



THE CELTIC CHALLENGE 2017

OPERATIONS MANUAL

Contents

The Celtic Challenge – Overview	3
Section 1: Operational Structure	4
Section 2: Players	9
Section 3: Teams	10
Section 4: Competition Structure	12
Section 5: Fixtures and Discipline	17
Contacts	21



The Celtic Challenge

Overview

The Celtic Challenge is a developmental hurling competition for 16 and 17 year old players who are not participating in State Examinations during the months of May and June 2017. Through the Celtic Challenge, players aged 16 and 17 years of age will be provided with a 7 week programme of meaningful, pre-scheduled games including six finals that will be played on Saturday 24th June. The programme is scheduled at a time of year where there is minimum interruption to Club or County Fixtures i.e. between 3rd May and 24th June.

- The programme will run from Wednesday 3rd May to Saturday 24th June 2017.
- The ethos of the competition is a developmental one, where an 8 week programme of meaningful games is supplemented by a 1 to 1 ratio of games to training.
- 47 teams will participate in the competition. Each team will play a minimum of 5 games through a programme that is structured on the basis of Group Stages, Preliminary Rounds and Play Offs.
- The Group Stages will consist of 8 Groups of teams selected on a geographical and developmental basis. It is recommended that matches at the Group Stages will be played on Wednesdays on a home and away basis, if possible.
- After the Group Stages, teams will be graded based on their performance and will be assigned to 1 of 6 Divisions for the Preliminary Rounds and Play-Offs where they will play against opposition of a comparative developmental level.
- 6 Finals will be played on Saturday June 24th 2017:
 - Division 1 – Corn Michael Hogan
 - Division 2 – Corn John Scott
 - Division 3 – Corn William Robinson
 - Division 4 – Corn Jerome O'Leary
 - Division 5 – Corn Michael Feery
 - Division 6 – Corn Tom Hogan

The Celtic Challenge is named in recognition of the original juvenile hurling club known as 'Celtic'. The Divisional trophies are named in memory of 6 of the 14 civilians who were shot dead in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 21st November 1920. Michael Hogan [aged 24], Tom Hogan [aged 21], John William Scott [aged 14], William Robinson [aged 11], Jerome O'Leary [aged 10] and Michael Feery, who was buried in a common grave.

Section 1: Operational Structure

Operations Manual

This Operations Manual has been developed by the Hurling Development Committee to support the stakeholders involved in the organisation and operation of The Celtic Challenge.

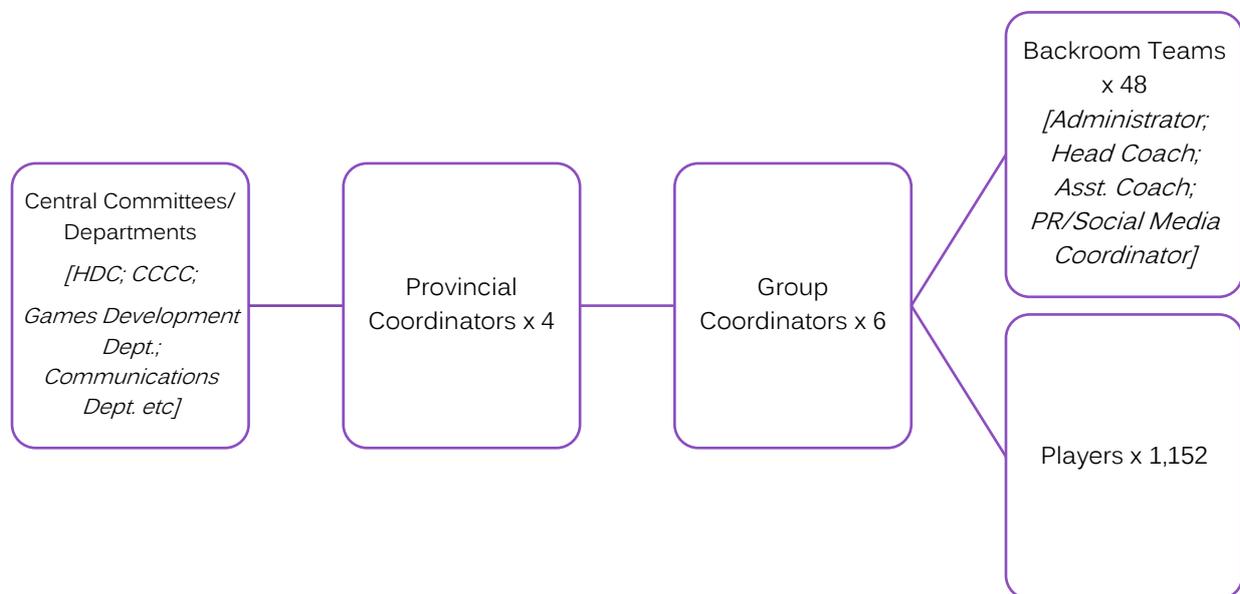
It provides details regarding the organisation of The Celtic Challenge and the policy guidelines as well as rules and regulations that exist in relation to:

- Player Eligibility
- Team Selection and Preparation
- Competition Structures
- Playing Rules
- Disciplinary Structures

It is designed to ensure that there is awareness of the developmental ethos underpinning The Celtic Challenge and that all stakeholders adhere to the guidelines, rules and regulations in a consistent manner.

Overview of the Operational Structure

The effective organisation and operation of The Celtic Challenge will require a coordinated approach by stakeholders at National, Provincial, Group and Team levels. The diagram below provides an overview of the various stakeholders who are involved in The Celtic Challenge:



Stakeholder Roles/Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Role
National Hurling Development Committee and National Coordinator	<p>The HDC is the group responsible for developing, in conjunction with Central Council, a definition of the project.</p> <p>The HDC will ensure that the project is delivered on time, to budget and to the required standards.</p> <p>The HDC will ensure that the project is effectively managed and resourced.</p> <p>The HDC will manage relationships with a wide range of groups (including the key stakeholders as well as Fixture Makers, Communications, Commercial & Marketing)</p> <p>The HDC will be supported in the day-to-day operations by the National Coordinator (Secretary to the HDC).</p>
Responsibilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct/approve of detailed project planning including proposals, budgets, personnel. • Communicating with other key organisational stakeholders/representatives. • Identifying and managing roles and responsibilities. • Identifying and managing tasks and timelines. • Managing and leading the project including co-ordination of the stakeholders engaged in the project. • Monitoring project progress. • Conducting a review of the project. • Reporting to Central Council, the National Games Development Committee and others as appropriate 	

Stakeholder	Role
Provincial Hurling Development Committees/Work Groups and Provincial Coordinators	<p>Provinces will assist with the design, development and delivery of the project in particular player eligibility, recruitment of quality coaches, identification of suitable facilities.</p> <p>Provinces will work in conjunction with the HDC to identify and quantify resource requirements (finance, equipment, personnel, scheduling games and training etc.)</p> <p>Provinces will identify and manage support functions around planning, monitoring, reporting and internal communication through the appointment of two Group Coordinators per Province.</p>

	The Provinces will be asked to nominate a Provincial Coordinator to liaise with and support the day-to-day operations of the National Coordinator.
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Responsibilities

- Assisting with detailed planning, design and development of the project.
- Approving player eligibility/catchment areas as submitted by the County Steering Committee.
- Communicating with organisational stakeholders/representatives at County level (County Boards, County Fixtures Committees)
- Identifying a Provincial Coordinator
- Identifying one or two Group Coordinator(s) as appropriate.
- Assisting with the identification and recruitment Coaches for areas/regions within the Province.
- Assisting with the identification and management of suitable facilities within the Province.
- Monitoring project progress.
- Conducting a review of the project.

Stakeholder	Role
Group Coordinator	<p>The Group Coordinators (5 assigned individuals) will be the primary contact person for the teams in each Group.</p> <p>The Group Coordinator will act as the link between teams and Provincial/National level. He/she will relay communication and information as required.</p> <p>The Group Coordinator will oversee the organisation of facilities and the fixtures during the group stages.</p> <p>The Group Coordinator will report to the Provincial and National Coordinators.</p>

Responsibilities

- Coordinating fixtures at Group level.
- Identifying 2 linesmen per county/region.
- Assisting with the day to day operation of the Programme i.e. facility identification, booking, logistics (transport/catering etc.).
- Communicating with/interfacing between the Programme stakeholders at team, Provincial and National level.
- Monitoring project progress.
- Highlighting potential problems in advance.

In order to operationalise the Programme **each of the teams** should have a backroom group of 4 adults each with a specific role, responsibility and skill-set. The following specifications should be considered when identifying the individuals for involvement with each team:

Role	Administrator
Responsibilities	<p>The Administrator will be the primary contact person for the team and will be expected attend all training sessions/games.</p> <p>The Administrator will have responsibility for liaising with, reporting to and updating the following stakeholders on an on-going basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assigned Group Coordinator; 2. County Board c/o Games Development Manager; 3. Backroom Members; 4. Clubs; 5. Parents; 6. Players. <p>The Administrator will have responsibility for organising and communicating information regarding: agreed training and game schedule; backroom team meetings; gear; facilities/location for team training; the organisation of transport to/from matches.</p> <p>The Administrator will have responsibility for accounting for any invoices/costs incurred.</p>
Key skill-set/criteria	<p>Organisational, IT and administrative skills.</p> <p>Experience coordinating teams in terms of agreeing training schedules/facility hire/transport requirements.</p>

Role	Coach
Responsibilities	<p>The coach will be responsible for all on-field coaching and will be expected to attend all training and games.</p> <p>The Coach will be responsible for designing training sessions and circulating to other members of the backroom team pre-session.</p> <p>The Coach will be responsible for reviewing games and training sessions.</p>
Key skill-set/criteria	<p>Experience coaching Youth teams e.g. County Development Squads; Inter-County Minor Coach etc.</p> <p>GAA Coaching Qualification - Award 2 Level Coach desirable.</p> <p>Clear understanding of the developmental ethos of the Programme.</p>

	Commitment to agreed ratio of training sessions to games
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Role	Assistant Coach
Responsibilities	<p>The assistant coach will be responsible for assisting the coach with all on-field coaching under the coach's direction and will be expected to attend all training and games.</p> <p>The assistant coach will act as Maor Foirne on match days and will have responsibility for on-field match day logistics e.g. water, hurleys etc.</p> <p>The assistant coach will take responsibility for any Player Welfare issues e.g. monitoring player activity levels; identifying/tracking injuries etc.</p>
Key skill-set/criteria	<p>Experience of playing at Inter-County level is desirable</p> <p>Commitment to participating in required online Player Welfare workshops e.g. Concussion</p> <p>Clear understanding of the developmental ethos of the Programme.</p> <p>Commitment to agreed ratio of training sessions to games and to analysing performance effectiveness and engineering change as appropriate.</p>

Role	PR & Social Media Coordinator
Responsibilities	<p>The PR & Social Media Coordinator will be responsible for liaising with the National Social Media Coordinator for the Programme to produce agreed/required communications inputs for the team e.g. drafting player profiles; action shots of training/games; match reports; social media inputs regarding scores/results.</p>
Key skill-set/criteria	<p>Digital/Social Media qualification or experience.</p> <p>Commitment to participating in required training on GAA Social Media Guidelines.</p>

Section 2: Players

Player Eligibility

Player eligibility is determined on the basis of three criteria: Player's age; Player's involvement in the County Minor Hurling Panel; Player's club.

Age

Players that are Under 17 and Over 15 years, who are not undertaking Junior or Leaving Certificate Examinations, are eligible to participate in this competition.

As an exception players that are Under 17 and Over 15 years, who are sitting state examinations during May and June in the Six Counties are eligible to participate.

Involvement in the County Minor Hurling Panel

Players who are on the Inter-County Minor Hurling Panel in the following Counties are not eligible to participate in this competition: Clare; Cork; Dublin; Galway; Kilkenny; Laois; Limerick; Offaly; Tipperary; Waterford; Wexford.

A player will be deemed to be on the Inter-County Minor Hurling Panel if he is one of the 24 named match day players in the County's most recent Inter-County Minor Championship match of the season as of 30th April 2017.

Club

Only players who are members of clubs that meet the panel selection criteria are eligible to play. The panel selection criteria is agreed by the County Steering Committee (County Chairperson; Secretary; Coaching Officer; Games Manager) and approved by the Hurling Development Committees at Provincial and National level – see Section 3 (page 10).

Section 3: Teams/Panels

This section contains an overview of the teams that are participating in The Celtic Challenge as well as guidelines and recommendations regarding the composition, selection and preparation of the teams prior to and during the competition.

Participating Teams

47 teams will participate in The Celtic Challenge Competition with 32 Counties represented.

21 teams will represent a County. 26 teams will represent regions within a County e.g. North Galway; South Kilkenny; West Waterford. The inclusion of a number of regional teams from Counties participating in the Liam MacCarthy Cup (Tier 1) serves to recognise the principle of 'Protect the Game, Grow the Game, Develop the Game' i.e. to allow for weaker regions within Tier 1 Counties to enter a team.

Connacht Teams	Leinster Teams	Munster Teams	Ulster Teams
Galway Maroon	Carlow	Cork City	Antrim
Galway McDonagh	Dublin Clarke	East Cork	Armagh
Galway Tribesmen	Dublin Plunkett	Kerry	Cavan
Leitrim	Kildare Lily Whites	Limerick City	Derry
Mayo	Kildare Cadets	Limerick South/East	Down
Roscommon	Kilkenny 1	North Clare	Fermanagh
Sligo	Kilkenny 2	South/East Clare	Donegal
	Laois	North Cork	Monaghan
	Longford	North Tipperary	Tyrone
	Louth	South Tipperary	
	Meath Royals	Waterford City	
	Meath Kings	West Limerick	
	North Wexford	West Cork	
	Offaly	West Waterford	
	South Wexford		
	Westmeath		
	Wicklow		

Panel Composition

It is recommended that each panel consists of a minimum 24 players and a maximum of 30 players. Please note that the match day panel can be no more than 24 players.

Panel Selection

The players selected must be eligible to participate on the basis of the criteria outlined in Section 2 (page 9).

A County Steering Committee (County Chairperson; Secretary; Coaching Officer; Games Manager) will identify a list of the approved clubs that meet the panel selection criteria for each team. Panel selection criteria may be based on a specific catchment area and/or on the basis of the relative strength of the clubs within a catchment area e.g. clubs participating at 'B' or 'C' grade in County Minor Championships.

Only players who are members of the clubs on the approved list may be selected to the panel. It is recommended that a minimum of one player from each club on the approved list should be on the panel.

Trials may be held to facilitate team selection. It is recommended that no more than 3 trials be held and that trials should not take place prior to 1st March 2017. This date does not apply to Group H.

In selecting the panel, it is recommended that the management team broaden the selection beyond existing Development Squad players.

Panel Preparation

The Celtic Challenge is a developmental competition – the primary objective is to develop players through providing them with a meaningful programme of games. Panel preparation must reflect this ethos.

Training for the Celtic Challenge should not take place prior to 1st March 2017. This date does not apply to the teams in Group H.

It is recommended that a panel should not have more than 6 training sessions before the commencement of the competition and no more than 2 in any week. Challenge games will be considered to constitute a training session. If a team wants to hold more than 6 training sessions before the commencement of the competition they must seek approval – with the authorisation of the County Games Manager – from the Group Coordinator. The Group Coordinator will grant approval on the basis of the following:

- Additional training sessions will not interfere with Club fixtures within the County;
- Additional training sessions are required from a developmental perspective i.e. teams that fall within the 'Develop the Game' category;
- Additional training sessions do not exceed the maximum of 2 training sessions per week;
- Steps will be taken to ensure that players are monitored closely to prevent burnout and over-training.

During the Competition a ratio of 1 training session per game is recommended.

Section 4: Competition Structure

This section outlines the structure of the competition as well as the grading system and the recommended schedule.

Structure

Each team will play a minimum of 5 games through a programme that is structured on the basis of Group Stages, Preliminary Rounds, Play-Offs and five Finals.

For the Group Stages, the teams will be divided into 8 groups having regard for developmental and geographic considerations:

47 teams			
Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
North Clare	Clare South/East	Westmeath	Carlow
Offaly	West Cork	Dublin Plunkett	Kilkenny 2
North Tipperary	Kerry	Kildare Lily Whites	Wexford Purple
Laois	Limerick City	Wicklow	Dublin Clarke
Galway McDonagh	West Limerick	Kilkenny 1	Wexford Gold
Galway Maroon	North Cork		Meath Royals
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H1 and Group H2
Waterford City/East	Cavan	Mayo	H1 Antrim
South Tipperary	Leitrim	Roscommon	H1 Derry
Cork East	Longford	Galway Tribesmen	H1 Down
Cork City	Louth	Donegal	H2 Armagh
West Waterford	Monaghan	Sligo	H2 Fermanagh
Limerick South/East	Meath Kings	Kildare Cadets	H2 Tyrone

Group Stages:

- In Groups A, B, D, E, F and G each team plays 5 games during the Group Stages.
- In Group C each team plays 4 games during the Group Stages.

- In Group H1 and H2 each team plays 4 games during the Group Stages – the team graded third in Group H1 and the team graded first in Group H2 will then play to determine final standings in Group H overall.
- Due to examinations in the six counties during May, teams in Group H will play their Group Stage matches during March/April.
- At the end of the Group stage all teams from Group A – H are ranked 1 – 47 on the basis of the grading system (see page 13 – 14).
- A seeding system for teams in Groups A - G will apply. After the Group Stages, teams from Counties that participate in the Lory Meagher or Nicky Rackard Tournament in Senior County Hurling will not be seeded higher than Division 4 i.e. cannot be graded in the top 24 teams. Cavan will also be seeded on this basis.
- A separate seeding system for teams in Group H will apply. After the Group Stages the team graded number 1 in Group H will enter Division 1, the team graded number 2 in Group H will enter Division 2, the team graded number 3 will enter Division 3 and so on so forth with the bottom two teams in Group H entering Division 6.

Preliminary Rounds:

- On the basis of their rankings after the Group Stages, the teams are assigned to different Divisions to participate in the Preliminary Rounds.
- The fixtures during the Preliminary Rounds are decided on foot of an open draw between the teams in each Division.
- In each Division 4 games are played during the Preliminary Rounds – each team in the Division receives 1 game.
- Teams ranked 1 – 8 enter Division 1 'Corn Michael Hogan' Preliminary Round.
- Teams ranked 9 – 16 enter Division 2 'Corn John Scott' Preliminary Round.
- Teams ranked 17 – 24 enter Division 3 'Corn William Robinson' Preliminary Round.
- Teams ranked 25 – 32 enter Division 4 'Corn Jerome O'Leary' Preliminary Round.
- Teams ranked 33 – 40 enter Division 5 'Corn Michael Feery' Preliminary Round.
- Teams ranked 42 – 47 enter Division 6 'Corn Tom Hogan' Preliminary Round. The team ranked number 41 proceeds directly into Division 6 of the Play-Offs

Play-Offs:

- The Play-Offs (PO) are held the weekend after the Preliminary Rounds.
- In Divisions 1 to 5, the four winning teams from the Preliminary Round in each Division play against each other (Play-Offs 1 and 2) and the four runners-up from the Preliminary Round in each Division may choose to play against each other (Play-Offs 3 and 4).
- In Division 6, the three winning teams from the Preliminary Round and the team ranked 41st will play against each other (Play-Offs 1 and 2).

Finals:

- The weekend after the Play-Offs the winners of Play-Off 1 and 2 play against each other in the Final.

- The winning team is ranked 1st and the runner up is ranked 2nd within the Division.
- The remaining 6 teams in the Division are ranked 3 – 8 on the basis of their displays in the Play-Offs in order to determine their final ranking so that they can comparatively assess their development.

Grading System

At the end of the Group Stages teams are graded 1 – 47 on the basis of the following:

Groups A – B and D - G (6 teams per Group/each team plays 5 games):

- 8 match points for a win;
- 4 match points for a draw;
- 2 match points for a loss (max. 8 match points of this nature during the Group Stage);
- Bonus point for a team scoring two goals or more in a match (max. 4 bonus points of this nature per team during the Group Stage)
- Bonus point for a team losing by 5 points or fewer in a match (max. 4 bonus points of this nature per team during the Group Stage)

Groups C (5 teams per Group/each team plays 4 games):

- 10 match points for a win;
- 5 match points for a draw;
- 2 match points for a loss;
- Bonus point for a team scoring two goals or more in a match.
- Bonus point for a team losing by 5 points or fewer in a match.

Groups H1 and H2 (3 teams per Group/each team plays 4 games):

- 10 match points for a win;
- 5 match points for a draw;
- 2 match points for a loss;
- Bonus point for a team scoring two goals or more in a match.
- Bonus point for a team losing by 5 points or fewer in a match.

Where two or more teams are on equal match and bonus points the ranking will be determined on the basis of average scoring percentage i.e. the number of points scored by a team divided by the number of points conceded by a team and then multiplied by 100. If it is not possible to distinguish between two or more teams on the basis of average scoring percentage then the total number of goals scored by each team will be used as a further tiebreaker.

If a team is disqualified, retires or loses a game on foot of a walk-over, its played games will stand but any un-played games will be awarded to the opposing teams as a 'win' as per grading above. The team that is disqualified, retires or concedes a walk-over, will be docked (minus) the same sum of points as is awarded to the 'winning' team.

Schedule

The Programme will run from Wednesday 3rd May to Saturday 24th June 2017 with each team receiving a minimum of 6 pre-scheduled games resulting in a total of 162 games being played.

In the six counties, the majority of all 15, 16, 17 and 18 year olds have exams during May and June. In light of same, it was agreed that the group stage matches for teams in Group G will be played from Sunday 19th March to Sunday 23rd April.

Group Stages

Group H

Sun. 19th March	Sun. 26th March	Sun. 2nd April	Sun. 9th April	Sun. 23rd April
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Groups A - G

Wed. 3rd May	Wed. 10th May	Wed. 17th May	Sat. 27th May	Wed. 31st May
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During the Group Stages, the Group Coordinators are responsible for overseeing fixtures.

All games will be played on a Wednesday evening to minimise fixture clashes. If both teams playing a match want to schedule the match for a different date they must seek approval from the Group Coordinator. The Group Coordinator will grant approval on the basis of the following:

- A re-fixture does not interfere with Club fixtures within the County/Counties concerned;
- The proposed re-fixture is for the same week as the original fixture;
- The rationale for the re-fixture is clear.

It is recommended that, during the Group Stages, matches be played on a 'Home' and 'Away' basis in order to keep games local, minimise travel costs and maximise local promotional opportunities due to the holistic and developmental nature of the competition. However, where travel time is prohibitive (i.e. in excess of 75 minutes) a mid-way neutral venue will be identified. Furthermore, in order to enhance the promotion of the Celtic Challenge a number of double-headers based in the same venue will take place on Saturday 27th May.

Preliminary Rounds

Sat. 10th June

During the Preliminary Rounds, the Provincial Coordinators are responsible for overseeing fixtures.

The Preliminary Rounds are fixed for Saturday 10th June. They will take place in a number of neutral venues nationally. Teams will be assigned to the venue that is most suitable having regard for travel times.

Play-Offs

Sat. 17th June

During the Play-Offs, the Provincial Coordinators are responsible for overseeing fixtures.

The Play-Offs are fixed for Saturday 17th June. They will take place in a number of neutral venues nationally. Teams will be assigned to the venue that is most suitable having regard for travel times.

Finals

Sat. 24th June

12 teams will play in 6 Divisional Finals on Saturday 24th June. The National Coordinator is responsible for overseeing fixtures. The finals will all be hosted at the same venue.

Section 5: Fixtures and Discipline

This section provides a summary of the fixtures and disciplinary procedures for The Celtic Challenge. It also outlines the Rules that will be implemented as part of The Celtic Challenge as well as the Respect Initiatives that will be introduced.

Controlling Body

Based upon the model implemented for the Celtic Challenge in 2016, it is proposed to seek permission from GAA Central Council to appoint a specific Competitions Control Committee, which will be responsible for the regulation of Fixtures and Disciplinary Process/Procedures arising from The Celtic Challenge.

The CCC for the Celtic Challenge will be comprised by one member from each Province (as appointed/nominated by the Provincial CCC) and will be serviced by a nominee of the Hurling Development Committee.

In relation to disciplinary proceedings the CCC for the Celtic Challenge will be governed by the Official Guide in accordance with the guidelines set out in the GAA's Disciplinary Handbook.

In the event that Disciplinary Action as agreed by the CCC for the Celtic Challenge is not accepted it will be referred to the Central Hearings Committee (CHC), any appeals shall subsequently be referred to the Central Appeals Committee (CAC).

Match Officials

For each Match the following Match Officials shall be appointed:

- Referee
- Two Linesmen (one to act as Interchange Coordinator)
- Four Umpires

It is proposed that the Central Referees Appointments Committee (CRAC) will liaise with the four Provincial Referee Committees to identify a Referee's Panel for The Celtic Challenge. Only Referee's appointed to this Panel will officiate matches. In recognition of the developmental ethos of the competition, a number of Referees' Advisors will also be appointed. The Advisors will attend matches throughout the competition and will be responsible for advising and supporting the development of the Referee's.

In advance of the Group Stages, the Group Coordinators will liaise with the respective Provincial Coordinators and Provincial Referees Committee to appoint Referees and Match Officials for each match in the Group. The Group Coordinator is responsible for identifying the two Linesmen (one to act as Interchange Coordinator) for each match. The Referee is responsible for identifying the Umpires – if he cannot do so he must inform the Group Coordinator as soon as possible.

During the Preliminary Rounds and Play-Offs, the Provincial Coordinators will liaise with the respective Provincial Referees Committee to appoint Referees and Match Officials for the

matches fixed for each Provincial Venue. The Provincial Coordinator is responsible for identifying the two Linesmen for each match. The Referee is responsible for identifying the Umpires – if he cannot do so he must inform the Provincial Coordinator as soon as possible.

It is proposed that the National Coordinator will liaise with the CRAC to appoint Referees and Match Officials (2 linesmen and 1 interchange coordinator) for the 6 Divisional Finals.

Disciplinary Process and Procedures – Reporting

The Referee shall submit his Report as per Rule 1.6, Rules of Control (Official Guide, Part 2). In general, the Referee will submit his Report as well as any expenses to the National Coordinator within 4 days of the match. However, where a disciplinary issue arises from a match, the Referee officiating the match must submit his/her Report within 24 hours via email or fax.

Rules of the Celtic Challenge

- 1) The Celtic Challenge will be played under the full Playing Rules of Hurling – GAA Official Guide, Part 2;
- 2) All matches will be played on a 15-a-side basis over 30 minutes per half;
- 3) A match-day panel will be confined to a maximum of 24 players and 4 members of the backroom team;
- 4) The match-day panel must be listed on the team sheet which is to be completed by an Official of each team and lodged with the Referee no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled commencement of a Match;
- 5) The rules governing substitution are replaced by interchange;
- 6) A team may make a maximum of 10 interchanges per half, but only during a stoppage in play and with the permission of the Linesman/Interchange Coordinator. Only one Player per team may be interchanged at any time. The following procedure will apply to the interchange of players during a match:
 - a) The Maor Foirne shall advise the Linesman/Interchange Coordinator of the team's intention to replace a Player who is currently on the Playing Field for another Player listed on its team sheet;
 - b) Upon being satisfied that the replacement is permitted, the Linesman/Interchange Coordinator shall approve the replacement;
 - c) A team may interchange the Players concerned within a period of 3 minutes from the time approval is given by the Linesman/Interchange Coordinator, after which the approval shall lapse;
 - d) The Players concerned shall leave and enter the Playing Field through the Interchange Area;
 - e) The Interchange Area is constituted of two areas - 5m Wide - marked adjacent to and either side of the Centre Line – on one side of the Field - through which players may enter

1 Fixtures for Group G on Saturday 27th May are a recognised exception to this whereby three games will be played over 25 minutes per half.

and leave the Playing Field. No more than one player per team may enter and leave at the same time;

- f) In the event of a breach of procedure - player enters pitch before player being replaced (unless injured) has exited the interchange area – the total number of interchanges per half (10) is reduced by 1.
- 7) Team officials are not allowed to encroach on to the Field of Play without the permission of the referee;
- 8) In addition to sanctions set out in the Official Guide, any team participating in The Celtic Challenge that has been proven to be illegally constituted will be debarred from the competition;
- 9) The CCC of the Celtic Challenge reserves the right to impose sanctions, including debarment from the competition of teams that fail to comply with the rules of The Celtic Challenge.

Respect Initiative

The operation of the competition will reflect the ethos of the GAA Respect Initiative, which aims to promote positive behaviour including respect for and from all participants on and around the field. One of the aims of The Celtic Challenge is to improve the culture of communication between players/team officials and the Referee.

In order to do this the following guidelines will operate:

1) Pre-Match

Before the match starts the Referee and his/her Officials (Linesmen/Interchange Coordinator and Umpires) must meet separately with both teams, in accordance with the times set out in the Clár an Lae. It is recommended that he/she meet with the teams on the pitch where practical. As part of this meeting the Referee will:

- Introduce himself/herself and his/her Officials to the Players
- Give a brief summary about the Playing Rules in particular interchange.
- Answer any question the players may have.

A member of the backroom team will liaise with the Referee to facilitate this meeting.

2) Post-Match

After the match concludes it is recommended that the Referee and his/her Officials (Linesmen/Interchange Coordinator and Umpires) will meet and select one player from each team for the accolade of a 'Best and Fairest Award'.

The Award will be for the player on each team who best reflected the following principles during the course of the game:

- Displayed a high level of skill and endeavour
- Displayed respect towards Match Official
- Displayed respect towards his fellow Players
- Displayed respect towards the Playing Rules

The Referee will be required to inform the selected players and to communicate the names/numbers of the players to the National Coordinator by text/email within 24 hours.

Contacts

Group Coordinators

Group	Coordinator
Group A	Michael O'Connor Michaelj.oconnor@nuigalway.ie 087 9840184
Group B	David O'Dea David.odea.gda.kerry@gaa.ie 087 2170994
Group C	James Devane James.devane.leinster@gaa.ie 087 6714573
Group D	James Devane James.devane.leinster@gaa.ie 087 6714573
Group E	Peter Nash peter.nash.gda.limerick@gaa.ie 087 2170994
Group F	Thomas Keenan Thomas.keenan.gm.leitrim@gaa.ie 087 6591049
Group G	Michael O'Connor Michaelj.oconnor@nuigalway.ie 087 9840184
Group H	Kevin Kelly Kevin.kelly.ulster@gaa.ie ; +44 (0) 7920 528 794

Provincial Coordinators

Province	Group/s	Coordinator/s
Connacht	Group A, F and G	Damien Coleman Damien.coleman.connacht@gaa.ie 087 2661695.
Leinster	Group C and D	Alan Mulhall Alan.mulhall.leinster@gaa.ie 085 1829991 James Devane James.devane.leinster@gaa.ie 087 6714573
Munster	Group B and E	Joe Carton Joe.carton.munster@gaa.ie 087 9215541
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Croke Park

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