accordance with Rule 12.4 with which County she intends to play in the current year's Inter-County competition. In the event of both her College Club and her home Club being County Champions in their respective Counties in the same season, a student shall, prior to participation at the next level, notify the Ardstiúrthóir in writing with which Club she intends to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship competition; Where a Club in an Institute of Higher Education participates in competition under the auspices of the County Board, a student shall not represent both her College Club and another Club in that County in the same season's competitions in any grade.

GRADING

13.1 Grading and subsequent regrading of Clubs and players within Counties shall be in accordance with County bye-laws.

13.2 Grading of Counties for Inter-County competitions shall be:

- (a) As defined by Ardchomhairle for All-Ireland competitions;
- (b) As defined by Provincial Councils for competitions under their auspices.

13.3 Grading for Inter-Provincial competitions shall be defined by Annual Congress.

13.4 Grading of players for Inter-County competitions shall be as defined by the relevant Provincial Council:

- (a) An All-Ireland Senior Championship medal winner shall not be regraded within three years of winning the Senior Championship;
- (b) An All-Ireland Junior Championship medal winner shall be graded Intermediate and shall not be regraded within three years of winning the Junior Championship;
- (c) An All-Ireland Intermediate medal winner shall be graded Senior, if not already of Senior status, and shall not be regraded within three years of winning the Intermediate Championship;
- (d) A player of Intermediate status shall not be eligible to represent her County/Province at Junior level in any competitions;
- (e) A player shall not be eligible to represent her County in a grade lower than her defined status;
Participation in a higher grade in any season's competitions shall not effect her status for that season;
- (f) A player who is under sixteen years of age on 1st January of the competition year shall be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Minor Championship. She may participate in higher grades, including the All-Ireland Senior Championship, without prejudice to her eligibility for Minor competition.
- (g) A players' status, for any year's Inter-County competition is as defined by the Provincial Council and submitted to the Ardstiúrthóir by 01 October of the previous year.

13.5 (a) Application for regrading of Counties must be submitted by the County Secretary to the Ardstiúrthóir by the date specified by Ardchomhairle each year. Such applications must have the prior approval of the relevant Provincial Council;

- (b) Applications for regrading of players and for approval of regrading of Counties must be submitted to the Secretary of the relevant Provincial Council by the date specified by the Provincial Council each year;
- (c) In all instances, applications received after the due date shall not be considered;
- (d) The Secretary of each Provincial Council shall submit to the Ardstiúrthóir, by the date specified by Ardchomhairle each year, the names, counties and grades of regraded players.

TRANSFERS

14.1 A player who wishes to transfer from one Club to another shall notify her Club Secretary of her intentions to apply to the County Board for permission to do so.

14.2 Applications for transfer from one club to another shall be acceptable only on official Transfer Form CC4, properly completed in duplicate and signed by the relevant Secretaries.

14.3 In all applications for transfer, the status of the player and the date and grade of the last competitive match in which she played shall be specified.

14.4 The following shall apply to applications for transfer:

- (a) From one Club to another within the same County, the Transfer Form shall be signed by the applicant and the current Club Secretary, and lodged with the County Secretary for sanction;
- (b) From a Club in one County to a Club in another County within the same Province, the Transfer Form shall be signed by the applicant, the Secretaries of her current Club and County Board, and lodged with the Provincial Secretary for sanction;
- (c) From a Club in one Province to a Club in another Province or to a Club outside of Ireland, the Transfer Form shall be signed by the applicant, her current Club, County Board and Provincial Council Secretaries, and lodged with the Ardstiúrthóir for sanction.

14.5 Should the applicant's current Club refuse to grant a transfer she may apply to the County Board which shall have power to rule on the application.

12.

TRANSFERS continued

14.6 A County Board, Provincial Council and Ardchomhairle have the power to grant or refuse applications for transfer in the best interests of the Association.

- 14.7 A transfer shall become effective as soon as it is sanctioned by the relevant Body whose Secretary shall sign the Transfer Form and return one copy to the applicant. The applicant shall lodge this copy with the Secretary of the Club with which she wishes to register. Rules governing eligibility then apply.
- 14.8 Transfers are not necessary in the following instances:
- (a) From one Club to another within a County or in another County if a player has not taken part in any competitive match with a Club for a period of two calendar years;
 - (b) From a Club which has disbanded.
- In all instances, Rules governing eligibility apply.
- 14.9 A player who is temporarily domiciled outside of the country in which she is registered, and who wishes to play with a Club in another country for the duration of such domicile, shall notify her Club Secretary of her intention to seek permission to so do.
- 14.10 Applications for permission to play on a temporary basis for a Club in another country shall be accepted only on Official Sanction Form CC6, properly completed and signed by the relevant Secretaries. All such applications require the sanction of the current Club and County Board Secretaries and of the Ardstiúrthóir.
- 14.11 The Ardstiúrthóir, having sanctioned the application, shall notify the Registrar of the relevant Board abroad. That Board shall reserve the right to grant or refuse the applicant permission to play with a Club on a temporary basis. The original form shall be retained at central level.
- 14.12 Official sanction to play on a temporary basis with a Club abroad shall be valid for the period specified on the Official Sanction Form CC6, which should not exceed a period of four months. A transfer shall be required for a longer period.
- 14.13 A player who avails of these Rules shall remain a registered member of her current Club during the period specified on the Official Sanction Form CC6. However, a player may only play for the Club to which she is temporarily transferred during the CC6 period.

SUSPENSION AND REINSTATEMENT

- 15.1 Suspension of members, Committees or units under the Rules of the Association or any bye-law thereunder means suspension from all privileges and competitions under the auspices of the Association. Persons under suspension shall be ineligible to participate as members in the affairs of the Association during such suspension. Penalties imposed shall be operative throughout the Association.
- 15.2 Except for offences specified in the Rules, no member/unit shall be automatically expelled or suspended unless she/he/it has been given due notice of the charges against her/him/it, and until she/he/it has been given the opportunity of being heard in her/his/its own defence. Due notice shall be 10 days.
- 15.3 The power to suspend shall rest with properly constituted Clubs, County Boards and Councils. A motion to suspend shall be proposed and seconded, and shall be carried with the consent of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting at the meeting dealing with the case.
- 15.4 Any member/unit who, having received due notice of the charges set out against her/him/it and of the meeting to deal with same, fails to appear at the meeting, shall stand suspended until she/he/representatives of the unit appears/appear before the Committee in question.
- 15.5 Where a definite period of suspension is imposed by a Committee, reinstatement shall take place automatically at the termination of the period.
- The term "month" in relation to suspension shall refer to a lunar month (four weeks), e.g. when a suspension begins on a Sunday it shall end at midnight on a Saturday.
- 15.6 In the event of a period of suspension being of more than six months duration, the member/unit under suspension may appeal for clemency to the Committee which imposed the suspension. At all levels other than Ardchomhairle level, such appeal must be dealt with within a month of its receipt by the Secretary of the Committee.
- Where such an appeal is not successful, the member/unit under suspension may appeal direct to the Ardchomhairle (Clemency Committee).
- An appeal for Clemency must be lodged in duplicate, set out the exact grounds of the appeal, and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as set out in the addendum to these rules.

PENALTIES

- 16.1 Any member who participates in competition or in any affairs under the auspices of the Association while under suspension shall be suspended by the relevant Committee for a further period of not less than three months. Such further suspension shall take effect from the date on which the original suspension was due to end.
- 16.2 A player dismissed from the field of play during a match by the Referee:
- (a) Under Rule 19.13 shall stand suspended until she appears before a meeting of the Committee in charge of the competition. Such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the match in question. If adjudged guilty of the offence, the player may be suspended at the discretion of the Committee in charge.
 - (b) Under Rule 19.14(a) shall stand suspended until she appears before a meeting of the Committee in charge of the competition. Such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the match in question. If adjudged guilty of the offence, the player shall be suspended by the Committee in charge for a further period. **13.**

PENALTIES - continued

- 16.3 A player dismissed from the field of play under Rule 19.14(b) or (c) in a subsequent match shall appear before the Committee in charge which shall decide on the action to be taken. Such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the match in question.
- 16.4 A player adjudged guilty of the offence of knowingly playing illegally with a Club or team in any of the following circumstances shall be suspended for the specified period by the Committee in charge of the competition:
- (a) With more than one club or team in the same competition: three months suspension;
 - (b) in a lower grade: three months suspension;
 - (c) In another County: three months suspension.
- In all three instances, the team with which the player played illegally shall forfeit the match to its opponents.
- 16.5 The following penalties shall be imposed by the Committee in charge of the competition on a Club or County Board adjudged guilty of fielding an illegal or suspended player, players or team:
- (a) The team shall forfeit the match to its opponents and may be disqualified from the remainder of the competition in question;
 - (b) Officials responsible shall, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least three months;
 - (c) Club or County Board Officers shall, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least three months.
- 16.6 Where a competition is confined to a specific age-group, the following penalties shall be imposed by the Committee in charge of the competition on a Club or County adjudged guilty of fielding an illegal player, players or team:
- (a) The team shall forfeit the match to its opponents and may be disqualified from the remainder of the competition in question;
 - (b) Officials responsible shall, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least six months;
 - (c) Club or County Board Officers shall, if knowledge of the circumstances be proven, be suspended for at least six months.
- 16.7 Where a player under sixteen years of age plays illegally with a Club or team, Rule 16.4 shall not apply. Rules 16.5 and 16.6 shall be applied as appropriate by the Committee in charge of the competition. The player in question shall receive a written caution from the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the competition.
- 16.8 A player who leaves the field before the end of a match without the Referee's permission shall stand suspended until she appears before a meeting of the Committee in charge of the competition. Such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the match in question.
- 16.9 A team which leaves the field before the end of a match without the Referee's permission, or which refuses to continue with the match, shall stand suspended until its representatives appear before a meeting of the Committee in charge of the competition. Such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the match in question.
- 16.10 A player or official adjudged guilty of abusing, verbally or otherwise, a Referee, Goal Umpire or Line Umpire shall be liable to suspension at the discretion of the Committee in charge. Should the Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
- 16.11 Any member/unit of the Association adjudged to be guilty of conduct which brings the Association into disrepute shall be liable to expulsion or suspension at the discretion of the Committee directly concerned.
- 16.12 Where a definite penalty is not stated under the foregoing or any other rules, the power to impose penalties is vested in properly constituted Clubs, County Boards and Councils.

OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

- 17.1 Individual members, Clubs, Divisional and County Boards, Schools and Colleges shall have the right of objection/appeal against decisions of Higher Bodies. An objection/appeal must in the first instance go to the Committee/Council directly senior to the Body against whose ruling the objection/appeal is made. In the event of an objection/appeal, the objecting/appealing party must object/appeal on its own behalf.
- 17.2 Objections/appeals shall be acceptable only if:
- (a) In the case of an objection/appeal to a County Board, Provincial or Colleges Council, lodged within seven days of receipt in writing of the decision under challenge;
 - (b) In the case of an objection/appeal to Ardchomhairle, lodged within ten days of receipt in writing of the decision under challenge;
 - (c) in the case of a match at any level, lodged with the appropriate Committee within seven days of the date and official starting time of the match;
 - (d) Lodged in duplicate, together with the appropriate fee as set out in the Addendum to these rules;
 - (e) The exact grounds of the objection/appeal as set out;
 - (f) The text of Rule(s) alleged to have been infringed and quoted.

OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS continued

- 17.3 (a) Objecting/appealing parties shall have the right to be heard if the objection/appeal is lodged in accordance with Rules 17.1 and 17.2;
- (b) The Committee/Council hearing the appeal shall not include any person/s who is/are a member/s or representative/s of the Committee or Council against whose ruling the objection/appeal is made, or of the Committee or Council which adjudicated on the matter in the first instance, and such person/s shall not be in attendance at the hearing.
- 17.4 The Secretary of the Body with which the objection/appeal has been properly lodged shall:
- (a) Notify the individual, the Secretary of the Club, Board or Council against which it has been made, enclosing one copy of the original objection/appeal;
- (b) Give the objecting/appealing and defending parties ten days prior notice of the date, time and venue of the meeting at which the objection/appeal is to be heard;
- (c) Notify all interested parties of the objection/appeal and of the result of the hearing of same.
- 17.5 Counter objections shall be accepted only if:
- (a) Lodged within seven days of the date of receipt of original objection;
- (b) Lodged in duplicate together with the appropriate fee;
- (c) The exact grounds of the counter objection are set out;
- (d) The text of Rule(s) alleged to have been infringed are quoted.
- 17.6 Two representatives of each party shall be entitled to present their case during the meeting at which the objection/appeal is being heard. Such representatives must be registered members of the unit concerned. Each party may, with the permission of the Cathaoirleach introduce witnesses.
- 17.7 In an appeal, points not made in the original case which are relevant may be considered.
- 17.8 Neither team concerned in an objection/appeal shall take further part in the competition in question until the case has been settled.
- 17.9 Where an objection/appeal succeeds, the fee shall be returned to the objecting/appealing party. Where an objection/appeal fails or is withdrawn, the fee shall be retained by the Committee with which it was lodged.
- 17.10 Any individual or Committee adjudged guilty of tendering false or forged evidence shall be liable to suspension.
- 17.11 Committees and Councils may reject any objection/appeal which they consider to be petty or in any way detrimental to the best interests of the Association.
- 17.12 Save as provided in these Rules, no objection/appeal shall be made to any Council, County Board or Committee.

INVESTIGATIONS

- 18.1 A decision to investigate irregularities may be taken by the appropriate Council/Committee on the written request of any member of that Council/Committee. Points for investigation shall be set out in the written request. The decision to investigate shall be taken by a majority vote of the Council or Committee in charge. Where the constitution of a team taking part in competition is concerned, such request shall be submitted within seven days of the date of the match in question.
- 18.2 A decision to investigate irregularities shall be pursued if any objection/appeal has not been initiated by any party concerned.
- 18.3 Where the decision to investigate has been taken, the Secretary of the Council or Committee in charge shall:
- (a) Give at least ten days prior notice in writing of the date, time and venue of the meeting to all parties summoned to the hearing;
- (b) Set out the points for investigation;
- (c) Notify the parties involved of the results of the hearing.
- 18.4 Two representatives of each party shall be entitled to present their case during the hearing. Such representatives must be registered members of the unit concerned. Each party may, with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, introduce witnesses.
- 18.5 Where an investigation establishes that a member/unit has a charge to answer, that member/unit shall be notified in writing to attend a subsequent meeting of the Committee to answer the charge as set out.
- 18.6 Following an investigation, a team may be disqualified from the remainder of the competition in question.

CONTROL OF MATCHES

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

THE REFEREE

- 19.2 Referees shall be members of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael or of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.
- 19.3 Referees shall wear regulation uniform or a tracksuit while officiating at matches.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE REFEREE

- 19.4 The referee shall enforce the Playing Rules. During the match, her/his decision on all matters connected with play shall be final, and, in each case, a decision shall be taken. Her/his decision as to time shall be final.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE REFEREE continued

19.5 The Referee shall:

- (a) Decide whether ground or other conditions are suitable for play;
- (b) Deal with the intrusion of unauthorised persons on to the playing pitch;
- (c) Record and report the names of players or officials interfering during the course of a match.

19.6 The Referee shall, by the commencement of the second half of a match, obtain from each team a Team List in duplicate of its players and substitutes. She/he shall sign both copies of each Team List, shall give one copy to the captain of the opposing team, and shall submit the other copy with her/his report to the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the fixture.

19.7 The Referee shall keep a record of the match and shall lodge with the Committee in charge a report of the match including the score and commencing and finishing time of each half. Such report shall be submitted on Official Form C.C.5, together with signed team lists, within four calendar days of the date of the match. The referee's report shall be considered as final except where the Committee in charge is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the match was not refereed in accordance with the Rules.

Failure by a Referee to submit a report does not render the game null and void.

19.8 The Referee shall, in the event of one team failing to field, count the players of the team present and obtain a T Team List for submission with her/his report.

19.9 The Referee shall:

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

The Referee may consult the Goal and Line Umpires on any matter during the course of the match.

19.10 The Referee shall extend time in each half:

- (a) For delay, deliberate or incidental, in that half. In the case of injury to a player, play may be stopped at the discretion of the Referee: such stoppages shall not exceed two minutes;
- (b) To allow for a free to be taken. A score shall result from such a free only when no player from the attacking team other than the free-taker touches the sliotar. Should the defending team commit a further foul before the Referee whistles for the end of the half, she/he shall further extend the time to allow for an additional free to be taken.

19.11 The Referee may terminate a match because of:

- (a) Persistent outside interference;
- (b) Failing light;
- (c) The refusal of a player to leave the field of play when dismissed by the Referee, the team captain or official having been given a three minute warning by the Referee;
- (d) A team or player(s) leaving the field without the Referee's permission, or refusing to continue to play, the team captain or official having been given a three minute warning by the Referee;
- (e) Any other reason deemed by the Referee to be sufficient.

19.12 The Referee shall specify in his/her report the reason(s) for terminating a match and, where applicable, include the names of offending players and officials.

If a match is terminated because of failing light, it shall be refixed for full time by the Committee in charge, except where there was a deliberate delay on the part of one team, in which case the match may be awarded to its opponents. If terminated for any other reason, the decision shall rest with the Committee in charge.

Players, teams and officials shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Rules in Section 16.

19.13 The Referee may, even for a first offence, dismiss a player from the field of play should she/he deem that the player's conduct warrants such. Such player shall be dealt with by the Committee in charge in accordance with Rule 16.2 (a).

16.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE REFEREE

19.14 The Referee shall dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances:

- (a) Where a player is adjudged by the Referee to have struck or attempted to strike an opponent, unless the Referee is satisfied that such was accidental.
Such player shall be dealt with by the Committee in charge in accordance with Rule 16.2 (b).
- (b) Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card;
- (c) Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated by showing the player a Red Card.

In instances (b) and (c) no further action shall be taken in relation to the player, and no further penalty imposed, unless Rule 16.3 is applicable.

In all instances, substitution of a dismissed player shall not be permitted.

Ruling: Failure by a player to comply with Rule 20.9 (b) shall be dealt with under Rule 19.14(c) – dissent

19.15 The Referee shall:

- (a) at the time of dismissal, ascertain and record the player's name, inform the player of the reason for such dismissal and, if the dismissal is not for the duration of the match only, indicate same by showing the player a red card.
- (b) in her/his report, give the name of any player dismissed, state the reason for such dismissal and whether or not the dismissal was for the duration of that particular match only.

19.16 The Secretary of the Committee in charge of a competition shall retain a permanent record of the names of players dismissed from the field of play. The Secretary of a Provincial Council shall immediately notify the Ardstiúrthóir of dismissals in Provincial competition, and the Ardstiúrthóir shall inform the relevant Provincial County Secretary of dismissals in All-Ireland competition. A second dismissal in Inter-County competition shall be dealt with by the Council in charge of the fixture in which such second dismissal occurred.

19.17 Should the appointed Referee be unable to officiate at a match, a substitute shall be appointed by any Officer of the Committee in charge present at the match. In the absence of an Officer, a Referee may be agreed upon by the Captains of both teams, provided the person conforms with regulations governing Referees.

GOAL UMPIRES

19.18 There shall be two Goal Umpires at each end of the pitch, one at each goalpost. They shall not change ends during the match.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF GOAL UMPIRES

19.19 The Goal Umpire shall:

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

LINE UMPIRES

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

DUTIES AND POWERS OF LINE UMPIRES:

19.21 The Line Umpire shall:

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

19.22 Where possible, Goal and Line Umpires should wear regulation uniform or a tracksuit.

17.

RIALACHA IMEARTHA (PLAYING RULES) 15 A-SIDE

20.1 The name of the game shall be Camógaíocht.

TEAMS

COMPOSITION

20.2 A team shall be comprised of fifteen players who shall be affiliated and registered members of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael in accordance with the Rules. Eligibility to play in a competition shall be determined by the rules and approved bye-laws.

20.3 The team line-out shall be as follows:

A goalkeeper, three full-backs, three half-backs, two centrefield players, three half-forwards and three full-forwards.

20.4 Each team shall have at least twelve players to commence a match, but a match may be continued or finished with less than twelve players aside. A team may be complimented during a stoppage in play on players notifying, in writing, the Referee.

TEAM LISTS

20.5 Each team shall provide the Referee with a list in duplicate on Form C.C.2 (either hand written or electronically generated) of the full names in Irish and English of its players and substitutes. The list shall be signed by an Official authorised by the Club/Board/Council. The team list shall be given to the Referee by the commencement of the second half of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine being imposed on the defaulting team by the committee in charge of the competition.

SUBSTITUTION

20.6 (a) Substitution means the replacing during a game or at half-time of any of the fifteen players of a team, other than a player dismissed from the field of play by the Referee. Only five substitutions per team shall be allowed. A substitution may only be made during a stoppage in play and on notifying, in writing, the Referee. A team which makes more than five substitutions shall forfeit the game to its opponents.

(b) Blood replacement

A player who is bleeding or who has blood on any part of her body, playing attire or playing equipment, as a result of an injury sustained during play, shall on the instruction of the Referee, immediately leave the field of play to receive medical and/or other attention. She shall not be allowed to return to the field of play until the bleeding has been cleaned off and, where possible, the injured area has been covered, any blood-stained playing attire has been replaced and any blood-stained equipment has been fully cleaned. In that circumstance, a Temporary Replacement may be used, and the following acts shall not count as substitutions under Rule 20.6 (a) of An Treoraí Oifigiúil.

1. The use of the Temporary Replacement for a player instructed to leave the field of play
2. The return to the field of play of the injured (blood) player as a direct replacement for the Temporary Replacement
3. The return to the field of play of the injured (blood) player as a replacement for any other player if the Temporary Replacement has previously been sent off or substituted.

(c) A maximum of five substitutions shall be allowed. A substitution is not allowed in the case of a player ordered off.

20.7 For the purpose of substitution, extra time, if played, shall be considered a new game. For the period of extra time, a player dismissed from the field of play in the original game may be replaced.

UNIFORM

20.8 Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed.

Uniforms, which shall be of Irish manufacture if possible, shall consist of:

skirt/skort/divided skirt with matching sports underwear, sports shirt with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots.

Goalkeepers may wear full uniform, full club/college/county/provincial tracksuit or the tracksuit bottoms with uniform jersey.

The crest of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael shall be displayed on the uniform jersey and skirt/skort/divided skirt.

EQUIPMENT

THE CAMÁN

20.9 A) A player may play with a camán which is bound with a metallic substance if covered with adhesive tape, but not with a camán deemed dangerous by the Referee. A player may not play with a camán the bas of which exceeds 13 cm in width.

Should a player, who has already been warned by the Referee, persist in playing with a camán which does

not comply with the above, she shall be dismissed from the field of play in accordance with Rule 19.14 (c).

- B) That in all camogie games and training sessions it shall be mandatory for all players up to and including under 18 'Minor' grade to wear a helmet with facial guard.

Ruling: (B) This applies to U18 players irrespective of the competition in which she is participating.

Ruling: 20.9 (B) Failure by a player to comply with Rule 20.9 (B) shall be dealt with under Rule 19.14 (c) – dissent.

THE SLIOTAR

20.10 The weight of the sliotar shall be 90-110 grams and it shall be 21 cm in circumference.

18.

THE PITCH

20.11 (a) The pitch shall be rectangular, from 130 metres to 145 metres long and from 80 metres to 90 metres wide.

The boundaries shall be marked by a distinctive line and the four corners indicated by flags.

- (b) Lines indicating 13 metres, 20 metres and 45 metres from each end line, and the half way line, shall be marked. The points from where these lines join each side-line shall be indicated by flags;
- (c) Equidistant from each corner on the end-lines shall stand two upright goalposts, 6.5 metres apart and a minimum of 7 metres high. There shall be a crossbar 2.5 metres from the ground joining the goalposts to form a goal space;
- (d) 3.75 metres outside each goalpost a line 4.5 metres long shall be marked at right angles to the goal-line. The ends of these lines shall be joined to form the small parallelogram, 14 metres by 4.5 metres in front of the scoring space;
- (e) 6.25 metres outside each goalpost a line 13 metres long shall be marked at right angles to the goal-line, the ends of these lines being joined by the 13 metres line to form the large parallelogram, 19 metres by 13 metres, in front of the scoring space;
- (f) A semi-circle of radius 13 metres, the centre of which is on the mid-point of the 20 metre line, shall be marked.

(Refer to the diagram at the back of An Treoraí Oifigiúil.)

NETS

20.12 Goal-nets should be fitted to the goal space where possible.

PLAY

DURATION

20.13 The time for actual play shall be sixty minutes. A half-time interval of not more than ten minutes should be allowed. Ends shall be changed at half-time.

EXTRA TIME

20.14 In the event of extra time being played, its duration shall be ten minutes each way, ends to be changed at half-time. A half-time interval of not more than five minutes should be allowed.

PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT

20.15 The Referee shall count the players and toss a coin in the presence of both Captains for choice of ends. The players shall then take their respective places.

COMMENCEMENT AND RECOMMENCEMENT

20.16 The Referee shall commence or recommence play by blowing the whistle and throwing in the sliotar, i.e. rolling the sliotar along the ground between opposing players while facing them.

20.17 The Referee shall:

- (a) Commence play in each half by throwing in the sliotar on the half-way line between the four centre-field players who shall stand one behind the other on their own defensive sides of the half-way line. All other players shall remain in their respective positions behind the 65 metre lines until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.
- (b) Recommence play after a stoppage by throwing in the sliotar between two players while facing the nearer side-line, except where the stoppage has occurred too near that side-line, or in the event of a clashed side-line ball. No other player may approach within ten metres until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.

TERMINATION

20.18 The Referee, having allowed time for stoppages, shall terminate play by blowing the whistle at the end of the official time in each half.

THE PLAY

20.19 The sliotar is in play once it has been thrown in by the Referee, or struck by a player after the Referee has signalled to restart play.

The sliotar remains in play until:

- (a) The Referee signals a stop;
- (b) The sliotar has passed completely over any boundary line, or is touched in play by anyone other than a player;
- (c) The sliotar has been prevented from going over a boundary line, or is touched in play, by anyone other than a player.
- 20.20 A player may:
- (a) Strike the sliotar on the ground or in the air with the camán;

- (b) Lift the sliotar off the ground with the camán or with the feet or with a combination of camán and foot;
- (c) A player may catch the sliotar, play it on her camán and bring it back into her hand once. A player who has not caught the sliotar may play it from the camán into her hand twice;
- (d) Catch the sliotar with one hand;
- (e) Strike or hand-pass the sliotar with one hand;
- (f) Turn while holding the sliotar;
- (g) Take four steps while holding the sliotar;
- (h) Kick the sliotar.

THE PLAY continued

20.21 A player may tackle an opponent who is in the act of playing/in possession of the sliotar by:

- (a) Blocking an aerial or ground puck;
- (b) Flicking the opponent's camán from the ground or in the air with own camán;
- (c) Hooking an opponent's camán with own camán;
- (d) Tapping the bas of an opponent's camán from beneath with own camán while she is carrying the sliotar on it.

20.22 A player may not:

- (a) Pick up the sliotar from the ground with the hand;
- (b) Touch the sliotar on the ground with the hand except when, with the sliotar in her hand, she falls to the ground and the sliotar touches the ground;
- (c) Throw the sliotar away from her;
- (d) Throw the sliotar up and catch it;
- (e) Pass the sliotar from one hand to the other;
- (f) Hop the sliotar on the hand;
- (g) Hold the sliotar longer than is necessary to play it away from her.

Penalty: A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred.

20.23 A player may not:

- (a) Shoulder, push, trip, catch, hold or pull down an opponent;
- (b) Charge, back into or obstruct an opponent;
- (c) Reach from behind with the camán over another player for the purpose of getting the sliotar;
- (d) "dig" an opponent with the camán;
- (e) Chop, i.e. strike downwards on an opponent's camán;
- (f) Hold opponent's camán or pull it from her hands;
- (g) Use the camán in a dangerous manner;
- (h) Throw the camán;
- (i) Tap opponent's camán other than as permitted in Rule 20.21 (d).

Penalty: A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred.

20.24 A player may not strike an opponent.

Penalty:

- (i) Dismissal of the player from the field of play in accordance with Rule 19.14 (a) unless the Referee is satisfied that it was accidental;
- (ii) A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred;
- (iii) If accidental and play has been stopped, a throw in where the incident occurred.

20.25 A player may not:

- (a) Engage in any form of rough or dangerous play;
- (b) Show dissent with any decisions;
- (c) Use abusive language.

Penalty:

- (i) A warning to the offending player for a first offence of this nature, and, in accordance with Rule 19.14 (b) and (c) dismissal from the field of play for the remainder of the match for a second offence;
- (ii) A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred;
- (iii) Should a free already have been awarded, it shall, in the case of dissent, be awarded from a point 10 metres nearer to the offending player's goal but not within the 20 metre line of that goal.

FREES

20.26 In the event of a foul by a player(s), a free puck shall be awarded to the opposing team from where the foul occurred. A free shall also be awarded in other instances as specified in these Rules. The Referee shall indicate the spot from where the free shall be taken. A free shall not be taken until the Referee has blown the whistle.

Exception:

In the event of a foul by a player(s) on an opponent who is in possession of/in the act of playing the sliotar, the Referee may allow play to continue if she/he considers such to be an advantage to the offended team. The Referee shall indicate that advantage has been allowed by raising one hand above her/his head.

Having allowed play to continue, the Referee may not subsequently award a free for that foul.

The Referee shall, during the next stoppage in play, apply to the offending player(s) the appropriate sanction in accordance with Rule, where she/he deems such is warranted.

20.27 For all frees, including a side-line puck, once the sliotar has been placed by the free-taker at the spot indicated by the Referee, and the whistle blown, the sliotar may not be reset except with the expressed permission of the Referee.

Penalty: A throw in by the referee where the foul occurred.

20.

FREES continued

20.28 For all frees, other than the side-line puck, the sliotar may be struck:

(i) On the ground

or

(ii) Lifted and struck with the camán.

The sliotar may not be taken in the hand or hopped on the camán when lifted for a free.

For a side-line puck, the sliotar may be struck on the ground only. It may not be lifted.

Penalty: A throw in by the Referee where the foul occurred.

20.29 Should the free-taker fail to lift and/or strike the sliotar at the first attempt she may strike it on the ground but may not lift it again.

Penalty: A throw in by the Referee where the foul occurred.

20.30 The free-taker may not play the sliotar a second time until another player has touched it, except where the sliotar rebounds off a crossbar or upright.

Penalty: A throw in by the Referee where the foul occurred.

20.31 No player may approach within 10 metres of the free-taker until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made, and no player may physically or verbally distract a free-taker. (A player holding her camán upright shall not constitute an interference.)

Penalty: A free shall be awarded from a point 10 metres nearer to the offending player's goal but not within the 20 metre line of that goal.

20.32 If a foul is committed on a player after she has played the sliotar, a free shall be awarded from where the sliotar lands.

(a) Should a score have resulted, it shall be allowed.

(b) Should the sliotar have crossed the end-line, or landed within 20 metres of the end-line, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 20 metre line opposite where the sliotar landed.

(c) Should the sliotar have crossed the side-line, the free shall be awarded from the point where the sliotar crossed, or, if within 20 metres of the end line, it shall be awarded from the 20 metre line.

20.33 Should a player from each team foul at the same time, the Referee shall throw in the sliotar between two opposing players where the foul occurred. If within the 20 metre line, the sliotar shall be thrown in on the 20 metre line at the point opposite where the foul occurred.

20 Metre Free

20.34 (a) Should a foul be committed on an attacking player within 20 metres of the end line and outside the large parallelogram, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 20 metre line opposite where the foul occurred:

(b) In the event of a 20 metre free, should a member of the defending team show dissent or be in breach of Rule 20.31, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 20 metre line 10 metres nearer to the centre of the goal. If within 10 metres of the centre, the free shall be taken from a point opposite the centre.

PENALTY FREE

20.35 Should a foul be committed on an attacking player within the large parallelogram, a penalty free shall be awarded from the centre point of the 20 metre line. Not more than three defending players may stand on the goal line. With the exception of the free-taker, all other players shall remain outside the 20 metre line and outside the semi-circle until the sliotar has been struck.

Should a foul be committed by a defending player(s) before the sliotar is struck and a score does not result, the Referee shall allow the penalty free to be retaken.

45 METRE FREE

20.36 Should a player from the defending team play the sliotar across the end-line, the Referee shall award a free to the attacking team from a point on the 45 metre line opposite to where the sliotar crossed the end-line. The last person touching the sliotar shall be considered the last person playing the sliotar.

20.37 Should the sliotar strike anyone other than a player at or near the end-line, and if the Referee adjudges that in

so doing the sliotar was prevented from going out of play, a wide or 45 metre free as applicable shall be awarded.

SIDE-LINE PUCK

- 20.38 Should a player play the sliotar across the side-line, the Referee shall award a free ground puck to the opposing team from the point where the sliotar crossed the line.
- 20.39 When a clashed sliotar crosses the side-line the Referee shall throw in the sliotar between two opposing players at the point where the sliotar crossed the line. If within 20 meters of the end-line the sliotar shall be thrown in on the 20 metre line.
- 20.40 Should the sliotar strike anyone other than a player at or near the side-line, and if the Referee adjudges that in so doing the sliotar was prevented from going out of play, a free ground puck shall be awarded against the team of the player who last touched the sliotar.

PUCK-OUT FROM GOAL

- 20.41 When the sliotar is played over the end-line, i.e., wide, by the attacking team, the Referee shall award a puck-out from within the small parallelogram to the defending team. When a clashed sliotar crosses the end-line it shall be regarded as wide.

21.

PUCK-OUT FROM GOAL continued

- 20.42 A player taking the puck-out may:
- (i) strike the sliotar from her hand
 - or
 - (ii) strike the sliotar on the ground;
 - (iii) strike the sliotar more than once before any other player touches it.
- 20.43 Should the player taking the puck-out miss the sliotar at the first attempt she may
- (i) lift and strike it
 - or
 - (ii) strike it on the ground
- She may not take it into her hand a second time.
- Penalty:** 45 metre free to the opposing team from a point opposite to where the foul occurred.
- 20.44 A player may not puck-out the sliotar from outside the small parallelogram except after a score.
- Penalty:** 45 metre free to the opposing team from a point opposite to where the foul occurred.
- 20.45 The players of the opposing team shall remain outside the 20 metre line until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.
- 20.46 After a score the sliotar may be pucked out from the 13 metre line opposite the small parallelogram. The players of the opposing team shall remain outside the 20 metre line until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.
- 20.47 The referee shall extend time to compensate for any deliberate delay in pucking out the sliotar.

SMALL PARALLELOGRAM

- 20.48 Should a player of the attacking team enter the small parallelogram before the sliotar enters it during play, a free shall be given to the defending team from the edge of the small parallelogram. Should there have been a score it shall be disallowed.
- Exception:**
Should a point have been scored from outside the small parallelogram it shall be allowed provided that the player who had entered the small parallelogram had not interfered with the defence and that the sliotar was sufficiently high to be out of reach of the defence and attack.
- 20.49 Should a player of the attacking team legally enter the small parallelogram and the sliotar is played away from that area but is returned before the attacking player has time to leave the small parallelogram, she shall be deemed not to have committed a foul. Should there have been a score it shall be allowed.
- 20.50 In the event of a free, no player of the attacking team may stand outside the end-line behind the small parallelogram.

SCORES

- 20.51 A goal is scored when the sliotar is played by either team over the goal-line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, except when carried in the hand over the goal-line by an attacking player. A goal shall be equal the three points.
- 20.52 A point is scored when the sliotar is played by either team over the crossbar and between the goalposts, except when thrown by any player.
- 20.53 Should the sliotar be played through its own goal or points space by a team, the score shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 20.54 A score shall be allowed if, in the opinion of the Referee, the sliotar was prevented from crossing the goal-line

event of a clashed side-line ball.

Frees

20.25 A player may not:

- (a) engage in any form of rough or dangerous play;
- (b) show dissent with decisions;
- (c) use abusive language.

Penalty:

- (i) a warning to the offending player for a first offence of this nature, and in accordance with Rule 19.14 (b) and (c), dismissal from the field of play for the remainder of the match for a second offence;
- (ii) a free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred;
- (iii) should a free already have been awarded, it shall, in the case of dissent, be awarded from a point 10 metres nearer to the offending player's goal but not within the 15 metre line of that goal.

20.31 No player may approach within 10 metres of the free-taker until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made, and no player may physically or verbally distract a free-taker. A player holding her camán upright shall not constitute an interference.

Penalty: The free shall be awarded from a point 10 metres nearer to the offending player's goal but not within the 15 metre line of that goal.

20.32 If a foul is committed on a player after she has played the sliotar, a free shall be awarded from where the sliotar lands. Should a score have resulted, it shall be allowed. Should the sliotar have crossed the end-line or have landed within 15 metres of the end line, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 15 metre line opposite to where the sliotar landed. Should the sliotar have crossed the side-line, the free shall be awarded from the point where the sliotar crossed, or, if within 15 metres of the end-line, it shall be awarded from the 15 metre line.

20.33 Should a player from each team foul at the same time, the Referee shall throw in the sliotar between two opposing players where the foul occurred. If within the 15 metre line, the sliotar shall be thrown in on the 15 metre at a point opposite where the foul occurred. **23.**

Frees continued

20.34 Should a foul be committed on an attacking player within 15 metres of the end-line, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 15 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

20.35 In the event of a 15 metre free, should a member of the defending team show dissent or be in breach of Rule 20.31, the free shall be awarded from a point on the 15 metre line 10 metres nearer to the centre of the goal. If within 10 metres of the centre, the free shall be taken from a point opposite the centre.

20.36 Should a player from the defending team play the sliotar across the end-line the Referee shall award a free to the attacking team from a point on the 30 metre line opposite to where the sliotar crossed the end-line. The last person touching the sliotar shall be considered the last person playing the sliotar.

20.37 Should the sliotar strike anyone other than a player at or near the end-line, and if the Referee adjudges that in so doing the sliotar was prevented from going out of play, a wide or 30 metre free as applicable shall be awarded.

20.39 When a clashed sliotar crosses the side-line the Referee shall throw in the sliotar between two opposing players at the point where the sliotar crossed. If within 15 metres of the end-line the sliotar shall be thrown in on the 15 metre line.

Puck-out from Goal

20.41 When the sliotar is played over the end-line, i.e., wide, by the attacking team the Referee shall award a puck-out from within the parallelogram to the defending team. When a clashed sliotar crossed the end-line it shall be regarded as wide.

20.42 A player taking the puck-out may:

- (i) strike the sliotar from her hand

or

- (ii) strike the sliotar on the ground;
- (iii) strike the sliotar more than once before any other player touches it.

20.43 Should the player taking the puck-out miss the sliotar at the first attempt she may:

- (i) lift it and strike it;

or

- (ii) strike it on the ground;

She may not take it into her hand a second time,

Penalty: 30 metre free to the opposing team from a point opposite to where the foul occurred.

20.44 A player may not puck-out the sliotar from outside the parallelogram, except after a score.

Penalty: 30 metre free to the opposing team from a point opposite to where the foul occurred.

20.45 The players of the opposing team shall remain outside the 15 metre line until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.

20.46 After a score the sliotar may be pucked out from the 15 metre line opposite the parallelogram. The players of the opposing team shall remain outside the 30 metre line until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.

Parallelogram

20.49 Should a player of the attacking team legally enter the parallelogram and the sliotar is played away from that area but is returned before the attacking player has time to leave the parallelogram, she may be deemed not to have committed a foul. Should there have been a score it shall be allowed.

Duties and Powers of Goal Umpires

19.19 The Goal Umpire Shall

- (a) Make decisions on scores, wides, thirty metre frees and parallelogram infringements;
- (b) Indicate decisions to the Referee with the following signals:
 - a goal by raising a green flag;
 - a point by raising a white flag;
 - a wide by outstretched arms;
 - a thirty metre free by standing where the ball crossed the end line and raising one arm;
 - a parallelogram infringement by standing in the middle of the goal space and raising crossed flags;
- (c) give the Referee any assistance she/he may seek in relation to play in the area;
- (d) draw the Referee's attention to any rule infringements.

ADDENDUM

FEES

AFFILIATION FEES (RULE 3.8)

Club affiliation fee to An Coiste Contae	Euro 100.00 per Club
Portion retained by An Coiste Contae	Euro 15.00 per Club
Portion forwarded to An Chomhairle Chuige	Euro 85.00 per Club
Portion retained by An Chomhairle Chuige	Euro 15.00 per Club
Portion forwarded to Ardchomhairle	Euro 70.00 per Club
Comhairli na gColáistí (Direct to Ardchomhairle) - per Comhairle	Euro 50.00
Comhairle Mheiricea Thuaidh (Direct to Ardchomhairle)	Euro 100.00

24.

Fees for Objections and Appeals

To a County Board	Euro 30.00
To a Provincial Council	Euro 50.00
To Ardchomhairle	Euro 100.00
To a College Council - as provided for in its Bye-Laws	
Appeal for Clemency (at all levels)	Euro 30.00

Code of Ethics and Best Practice

Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Sport for Young People in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, 2006
 The guidelines in this document are based on the national guidelines as outlined in the following documents
 Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Irish Sports Council, 2000.
 Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 1999
 Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002
 For Northern Ireland Clubs and organisations reference should also be made to
 Children Act NI and Safeguarding Children

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1 Core Values of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael in Sport for Young People

The work of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is based on the following principles that will guide the development of our sport for young people. Young People's experience of sport should be guided by what is best for the young person. The stages of development and the ability of the young person should guide the types of activity provided within the association. Adults will need to have a basic understanding of the needs of young people, including physical, emotional and personal.

Integrity in relationships:

Adults interacting with young people in sport should do so with integrity and respect for the child. There is a danger that sporting contexts can be used to exploit or undermine children. All adult actions in sport should be guided by what is best for the child and in the context of quality, open working relationships. Verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable within Camogie. **25.**

Quality atmosphere and ethos

Sport for young people should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A child-centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children with disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated way, thus allowing them to participate to their potential alongside other children.

Fair Play:

Fair play is the guiding principle of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Ireland has contributed and is committed to the European Code of Sports Ethics, which defines fair play as: "much more than playing within the rules". It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing with the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of opportunities, excessive commercialisation and corruption.

(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993).

Competition

A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of young people, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. However, often competitive demands are placed on children too early, which results in excessive levels of pressure on them. This can contribute to a high level of drop out from sport. Leaders should aim to put the welfare of the child first and competitive standards second. A child-centred approach will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the association should at all times, show respect and understanding for members' rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Association and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport for Young People*.

In Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael our first priority is the welfare of the young people and we are committed to providing an environment which will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

As part of our commitment we have adopted a code to protect our underage players (all players under 18 years of age), all leaders and members of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

We shall ensure that the code of ethics and good practice for sport for young people in Camogie is adopted, agreed to, implemented and signed up to by all its members.

3 Guidelines and Codes of Conduct

Within the Code, Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael has outlined the codes of conduct for young players, parents and leaders within the association.

These guidelines should be used by Clubs and County Boards

It is recommended to display Codes of Conduct on Clubhouse notice boards. All signed Codes of Conduct should be kept with other club documents.

3.1 Code of Conduct for Young People

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept. Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

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Young players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be listened to
- Be believed
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Have a voice in the club / organisation
- Participate on an equal basis
- Have fun and enjoy Camogie
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say No
- Protect their own bodies
- Confidentiality

Young players should always:

- Treat Leaders with respect, (e.g. managers, coaches, selectors, officials).
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when travelling to away events.

- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport of Camogie into disrepute
- Talk to children's officer if they have any problems.

Young players should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Take banned substances
- Keep secrets, especially if they have been caused harm
- Tell lies about adults / young people
- Spread rumours

3.2 Guidelines for Parents

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael believes that parents should....

- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with officials and organisers
- Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the game / player
- Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognise the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child.
- Respect referees, sports leaders and other players. Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees or sports leaders.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for team mates and opponents.
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms.
- Read bullying policy within the club / organisation's guidelines.
- Sign up to the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

3.2.1 Parents Code of Conduct:

1. I will respect the rules and procedures set down in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael's Code of Ethics for Young People in Sport.
2. I will respect my child's leaders, (e.g. managers, coaches, officials), her team mates and their parents, as well as players, parents and coaches from opposing teams. I will encourage my child to treat other participants, coaches, selectors, and managers with respect.
3. I will give encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child, her team mates, their opponents or the officials.
4. I will respect my child's leader(s) and support his/her efforts
5. I will respect the officials and their authority during matches
6. I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.

Name: _____ Name of Child(Children) _____

 Date _____

3.3 Guidelines for Sports Leaders

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael recognises the key role sports leaders play in the lives of children in sport. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided. All Leaders (managers, coaches, selectors, etc) should have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of Camogie and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the Code of Ethics.

Leaders will be given a copy of the association's code of ethics and they should be made aware of the procedures contained within the association's code.

Leaders will be expected to go through appropriate recruitment and selection procedures. (see section 4.1)

3.3.1 Personal Conduct of Sports Leaders

- Once appointed the Leader must act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and of Camogie and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.
- The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity. Leaders should not use alcohol, tobacco or drugs before coaching, during events, while away on trips with young people or at any time while young people are in their care.
- Remember your behaviour to players, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the players in your care. You are the role model for the children in your care.

3.3.2 Dealing with Players

- Leaders must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game. All young players are entitled to respect.
- Set realistic goals for the participants and do not push young players.
- Be careful to avoid the "star system". Each child deserves equal time and attention.
- Care must be taken not to expose a child intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the child or her family.
- Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake – by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion.
- Insist that players in your care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill development and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition. Never make winning the only objective.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other coaches and avoid criticism of fellow coaches.
- When travel/overnight travel is involved, the Leaders travelling with children must sign a separate agreement. Parents and participants will also be asked to sign permission forms in these instances. (see appendix).
- Keep a record of injuries and actions taken both during training sessions and during games.
- Keep a record of problem/action/outcomes if behaviour problems occur.

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3.3.3 Relationship with Players

- Leaders are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players. It is advisable for coaches not to involve young players in their personal life i.e. visits to coaches home or overnight stays.
- When young players are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a parent/carer. Boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to junior groups/squads.
- Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities.
It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders.

- Leaders who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their players and their obligation to the association must make explicit the nature of the conflict and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned.
- Leaders should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players' medical or related problems. Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information
- The nature of the relationship between leader and a participant can often mean that a leader will learn confidential information about a player or player's family. This information must be regarded as confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the player/family
- Parents should always be informed when problems arise except in situations where informing parents may put the player at risk.

3.4 Guidelines for Children's Officers

The appointment of Children's Officers is an essential element in the creation of a quality atmosphere. They act as a resource with regard to children's issues.

Children's Officers should review current policies in relation to young people, check that all activities are safe and fun, and inform adults of how to deal with any concerns that may arise in relation to the protection of young people.

Each Club and County Board should appoint a Children's Officer. The Children's Officer should be a member of, or have access to Management Committee.

3.4.1 Club Children's Officer

Club Children's Officers should be child centred in focus and have as the primary aim the establishment of a child centred ethos within the club. She/he is the link between the children and the adults in the club. She/he also takes responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and Sports Leaders.

The Children's Officer should be a member of or have access to, the Club Management Committee and should be introduced to the young people in an appropriate forum.

The Children's Officer should:

- Promote awareness of the Code of Ethics *within* the club, among young members and their parents/guardians.
- Influence policy and practice within the club in order to prioritise children's needs
- Establish contact with the County Children's Officer at governing body level.
- Ensure that children know how to make concerns known to appropriate adults or agencies.
- Encourage the appropriate involvement of parents/guardians in the club activities
- Act as an advisory resource to Sports Leaders on best practice in children's sport
- Report regularly to the Club Management Committee
- Monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout, absenteeism or club transfers by children or Sports Leaders
- Ensure that the children have a voice in the running of their club and ensure that there are steps young people can take to express concerns about their sports activities / experiences.
- Establish communication with other branches of the club, e.g. facilitate parent's information sessions at the start of the season
- Keep records on each member on file, including junior members, their contact numbers and any special needs of the child that should be known to leaders
- Ensure each member signs an annual membership form that includes signing up to the code of conduct

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3.4.2 County Children's Officer should;

- Be familiar with *Children First* and *Our Duty to Care* to ensure they can act as an information source to other members of the association
- Be committed to attend appropriate training as required in order to act as a resource to members in relation to children's needs
- Ensure that each club within the county appoints a Children's Officer.
- Liaise on a regular basis with Club Children's Officer.
- Ensure that all County Teams have adopted the Code
- Ensure that all County Teams are aware of and have signed Travel Permission Forms and Overnight Permission Forms where relevant
- Deal with any complaints or suspected child abuse according to the Code
- Co-ordinate child protection courses within county

- Report regularly to the County Board Executive

4

Policies

4.1 Recruitment and Selection Policy

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael will take all reasonable steps to ensure that leaders working with young people are suitable and appropriately qualified. Leaders will be expected to go through appropriate recruitment and selection procedures that apply to all persons with substantial access to young people, whether paid or unpaid.

The responsibilities of the role and the level of experience/qualifications required should be drawn up and clearly stated beforehand.

New Leaders should fill in an application form, giving names of two referees that can be contacted. Where possible all new leaders should be interviewed.

A probationary period is advisable.

There will be a "sign-up" procedure, whereby the appointed / reappointed leader, agrees to abide by the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael* and to the club / association's policies.

(see appendix for forms).

No exception should be made in relation to appropriate recruitment procedures.

Every effort should be made to manage and support appointed Leaders. Adequate supervision should always be provided; a leader should not have to work alone.

A decision to appoint a Leader is the responsibility of the club / county and not of any one individual within it. The club /county committee should ratify all recommendations for appointment.

All forms should be filed as a matter of record by the Club/County Board.

4.2 Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

Complaints may be lodged by all members of the club/organisation.

They should be received in writing by the secretary of the club / organisation.

The complaint should outline all relevant details about other parties involved.

The complaint should be brought to the attention of the cathaoirleach of the relevant body who will convene the disciplinary committee, which may comprise a senior officer, the children's officer and one other ordinary member.

If complaint is submitted at local level it is the responsibility of the relevant local body to deal with it.

If complaint is submitted at county board level it is the responsibility of the county board to deal with it.

If complaint is submitted at provincial level it is the responsibility of the provincial board to deal with it.

If complaint is submitted at national level it is the responsibility of the national body to deal with it.

If the complaint involves a criminal offence the cathaoirleach should disband the disciplinary committee and talk to the children's officer. The statutory authorities will then be informed.

The disciplinary committee should hear the case of all parties involved and decide if a rule or regulation has been infringed.

30.

They should, in writing, inform those involved of the sanctions to be imposed. Written notification should be given to parents if the complaint is against a junior member.

Written records of all complaints should be safely and confidentially kept

If any party does not agree with the disciplinary committee they can appeal the decision in writing within 10-day period

The appeals committee is convened, whose cathaoirleach should be taken from the relevant executive committee and those who have not been on the original disciplinary committee.

The appeals committee should confirm or set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee.

If any party is not satisfied with the outcome the matter can be referred to the Ardcomhairle. However efforts to resolve the issue at local level should be exhausted before Ardcomhairle is engaged in attempts to resolve the matter.

4.3 Anti-Bullying Policy

This is adapted from the Scout Association of Ireland's Child Protection Policy

What is Bullying?

Bullying can be defined as repeated aggression be it verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against others.

It is behaviour that is intentionally aggravating and intimidating and occurs mainly in social environments such as schools, clubs and other organisations working with children and young people. It includes behaviours such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting and extortion behaviour by one or more children against a victim.

How would you know if a child is being bullied?

All bullies operate using furtiveness, threats and fear. Bullying can therefore only survive in an environment where the victim does not feel empowered to tell someone who can help or in which it is not safe to do so.

The following indicators are warning signs that a young person might be getting bullied.

- Reluctance to come to a venue or take part in activities
- Physical signs (unexplained bruises, scratches, or damage to belongings)
- Stress-caused illness – headaches, and stomach aches which seem unexplained
- Fearful behaviour (fear of walking to a meeting, going different routes, asking to be driven)
- Frequent loss of, or shortage of, money with vague explanations
- Having few friends
- Changes in behaviour (withdrawn, stammering, moody, irritable, upset, distressed)
- Not eating
- Attempting suicide or hinting at suicide
- Anxiety (shown by nail-biting, fearfulness, tics)

There are other possible reasons for many of the above

Who should deal with bullying?

While the more extreme forms of bullying would be regarded as physical or emotional abuse and are reported to the Health Board, Garda Síochana, PSNI, dealing with bullying behaviour is normally the responsibility of all Leaders within the club / organisation.

How can it be prevented?

- Ensure that all members follow the code of conduct, which promotes the rights and dignity of each member.
- Deal with any incidents as they arise.
- Use a whole group policy or 'no-blame approach', i.e., not 'bullying the bully' but working with bullies and the group of young people, helping them to understand the hurt they are causing, and so make the problem a 'shared concern' of the group, (see below)
- Reinforce that there is 'a permission to tell' culture rather than a 'might is right'
- Encourage young people to negotiate, co-operate and help others, particularly new or different children
- Offer the victim immediate support and put the 'no blame approach' into operation
- Never tell a young person to ignore bullying, they can't ignore it, it hurts too much
- Never encourage a young person to take the law into their own hands and beat the bully at their own game
- Tell the victim there is nothing wrong with them and it is not their fault

31.

What is the 'No Blame' Approach?

Step 1 – Interview with the victim

If you find that there has been an incident of bullying, first talk to the victim. At this stage find out who was involved and what the victim is now feeling. Try asking the following questions:

- Was it verbal or physical intimidation?
- How hurt is the victim
- Was it within his/her own peer group?
- Ensure the victim that his/her name will not come out in the investigation
- Actively listen

Step 2 – Meet with all involved

Arrange to meet with all those involved; this should include some bystanders, those who may have colluded, those who joined in and those who initiated the bullying.

- Have a maximum of six to eight in the group – keep the number controllable
- Make a point of calling a 'special' meeting
- Ensure the severity of the topic is understood by all
- Speak only of the hurt caused in general terms with no reference to the victim
- Play on the conscience of all – ask questions like: How would you feel? Would you like it done to you?

Step 3 – Explain the problem

The distress being suffered as a result of the bullying incident is explained. At this stage the details of the incident or the allocation of the blame is not discussed. Explain the feelings of loneliness, feeling left out, rejected, laughed at. Try asking questions:

- Would they like it if it happened to them
- "Someone here in this group was bullied by someone within the group, what could we do to see it does not happen again?"
- Listen, watch out for reactions, and pick up on any without isolating anyone

Step 4 – Share the responsibility

Explain what steps / controls may have to be introduced to prevent further incidents and how everyone will loose out as a result

Step 5 – Ask the group for their ideas

At this stage the group is encouraged to suggest ways that would make the victim feel happier. All positive responses are noted. Use phrases "if it were you" to encourage a response. Listen to all suggestions and note them

Step 6 – Leave it to them

Now the problem has been identified, solutions suggested, the problem is now handed over to the group to solve. Arrange to meet again in a week's time. Pass responsibility over to the group and give a time frame within which something must be done

Step 7 – Meet them again

Each member of the group, including the bully, discuss how things are going, who is doing what and have there been other incidents. This allows for continual monitoring and also keeps all involved in the process.

Again enforce the idea of the 'team' looking after each other at regular intervals to ensure it is know that bullying or intimidating behaviour will not be tolerated.

4.4 Supervision

- Make sure there is an adequate adult: child ratio. This will depend on the nature of the activity, the age of the participants and any special needs of the group. As a guide a ratio of 1:8 for under 12 years of age and 1:10 for participants over 12 years of age. This is only a guide and will change depending on the circumstances, e.g. players with special needs or away trips
- All teams should have at least one female leader; if group is mixed there should be leaders of appropriate gender.
- Avoid being alone with one player, if you need to talk separately do so in an open environment, in view of others
- In changing rooms, ask parents to take responsibility and supervise in pairs of appropriate gender

- Leaders should not have to enter the changing rooms unless children are very young or need special assistance, where supervision should be in pairs of appropriate gender
- Clearly state time for start and end of training sessions or competitions, leaders should remain in pairs until all players have been collected
- Keep attendance records and record of any incidents / injuries that arise
- Ask parents to stay and supervise sessions, (for safety and supervision, not necessarily for their 'technical' expertise)

4.5 Travelling with children

There is extra responsibility taken on by leaders when they travel with children to events. When travelling with young people you should:

- Ensure that there is adequate insurance cover
- Not carry more than the permitted number of passengers
- Ensure use of safety belts
- Avoid being alone with one player.
- Seek permission to transport an individual player on a regular basis from parent/guardian and clearly state times of pick- up and drop off. Where possible player should always travel in the back seat and drop off at agreed locations.
- Ensure all leaders/players/parents have signed Travelling Permission forms which should include contact numbers for parents.
- All forms should be kept on file within the Club/County Board.

4.6 Away trips / Overnight stays

- Separate permission forms should be signed by parents and players for overnight stays, containing emergency contact number
- Each overnight stay requires a separate permission form.
- Players should sign a code of conduct
- Appoint a group leader who will make a report on returning home
- A meeting with parents and participants is useful to communicate travel times, competition details, other activities, gear requirements, medical requirements, special dietary needs and any other necessary details
- Rooming arrangements – adults should not share rooms with young players. Players share rooms with those of same age and gender and adults should knock before entering rooms
- All group socialisation should take place in communal areas (i.e. no boys in girls' rooms and vice versa).
- Alcoholic drink, smoking or other illegal substances are forbidden to players.
- There must be at least one female adult with each team. There should be a good adult – child ratio, 1:5/6, and proper access to medical personnel
- Lights out times should be enforced
- Young players should be under reasonable supervision at all times and should never leave the venue or go unsupervised without prior permission
- Parents should be encouraged to travel to assist with supervision.

4.7 Safety

All clubs / organisation should have a safety statement, including specific and potential risks attached to their sport. They should also have procedures in place for safeguarding against such risks. Safety statements should be specific to the club and the club grounds / facilities. In addition clubs should:

- Ensure activities are suitable for age and stage of development of players
- Keep a record of any specific medical conditions of the players
- Keep a record of emergency contact numbers for parents / guardians
- Ensure any necessary protective gear is used
- Ensure First Aid kit is close at hand with access to qualified first-aid personnel
- Keep first aid kit stocked up
- Know the contact numbers of emergency services
- Ensure easy access to medical personnel if needed and have an emergency plan
- If an incident occurs, make a brief record of injury and action taken. Note the problem/action/outcome. Contact the players' parents and keep them informed of all details
- Officials (umpires, referees, etc.) should ensure the conduct of the game
- Players should know and keep the rules of Camogie, keeping in mind that many rules are there for safety
- Leaders should hold appropriate qualifications. (Consult with National Children's Officer).
- Ensure there is adequate insurance cover for all activities
- Ensure parents / guardians are present at finishing time of sessions or events

4.8 Physical Contact

Camogie can require a 'hands on approach', especially in a teaching or coaching situation, e.g., it may be necessary to support a child learning a new skill, but the following should be taken into consideration

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact
- Any necessary contact should be in response to the needs of the child and not the adult
- It should be in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the player
- It should be determined by the age and developmental stage of the player – Don't do something that a child can do for themselves
- Never engage in inappropriate touching

4.9 Use of Photographic and Filming Equipment

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael has adopted a policy in relation to the use of images of players on their websites and in other publications as there have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sports websites and other publications. Remember having photographic and filming guidelines is not about preventing parents from taking pictures, it is to ensure that only those who have a right to take photographs do so. The purpose is to reduce the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport. Group photographs where the club is identified rather than individuals are good for publicity without creating a risk to those in the photographs.

Rules to guide use of photography:

- Ask for the player's and parental permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport.
- Try to avoid the use of the first name and surname of individuals in a photograph.
- Only use images of players in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use. The content of the photograph should focus on the activity not on a particular child
- Where possible try to use models or illustrations when promoting an activity
- The inappropriate use of images of players should be reported to reduce the risks to players. Follow the child protection procedures, ensuring either the Children's Officer or, if necessary, the statutory authorities are informed.
- Photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation from the children's officer and / or leader at session. Where possible their professional identification should be sought and a record made.
- When commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to a game or session ensure that they are clear about our expectations of them in relation to child protection.

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Video as a coaching aid: Video equipment can be used as a legitimate coaching aid. However, permission should first be obtained from the player and the player's parent/guardian

Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the children's officer in relation to the matter.

Working in Partnership to protect young people

Photographs, when used with personal information, can be used as a means of identifying children. This practice can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to “groom” that child for abuse. Furthermore the content of the photo can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. There is evidence of this adapted material finding its way onto child pornography sites. Adults and sports leaders need to work together to prevent those wishing to cause such harm to young people.

4.10 Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are often given to young people for security, enabling parents to keep in touch and make sure they are safe. Young people value their phones highly as it offers them a sense of independence. In addition mobile phones allow quick and easy contact, which can make a safe and efficient way to carry out club business. However such technology has also allowed an increase in direct personal contact with young people, in some cases used to cross personal boundaries and cause harm to young people. Within clubs there is a need to encourage responsible and secure use of mobile phones by adults and young people.

As a young person remember

- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or children’s officer within the club.
- Be careful about who you give your phone number to and don’t respond to unfamiliar numbers
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying or harassment
- Don’t use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item so that you guard against theft

As a Leader remember

- Use group texts for communication among players and teams and inform parents of this at the start of the season
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication with individual players
- Don’t use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms

5 Child Welfare and Protection Procedures

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael accepts that organizations, which include young people among its members, are vulnerable to the occurrence of child abuse. Below are the procedures for dealing with any welfare or protection issue that may arise. Child welfare and the protection of young people is the concern of all adults at all times, irrespective of their role within the organization.

If there are grounds for concern about the safety or welfare of a young person you should react to the concern. Persons unsure about whether or not certain behaviours are abusive and therefore reportable should contact the duty social worker in the local health board or social services department where they will receive advice. Grounds for concern include a specific indication from a child, a statement from a person who witnessed abuse or an illness, injury or behaviour consistent with abuse. (See appendix for grounds for concern).

A report may be made by any member in the club but should be passed on to the Children’s Officer (*name*), who may in turn have to pass the concern to the local Statutory Authorities. It is not the responsibility of anyone working within Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, in a paid or voluntary capacity, or those working in affiliated organisations, to take responsibility or decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. That is the job of the local statutory authorities. However, there is a responsibility to protect children by assisting the appropriate agencies so that they can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person.

Everyone should follow both procedures outlined below, firstly the procedure for responding to a child in distress and secondly the procedure for reporting the concern.

5.1 Response to a Child Disclosing Abuse

When a young person discloses information of suspected abuse you should:

deal with any allegation of abuse in a sensitive and competent way through listening to and facilitating the child to tell about the problem, rather than interviewing the child about details of what happened

stay calm and not show any extreme reaction to what the child is saying. Listen compassionately, and take what the child is saying seriously understand that the child has decided to tell something very important and has taken a risk to do so

The experience of telling should be a positive one so that the child will not mind talking to those involved in the investigation be honest with the child and tell them that it is not possible to keep the information a secret make no judgmental statements against the person whom the allegation is made not question the child unless the nature of what s/he is saying is unclear. Leading questions should be avoided. Open, non-specific questions should be used such as "Can you explain to me what you mean by that"

- a) check out the concerns with the parents/guardians before making a report unless doing so would endanger the child
- b) give the child some indication of what would happen next, such as informing parents/guardians, health board or social services. It should be kept in mind that the child may have been threatened and may feel vulnerable at this stage.
- c) carefully record the details
- d) pass on this information to the Children's Officer (*name*)
- e) Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you

5.2 Reporting Suspected or Disclosed Child Abuse

The following steps should be taken in reporting child abuse to the statutory authorities:

- (a) Observe and note dates, times, locations and contexts in which the incident occurred or suspicion was aroused, together with any other relevant information
- (b) Report the matter as soon as possible to the designated officer with responsibility for reporting abuse eg the Children's Officer. If the Children's Officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the child has been abused or is at risk of abuse, s/he will make a report to the health board/social services who have statutory responsibility to investigate and assess suspected or actual child abuse
- (c) In cases of emergency, where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk and the Children's Officer is unable to contact a duty social worker, the Garda Síochána/PSNI should be contacted. Under no circumstances should a child be left in a dangerous situation pending intervention by the Statutory Authorities
- (d) If the Children's Officer is unsure whether reasonable grounds for concern exist she/he can informally consult with the local health board/social services. She/he will be advised whether or not the matter requires a formal report.

A Designated Person reporting suspected or actual child abuse to the Statutory Authorities should first inform the family of their intention to make such a report, unless doing so would endanger the child or undermine an investigation

5.3 Protection for Persons Reporting

The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998, provides immunity from civil liability to persons who report child abuse 'reasonably and in good faith' to the Health Board or the Gardai The act also covers the offence of 'false reporting'. The main provisions of the Act are:

1. The provision of immunity from civil liability to any person who reports child abuse "reasonably and in good faith" to designated officers of Health Boards or any member of An Garda Síochána;
2. The provision of significant protections for employees who report child abuse. These protections cover all employees and all forms of discrimination up to and including, dismissal;
3. The creation of a new offence of false reporting of child abuse where a person makes a report of child abuse to the appropriate authorities "knowing that statement to be false". This is a new criminal offence designed to protect innocent persons from malicious reports.

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This law does not exist in Northern Ireland, but an individual who reports concerns in 'good faith' is not deliberately attempting to slander another person's name. In Northern Ireland there is legislation, the Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967 which places the responsibility on everyone to report offences or to forward information to the police by emphasizing the, '*duty of every other person, who knows or believes,*

- (a) *that the offence or some other arrestable offences has been committed: and*
- (b) *that he has information which is likely to secure, or to be material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence'*

5.4 Allegations Against Sports Leaders

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael has agreed procedures to be followed in cases of alleged child abuse against Leaders. If such an allegation is made against a Leader working within the club, two procedures should be followed:

- The reporting procedure in respect of suspected child abuse (reported by the children's officer), see 5.2
- The procedure for dealing with the Sports Leader (carried out by the club cathaoirleach or senior officer, or a person not already involved with the child protection concern) See 5.4.1

The safety of the child making the allegation should be considered and the safety of any other children who may be at risk. The club should take any necessary steps that may be necessary to protect children in its care

The issue of confidentiality is important. Information is on a need to know basis and the Leader should be treated with respect and fairness.

5.4.1 The Sports Leader

While the children's officer makes the report to the local health board, the cathaoirleach of the club should deal with the Leader in question.

- The cathaoirleach should privately inform the leader that
 - (a) an allegation has been made against him / her and
 - (b) the nature of the allegation.
- He / she should be afforded an opportunity to respond.
- His / her response should be noted and passed on to the health board / social services.
- The leader should be asked to step aside pending the outcome of the investigation. When a person is asked to step aside it should be made clear that it is only a precautionary measure and will not prejudice any later disciplinary proceedings.

The Ardstiúrthóir should be informed by the Children's Officer that the leader has been asked to stand aside

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael can consider disciplinary action on the leader but should ensure that this does not interfere with the investigation of the Statutory Authorities. It is important that they consider the outcome of the investigation and any implications it might have. The fact that the alleged abuser has not been prosecuted or been found guilty does not mean that they are appropriate to work with young people in the future.

5.5 Confidentiality

Confidentiality should be maintained in respect of all issues and people involved in cases of abuse, welfare or bad practice. It is important that the rights of both the child and the person about whom the complaint has been made are protected.

The following points should be kept in mind:

- A guarantee of confidentiality or undertakings regarding secrecy cannot be given, as the welfare of the child will supersede all other considerations
- All information should be treated in a careful and sensitive manner and should be discussed only with those who need to know
- Information should be conveyed to the parents / guardians of the child in a sensitive way
- Giving information to others on a 'need to know' basis for the protection of a child is not a breach of confidentiality
- All persons involved in a child protection process (the child, his/her parents/guardians, the alleged offender, his/her family, Leaders) should be afforded appropriate respect, fairness, support and confidentiality at all stages of the procedure.
- Information should be stored in a secure place, with limited access only to designated people.
- The requirements of the Data Protection laws should be adhered to.
- Breach of confidentiality is a serious matter.

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5.6 Anonymous Complaints

Anonymous complaints can be difficult to deal with but should not be ignored. In all cases the safety and welfare of the child/children is paramount. Any such complaints relating to inappropriate behaviour should be brought to the attention of the Children's Officer. The information should be checked out and handled in a confidential manner.

5.7 Rumours

Rumours should **not** be allowed to hang in the air. Any rumours relating to inappropriate behaviour should be brought to the attention of the Children's Officer, and checked out without delay.

6.1 Application Form:

New Leaders

Position applied for: _____

Full Name: _____

Any surname previously: _____

Current Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Telephone No(s): _____

List previous experience / involvement in this or any other club. Include experience of working with young children in a voluntary or professional capacity.

Sporting/ NGB Qualifications: _____

Do you agree to abide by the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People?

Yes No Please tick

Do you agree to abide by the rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and name Camogie Club?

Yes No Please tick

Have you ever been asked to leave a sporting organisation? Yes No Please tick

(If you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order; or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations? Yes No Please tick

References:

Please supply the name and address of two people who we can contact and who, from personal knowledge, are willing to endorse your application. One of these names should be, where possible, the name of an administrator / leader in your last club / place of involvement

Name and Address of Referee 1: _____

Name and Address of Referee 2: _____

I agree to abide by the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People in Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael* and the Code of Conduct.

Signed _____ Date: _____

I have familiarised myself with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport for Young People of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. I agree to respect and abide by this code.

I will act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and of Camogie.

I will respect all players and treat them equally.

I will encourage fair play and praise effort as well as results

I will not use any form of physical punishment.

I will respect officials and their authority during matches and will encourage young people to do likewise.

I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.

I will not engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and/or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to, a player.

I will plan and prepare appropriately for training and matches.

I will keep a record of attendance at training.

I will keep a brief record of injuries and of behavioural problems.

I will involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise.

I have read and agree to abide by the above guidelines

_____ (signed) _____ (date)

6.3

Permission Form

Travelling with Underage Players

EVENT: _____

VENUE: _____

DATES: _____

Travelling Volunteer

I hereby agree to abide by the guidelines and regulations contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Young People* of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and the Code of Conduct.

Name: _____ Role _____

Date: _____

Parent / Guardian of Participant

I have read and accept the conditions and rules set down by Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael for children travelling to matches and events.

Parents/Carers Name: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Number(s)

Player

I have read and accept the conditions and rules set down by Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael for children travelling to matches and events.
I agree to abide by these rules

Name _____ Date _____

6.4 **Permission Form****Overnight Travelling of Underage Players**

EVENT: _____

VENUE: _____

DATES: _____

Details of overnight accommodation: _____
_____**Contact Number:** _____**Travelling Volunteer**

I hereby agree to abide by the guidelines and regulations contained in the Code of Conduct of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Name: _____ Role _____

Date: _____

Parent / Guardian of Participant

I have read and accept the conditions and rules set down by Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael for children travelling to matches and events which involves overnight stay.

Parents/Guardian's Name: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Number(s) _____

Player

I have read and accept the conditions and rules set down by Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael for children travelling to matches and events which involve overnight stay. I agree to abide by the rules

Name _____ Date _____

6.5 Grounds for Concern

The following examples would constitute reasonable grounds for concern:

- (i) specific indication from the child that (s)he was abused;
- (ii) an account by a person who saw the child being abused;
- (iii) evidence, such as an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused another way;
- (iv) an injury or behaviour which is consistent both with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse. An example of this would be a pattern of injuries, an implausible explanation, other indications of abuse, dysfunctional behaviour;
- (v) consistent indication, over a period of time, that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

CAMOGIE SUPPORTERS CLUB CONSTITUTION**Name**

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be ----- Camogie Supporters Club hereinafter referred to as the Club. This Club shall be a sub-committee of Coiste Contae -----.

Objects

- 2.1 The objects of the Club shall be
- (a) to harness and strengthen goodwill for the Association in the County.
 - (b) to act as a fundraising unit with a view to maximising financial support for all Camogie activities in the county.
 - (c) to provide self-support structures for the organisation of Camogie in the County.
 - (d) to assist with the promotion of Camogie
- 2.2 The Club shall be specifically precluded from involvement in the following areas:
- (a) County Board and team appointments
 - (b) Management and selection of County teams.
 - (c) Management and team expenses.

Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Club shall extend to all whose interests coincide with the objects of the Club.
- 3.2 The annual membership subscription will be determined at the Annual General Meeting each year.
- 3.3 The annual subscription for each member shall become due at the Annual General Meeting and shall cover membership until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 3.4 Application for membership must be made on the prescribed form, obtainable from the Honorary Secretary, and must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- 3.5 The application form must bear the signature of the applicant, proposer and seconder, who must be members of the Club.
- 3.6 The Executive Committee reserves the right to accept or refuse membership to anybody without prejudice to themselves.
- 3.7 The receipt of a membership card by the applicant shall be considered an intimation to her/him that she/he has duly been accepted as a member of the club. Each member of the club is entitled to a copy of the club constitution, once she/he applies for it to the Club Secretary.
- 3.8 Any member whose Annual Subscription has not been received within two months of the Annual General Meeting shall be deemed not to be a member of the Club.
- 3.9 The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, suspend or otherwise deal with any member whose conduct or actions are in their opinion prejudicial to the interest of the Club or the interests of Camogie.
- 3.10 The Executive Committee shall have discretionary powers to reinstate to membership, under such terms as they think fit, any person who has been dealt with under 3.9 above.

Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Executive Committee of the club shall administer the affairs of the Club.
- 4.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of Cathaoirleach, Leas-Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Rúnaí Cunta (Assistant Secretary), Cisteoir, P.R.O., and as many committee members as An Coiste Contae shall decide.
- 4.3 The Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí and Cisteoir of the Club shall be appointed by the Executive of An Coiste Contae each year prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Cisteoir of An Coiste Contae shall be the Cisteoir of the Camogie Supporters Club. These appointees shall take up office at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.4 The first Executive Committee Meeting of the Club shall consider and where practicable elect its various sub-committees. These sub-committees shall be eligible for re-election each year at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Club.
- 4.5 The officers of the ----- Camogie Supporters Club i.e. the Cathaoirleach, Leas-Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Rúnaí Cunta, Cisteoir and P.R.O. shall meet and appoint the Officers, i.e. Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí of the various Sub-Committees. These appointees shall be eligible for re-appointment each year at the discretion of the Officers of the Club.

4.6 The term of office of the Executive Committee shall be from the end of the meeting at which it was elected until the next Annual General Meeting.

Executive Committee continued

4.7 Should a vacancy occur on the Officer Board i.e. Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí or Cisteoir these positions shall be filled by appointment by the Officers of An Coiste Contae. Should a vacancy occur at Leas-Cathaoirleach or Rúnaí Cunta level, these vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee of the Club.

4.8 Should a vacancy occur on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee itself shall have the power to co-opt any member on to the committee to fill that vacancy.

4.9 The Executive Committee shall with the agreement of An Coiste Contae have the power to co-opt any member onto the committee as it might feel necessary from time to time.

4.10 All appointees, elected representatives and co-options shall end their term of office at the next Annual General Meeting.

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4.11 Any member of the Executive Committee being absent from five meetings shall, in the absence of a satisfactory explanation, be deemed to have resigned from office.

4.12 The Executive Committee may establish whatever sub-committees which it considers are necessary for the efficient transaction of business. Such sub-committees shall be subject to the Executive Committee, shall be under the chairmanship of a member of the Executive Committee and shall include at least one of the Executive Committee appointed by An Coiste Contae.

4.13 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be 50% of its members in addition to the officers present.

4.14 The Rúnaí will have the power to convene a Special Executive Meeting at her/his discretion should business necessitate.

4.15 After each meeting of the Executive Committee, An Rúnaí shall forward a report, including Resolutions passed, to An Rúnaí, An Coiste Contae.

4.16 The Executive Committee shall have the power, after consultation with An Coiste Contae, to remove from the Executive Committee any club officer or committee member who persistently fails to carry out any duties assigned to her or him.

4.17 At all meetings of the Executive Committee, the Cathaoirleach shall preside or, in her/his absence, the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí or other member elected by the majority of those present and entitled to vote. The Cathaoirleach shall have a casting vote in addition to her/his own vote.

4.18 Each meeting will consider the minutes of the previous meeting. Resolutions may be passed by a simple majority. A resolution may be overruled by An Coiste Contae only where it deems the Resolution to be in contravention of the Rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and/or the County Bye-Laws and/or not in the best interests of the Association. In such a case, An Rúnaí, An Coiste Contae shall notify the Executive Committee of the Club of such decision. The resolution shall be revoked at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

General Meetings and Meetings

5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of February on such date as shall be determined by the Executive Committee and in the same month annually thereafter.

5.2 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Executive Committee or at the written request of not less than 25% of members of the club or at the request in writing of the County Committee. Such a request shall state the nature of the matter or matters intended to be submitted to the meeting. Where a Special General Meeting has been convened at the request of the members the meeting shall be deemed invalid unless 90%, at least, of the signatories are present.

5.3 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall elect the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí Cunta (Assistant Secretary) and committee members other than the Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí or Cisteoir.

5.4 Persons being nominated at the Annual General Meeting for vacant positions on the Executive Committee must be present, unless an excuse has been received in writing and accepted by the meeting. The vacant positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled by secret ballot. Those receiving the majority vote of those present, eligible to vote, and voting shall be elected.

5.5 All motions to be moved at the Annual General Meeting, together with the name of the proposer and seconder, must be received in writing by the Rúnaí at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

5.6 At least seven days beforehand members shall be notified by An Rúnaí of the date, time, venue and agenda for meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.

5.7 All members who are over the age of 18 on the first of January preceding the Annual General Meeting, and whose subscription at the prescribed rate is not in arrears, shall be eligible to vote on all matters appearing on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

5.8 The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

(a) An Rúnaí shall submit a report of the proceedings of the Club for the preceding year,

(b) An Cisteoir shall submit the accounts, duly audited, for the calendar year preceding the Annual General Meeting.

(c) The election of Executive Committee.

(d) General Business.

(e) The Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí and Cisteoir, as appointed by An Coiste Contae shall take office from the close of the Annual General Meeting.

5.9 The supreme authority of the Club shall be the Annual General Meeting subject to this constitution, and to the overall authority of An Coiste Contae and the rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael as defined in the Official Guide of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Finances

- 6.1 The funds of the Club shall be lodged in such bank as is approved by the Executive Committee in the name of ----- Camogie Supporters Club. All disbursements shall be signed by An Cisteoir and countersigned by either An Cathaoirleach or An Rúnaí.
- 6.2 As the Club is a sub-committee of the County Board its Annual Treasurer's Report shall be considered by the Annual Convention of Coiste Contae ----- and then be considered by the Annual General Meeting of the Club. **45.**
- 6.3 All matters incurring expenses on the Club shall be passed in advance and passed by the Executive Committee and shall be recorded.
- 6.4 Any member owing dues or monies for fundraising, social functions or any event, and who has been requested in writing by An Rúnaí to appear before the Executive Committee and fails to do so, shall be expelled from the Club unless sufficient reason is given for their non-appearance. Any person so expelled shall be precluded from any further membership of the Club. The Executive Committee shall reserve the right to litigate legal action to recover funds from any individual where it is satisfied that misappropriation of Club funds has occurred.
- 6.5 Only expenditure on running expenses of the Club shall be expended directly by the Club. All expenditure on the provision of support and development facilities for Camogie activities shall only be undertaken following consultation with An Coiste Contae and the funds provided to An Coiste Contae. No monies other than legitimate expenses shall be paid to any players, coaches or other officers or employees of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and such legitimate expenses may be paid only through An Coiste Contae.

Rules of the Club

- 7.1 The rules of the Club shall be printed and a copy thereof available to each member on application.
- 7.2 A copy of all amendments and alterations to rules shall be available to all members on request as soon as possible after the Annual General Meeting at which such amendments or alterations have been adopted.
- 7.3 Alterations or additions to these rules may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, provided that the requisite seven days notice has been given. Such alterations and additions shall be forwarded to An Coiste Contae for its approval or otherwise.
- 7.4 The foregoing rules shall be Laws of the Club and their acceptance a fundamental condition of membership.
- 7.5 The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with any matters not provided for in these Rules and to take any action necessary or desirable for the improvement of the Club and benefit of its members, provided always that such actions are not in conflict with other rules of the Club or the rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael as defined in the Official Guide, County Bye-Laws or any defined policy of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.
- 7.6 The decision of the Executive Committee on the interpretation of these rules and on matters arising therefrom shall be final except where such decision is held by the County Board to be in contravention of the Rules of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. In such an instance, the informed interpretation of An Coiste Contae shall be final.

General

- 8.1 The Club may be dissolved only with the consent of two-thirds of its members and only on such terms and conditions as members may determine. Where the Club functions in contravention of a ruling of An Coiste Contae, An Coiste Contae may order the Club to dissolve and the Club shall comply with this order.
- 8.2 In the event of the Club being dissolved, the assets shall revert to An Coiste Contae in whom the ultimate control is vested.
- 8.3 Neither the Club nor any unit of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael shall bear responsibility for any misfortune, however caused, incurred by members of the Supporters Club.

