



Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1)

Games played from Under 7 to Under 13 Age Groups

Supporting Policy Document

This document has been drafted by the Games Development Committee and approved by Central Council. This forms the basis of national policy, as an extension of Rule 6.26, and is effective as of January 1st, 2014.

- (i) Games in the Under 11 and younger age groups shall be organised on the basis of the 'Go Games' model, as approved by Central Council.*
- (ii) Games in the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups shall be organised on a League basis, as approved by Central Council.*

1. GAA Go Games

Defining GAA Go Games

Go Games are small-sided versions of Hurling and Gaelic Football which have been devised for children up to and including 11 years of age. The following are the key underpinning principles of Go Games:

- ✓ All participants play in the full game.
- ✓ Participant needs are catered for, where possible, on the basis of two year age cohorts i.e. U.7, U.9 & U.11 in a manner consistent with the ethos of Go Games.
- ✓ Activities are structured in a manner which optimises the level of fun, friendship, fair play and achievement derived by participants.
- ✓ Participants train and play in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment where they are encouraged to risk error, to learn and to derive maximum enjoyment from their involvement.
- ✓ Players master the basic skills of Hurling and Gaelic Football and experience the sense of accomplishment, which derives from acquiring playing proficiency on the left and right hand side of the body.
- ✓ Everybody involved in Go Games, whether as players, parents/guardians, spectators, mentors, teachers, officials etc., should adhere to the key underpinning principles and give expression to the GAA 'Give Respect, Get Respect' initiative.

Organising Go Games

Go Games may be organised on a blitz basis. Go Games may be organised by a Club, Primary School or at an Approved GAA Centre on an internal (i.e. single unit) or external (i.e. multiple unit) basis.



Go Games Playing Rules

- The recommended Playing Rules for Go Games Hurling and Gaelic Football are provided in Appendices 1 and 2. These are provided by way of best practice recommendations and can be adapted to meet localised needs.
- Where units from different counties play a game, these Playing Rules will be used.

Go Games Regulations

The following Go Games Regulations shall apply:

- Go Games are subject to general rules of the Association.
- Teams shall be a maximum of 7-a-side at U.6 & 7, 9-a-side at U. 8 & 9 and 11-a-side at U.10 & 11 age levels.
- Participants may play up one age grade i.e. U.7 may play at U.9 level; U.9 may play at U.11 level; U.11 may play at U.12 & U.13 age levels.
- No provision is made to publish scores, to play on a knock-out basis nor to include semi-finals, finals etc.
- No provision is made to present trophies, cups etc. Where certificates/medals are presented in lieu of participation, the same certificate/medal must be presented to every participant.

Sanctions

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit within a County may result in the subsequent reduction of Games Development funding for the County concerned.
- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit may result exclusion of that unit from Games Development Activity Days (county, provincial or national), Exhibition Games and the U.14 Féile na nGael competitions.



2. Under 12 & Under 13 Age Groups

Organising Leagues at U.12 and U.13

- Leagues at U.12 and U.13 age grades may be organised on a match or a blitz basis. Games may be organised involving Clubs and Primary School on an internal (i.e. single unit) or external (i.e. multiple unit) basis.
- Competitions at senior Primary Schools level (5th & 6th / P.6 & P7 Classes) will be organised in conjunction with the U.12 and U.13 Regulations.
- Teams should be a maximum of 13-a-side. The National Games Development Committee will have the authority to ratify 15-a-side leagues. Should any unit of the Association seek to organise 15-a-side leagues, an application form should be submitted to the National Games Development Committee for consideration. The National Games Development Committee will consult with Cumann na mBuscol Naisiúnta regarding submissions involving Primary Schools.
- Everybody involved in games at the in U.12 and U.13 age levels, whether as players, parents/guardians, spectators, mentors, teachers, officials etc., should adhere to the key underpinning principles and give expression to the GAA 'Give Respect, Get Respect' initiative.

Playing Rules

- The recommended Playing Rules for Leagues at U.12 and U.13 are attached. These are provided by way of best practice recommendations and can be adapted to meet localised needs.
- Where units from different counties play a game, these Playing Rules will be used.

Regulations

- U.12 and U.13 Leagues are subject to general rules of the Association.
- Provision may be made for semi-final and finals to take place, provided that participating teams have played a minimum of 4 league/qualifier games.
- Provision may be made for the presentation of medals, trophies/cups.
- The length of the playing field will be no longer than 105m long (20m line - 20m line).
- Unlimited substitutions may be made during a game to optimise participation.

Sanctions

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit within a County may result in the subsequent reduction of Games Development funding for the County concerned.
- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit may result in exclusion from Games Development Activity Days (county, provincial or national), Exhibition Games and the U.14 *Féile na nGael* competition.