

JULY NUAICHTLITIR AUGUST 2020



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COVID EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR GAELIC GAMES ATTRACT RECORD VIEWS

EDUCATION RESOURCES DEVELOPED TO HELP MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS RETURN TO PLAY HAVE ATTRACTED RECORD VIEWS FOR THE GAELIC GAMES ORGANISATIONS.

A survey of approximately 1,600 GAA clubs The GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association launched its Covid-19 Club Education Programme four weeks ago to help educate people on their roles and responsibilities within the Safe Return Guidelines for Gaelic Games.

It involved:

- Guidance documents, user guides, role descriptions and posters which were downloaded almost 750,000 times in total
- A 20-minute eLearning module which attracted almost 600,000 unique visitors
- Three Club Briefings which were watched 65,000 times on YouTube

Uachtarán CLG, John Horan, said: “The uptake with the various resources shows how eager many of our members were to get back involved in their local Clubs in a safe manner. It also shows the continuous demand for learning in our Association and our capacity to meet it. It was a huge logistical undertaking which presented a challenge for Covid Supervisors, Club Officers, Players, Mentors and Parents/Guardians. I am grateful to our Clubs for their buy-in, and to our staff and volunteers for their dedication. Much more remains to be done, so we will remain attentive to the needs of our Clubs.”

As of 30 June, the following figures were also recorded:

- The Covid-19 Club Education home

- page received 359,000 views.
- The Covid-19 Education Resources page received 284,000 views; the total number of downloads for files was 743,000.
- The Covid-19 Online Learning page received over 244,000 views.

In addition, the GAA's IT function in conjunction with Dawson Andrews - the official Club Management System partner for Gaelic Games - developed the online solution for the Health Questionnaire in a very short time-period. The Questionnaire

has been completed 244,000 times and over 2 million subsequent Health Declarations have been recorded.

The Covid-19 Education Programme has been coordinated by the Covid-19 Education Team for Gaelic Games. The educational resources are based on the Guidelines and clarifications set out by the Covid-19 Advisory Group for Gaelic Games.

For the latest news and updates, visit <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19>
Read more

- Education resources - <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19>
- eLearning module - <https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd/#/>
- Club briefings - <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19learning>
- FAQs - <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19faqs>
- Roles and responsibilities - <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19roles>



COVID 19 SIGNAGE AT LISTRY GAA CLUB IN LISTRY, KERRY.

BE A TEAM PLAYER ON AND OFF THE FIELD

1. BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE
2. DON'T SHAKE HANDS
3. FOLLOW THE LATEST HSE ADVICE

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG THE GAAIRISH ASSOCIATION LGFA PEIL na mBAN

DO THE RIGHT THING FOR YOU & YOUR CLUB

1. UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW THE SAFE RETURN TO GAELIC GAMES GUIDELINES
2. WASH YOUR HANDS
3. MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG THE GAAIRISH ASSOCIATION LGFA PEIL na mBAN

HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE AND DECLARATION

1. COMPLETE THE HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE AT [RETURNTOPLAY.GAA.IE](https://returntoplay.gaa.ie)
2. BEFORE EACH ACTIVITY, HEALTH STATUS MUST BE RECONFIRMED VIA THE HEALTH DECLARATION - [RETURNTOPLAY.GAA.IE](https://returntoplay.gaa.ie)
3. A USER GUIDE AND TUTORIAL VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE AT [LEARNING.GAA.IE/COVID19RESOURCES](https://learning.gaa.ie/COVID19RESOURCES)

FOR ANY ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHEN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE/DECLARATION, PLEASE CONTACT GMSUPPORT@GAA.IE

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG THE GAAIRISH ASSOCIATION LGFA PEIL na mBAN

IT'S UP TO YOU

IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE SYMPTOMS...

- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
- AVOID GAELIC GAMES ACTIVITIES
- CONTACT YOUR GP

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG THE GAAIRISH ASSOCIATION LGFA PEIL na mBAN

AS A REFEREE

1. COMPLETE THE EDUCATION MODULE
2. FILL IN THE HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE
3. UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW THE SAFE RETURN TO GAELIC GAMES GUIDELINES

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GUIDELINES ON RETURN OF SPECTATORS

1. SPECTATORS MUST NOT ATTEND GAMES IF THEY DISPLAY ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
2. THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IS STRONGLY ADVISED FOR EVERYONE OVER THE AGE OF 13
3. SPECTATORS MUST NOT ENTER THE FIELD BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER THE GAME
4. SPECTATORS SHOULD KEEP THEIR OWN RECORD OF CONTACTS AT A MATCH FOR POTENTIAL TRACING PURPOSES

For more information on the return of spectators, visit <https://bit.ly/3esPETu>

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG THE GAAIRISH ASSOCIATION LGFA PEIL na mBAN

GAA CLUBS TAKE PART IN IRISH LIFE HEALTHY CLUBS STEPS CHALLENGE

ALMOST 12,000 GAA FANS HAVE RACKED UP AN INCREDIBLE TOTAL OF 2.2 BILLION STEPS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS PART OF THE IRISH LIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUBS STEPS CHALLENGE.

With Gaelic Games activities forced to stop, the Irish Life Steps Challenge was launched to recognise and reward the importance of physical activity during lockdown. Irish Life, partner to the GAA's Healthy Club Project (HCP), tracked and collated the activity through their MyLife App, allowing participants' steps to be counted and the winners identified.

Irish Life's MyLife App gives customers an individual health score & rewards for healthy behaviours, but in this case Irish Life provided additional prizes totalling €20,000 for the GAA Healthy Clubs challenge. A total of 424 clubs across the 32 counties registered on MyLife, a quarter of all the clubs in Ireland.

The big winners of the challenge were: Geraldines GFC, Dublin (Leinster); Crosserlough GFC, Cavan (Ulster); Kiltha Óg GAA Club, Cork (Munster); and Portumna GAA, Galway (Connaught) each receiving an O'Neill's voucher worth €2,500 as the provincial club to record the greatest average steps over four weeks.

An Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael, John Horan, said: "The GAA has always prided itself on being more than a sporting association and the Healthy Club Project brings this to life in exciting new ways that benefits the wellbeing of our members and our communities.



UACHTARÁN CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL JOHN HORAN AND IRISH LIFE CEO DECLAN BOLGER PICTURED AT THE LAUNCH OF THE MYLIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUBS STEPS CHALLENGE AT CROKE PARK.



ALMOST 12,000 GAA FANS HAVE RACKED UP AN INCREDIBLE TOTAL OF 2.2 BILLION STEPS.

"I would like to thank Irish Life for helping to make the Steps Challenge such a resounding success and all our partners for their continued support of the Healthy Club Project."

Irish Life Group CEO, Declan Bolger, said: "We know how important GAA clubs are to local communities and whilst there have been no matches on the field, it is great to see that the competitive spirit continues with so many people taking part in the Irish Life Healthy Club Steps Challenge. During the lockdown people have once again shown a huge appetite to stay active and we'd encourage everyone to continue to get their daily steps in to help improve their overall health and wellbeing."

A further five clubs in each province were randomly selected to receive a voucher of €500 each. The GAA's Community & Health department also provided a number of spot prizes to the clubs that had the highest numbers of people that took part, and also to the people who recorded

the highest number of steps (see the full list of club winners below).

The Healthy Club Project (HCP) is the GAA's flagship health promoting initiative and is delivered in partnership with Healthy Ireland, the HSE, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, with support from the PHA in Northern Ireland. Irish Life has supported the project since 2015 when just 60 clubs were involved and there are now 300 clubs involved. The HCP is designed to support GAA clubs in becoming hubs for health in their communities, working in areas including: physical activity for non-playing members; mental health; healthy eating; gambling and substance use awareness; diversity and social inclusion; and community development.

The 300 Healthy Clubs were amongst the first GAA clubs to respond when the Covid crisis hit local communities, maintaining a supply of essential goods and, just as importantly, a human connection for those

most vulnerable to Covid-19 and those forced to cocoon.

Clubs had to recruit a minimum of 15 participants to register for their 'team' on Irish Life's MyLife App to be in with a chance of winning.

List of prize winners:

Leinster:

€2,500 O'Neill's Voucher Geraldines GFC, Dublin

5 * €500 O'Neill's Vouchers

Beann Eadair GAA, Dublin

Castleknock GAA, Dublin

Na Gaeil Óga CLG, Dublin

Nurney GAA, Kildare

St Brigid's, Blackwater Camogie Club, Wexford

Ulster:

€2,500 O'Neill's Voucher Crosserlough GFC, Cavan

5 * €500 O'Neill's Vouchers

Clogher Eire Ogs GAA, Tyrone

Kinawley Brian Boru GAA Club, Fermanagh

Lacken Celtic GAA, Cavan

St Killian's GAC, Whitecross, Armagh

St Peters GAA, Warrenpoint, Down

Munster:

€2,500 O'Neill's Voucher Kiltaha ÓgGAA Club, Cork

5 * €500 O'Neill's Vouchers

Ballyhooly GAA, Cork

Ballyporeen LFGA, Tipperary

Brosna GAA, Kerry

Glen Rovers Camogie Club, Cork

O'Callaghan's Mills GAA, Clare

Connaught:

€2,500 O'Neill's Voucher Portumna GAA, Galway

5 * €500 O'Neill's Vouchers

Elphin GAA Club, Roscommon

Gaeil na Gaillimhe CLG, Galway

St Patrick's Dromahair GAA Club, Leitrim

Tynagh Abbey Duniry GAA Club, Galway

Western Gaels GAA, Roscommon

DON'T MISS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO VISIT CROKE PARK THIS SUMMER

GET YOUR GAA FIX WITH A CROKE PARK STADIUM TOUR AND VISIT TO THE GAA MUSEUM.

Is it really summer without a trip to Croke Park? With the GAA All-Ireland Senior Championships postponed until October, sporting fans who are itching to set foot on the hallowed grounds of the iconic stadium can still do so!

The inspiring Stadium Tour, thrilling Skyline Tour and treasured GAA Museum are reopening on June 29, making them this season's hottest tickets! It's the perfect time to truly discover the heart and home of the Gaelic games.

On the Stadium Tour, after a screening of the riveting 'September Days' film, you will be guided behind-the-scenes to visit the team dressing rooms and warm-up area, before running pitch side, where you will take a seat in the Cusack stand to learn about the country's most famous field, it's unique history and the match day experience. For the first time, you can also sit on the bench where the teams have their official photos taken on All-Ireland Final Day! Don't forget to wear your club or county colours for your own team shot!

Another 'high'light at the famous stadium is the Skyline Tour. Those feeling adventurous can go 17 storeys above the pitch onto the roof of Croke Park for a Dublin City tour with a difference. As you walk along the thrilling rooftop walkway, which is Dublin's highest open viewing platform, you'll enjoy breath-taking panoramic views of the city, not to mention incredible views of the pitch.



After both tours, you will have a chance to learn about GAA legends, past and present, while you explore the collections and exhibitions of the GAA Museum, which chart the unique and spine-tingling story of the Gaelic games. This is finally your chance to see the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups up close and personal! Admission to the GAA Museum is complimentary with your tour but it is now limited to 30 minutes.

Commenting on the reopening, Niamh McCoy, Director of the GAA Museum at Croke Park, said, "For now, games at Croke Park may be on hold but you can still make your summer pilgrimage to the stadium by joining one of our award-winning tours!

"The health and safety of our staff and visitors is an absolute priority. We have therefore implemented a range of new safety and hygiene practices to ensure a

safe and enjoyable day out for everyone.

"We're operating to the Government's guidelines for Covid-19, with hand sanitising stations, queuing systems and contactless payment. We have also reduced the numbers on our tours to make social distancing easy at all time."

"Admission will be five minutes before tour times, so we're asking people not to arrive too early as they will have to wait outside in a socially distanced queue. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate late arrivals.

"Our Blackthorn Café is also only operating a takeaway service, and we're encouraging people to wear face masks if they are comfortable doing so."

"We're asking visitors to play by the rules and stay safe, but we want to



ensure everyone that the tours will be as wonderful as ever!"

For safety reasons the number of people per tour will be limited. In July and August, the tours will be running at 25% capacity. The Skyline Tour experience will operate as normal, but for the month of July, the Croke Park Stadium Tour will be operating a shorter route on the Cusack side of the stadium only (50 minutes excluding a visit to the GAA Museum). For that reason, prices for the stadium tour will be reduced by 30%.

It is now essential to book in advance online and walk-ups will not be accepted. See crokepark.ie/tours for more information, Covid-19 visitor procedures, and booking information or call 01-8192323

HAVING YOUR SAY ON PROPER PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK AND DEBATE OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES ABOUT THE DECLINE OF RURAL IRELAND. IT IS AN ISSUE THAT HAS FOUND A PARTICULAR RESONANCE IN THE GAA FAMILY.

Declining population in rural areas, migration from rural to urban areas for jobs, college etc and emigration are all factors in that decline.

Another factor often cited in the demise of local rural communities is the planning system, the refusal to allow people to build what are called “one off” houses in rural areas, restrictions in who can avail of a planning permission but also bad planning decisions and zonings where huge numbers of residential units were allowed with little thought for the facilities that would be needed.

How can we deal with these issues?

Can the GAA at national level do it through lobbying Government and issuing papers?

To an extent they can but only at a very high policy level. These issues can only really be influenced at a very local level. Most effectively they can be tackled at County and local club level.

Strategic planning is now very much a national, Government power which has been exercised by the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) produced for the 11 Borough Council in the six counties. Both planning

systems are broadly similar with opportunities for public participation throughout the process, particularly when the plans reach a local level. This article focusses on the 26 counties but the principles of engaging with the process apply to the Local Development Plans produced by the 11 Borough Councils also.

These plans dictate overall development in the country generally and tell you what population we will have in 2026, 2031 and 2040. It tells you the breakdown of population by region, how much will be in urban areas and how much in rural. In the urban areas it tells you how much will be in so called “Brownfield” and how much will be new zone areas.

RSES (regional spatial & economic strategy)

- Decides on dispersal of population allocated in NPF & RDS throughout the region
- Urban v Rural,
- Greenfield v Brownfield.

The Regional Authorities have been

given the responsibility of translating all this for their region and they have done so through what are called Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES). In these the Regional Authorities take the population figures given to each region and tell the counties how they are distributing them county by county and the breakdown percentage wise between



urban and rural, new zone and brownfield.

The County Development Plan (CDP) then has to be decided by local Councils on the basis of the dictates of the NPF and the RSES. All the major overarching decisions are made so it is left to the local councillors to decide how to implement them in their own county. This is where local people and organisations get a chance to shape and influence what is decided.

THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS

- CDP has a two-month public consultation period.
- Any individual or group can make submissions on any aspect of the CDP.
- All submissions will be considered by Chief Executive who will make recommendations to Council members for final draft of CDP.
- Councillors will then vote on the plan which will have a 6 year life.

COUNTY & LOCAL

- Decides where in the county people will be settled.
- Decides ratio of Town, Villages and rural areas population.
- In towns and villages emphasis is on brownfield sites rather than new zonings.
- Some existing zoning has now been put in a “strategic reserve” for residential development in next development plan.

TWO MAJOR IMPACTS ON CLUBS

- Presumption is against any single houses in rural areas so there is a danger of further rural depopulation and resultant loss of clubs.
- Poor Zoning and planning decisions leading to huge numbers of residential units with little thought given to provision of sports and social facilities. Clubs enjoyed huge increase in members but huge pressure on facilities.

EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY

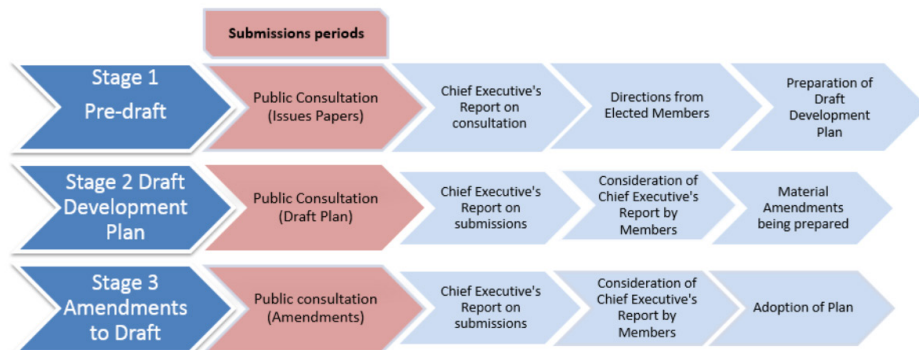
- Persons, working in agriculture or legitimate rural employment living in the area and in need of housing.
- Persons living in the area, in need of housing and employed within 15 kms of proposed site.
- Persons from an area currently working and living outside it but who have strong family, social, sporting and community ties there.
- Persons from an area who emigrated for a period and have now returned and who now work in the area or have strong family, social, sporting and community ties there.

HOW TO ENGAGE

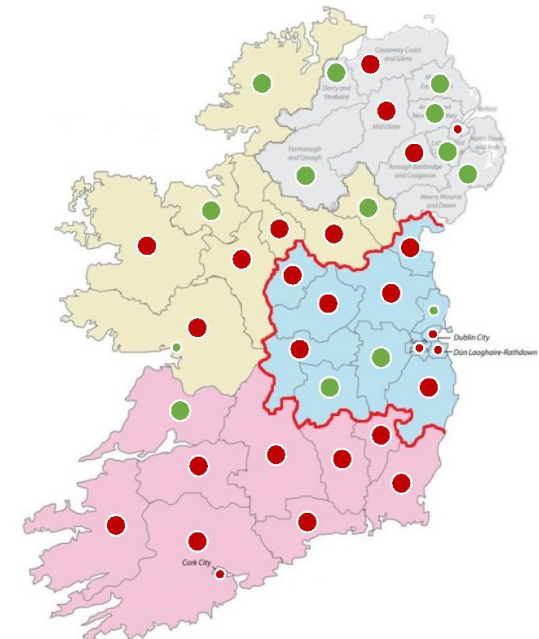
- Co Board should convene meeting of clubs to discuss needs and requirements in the county.
- Small group of people with expertise or interest in the subject should then be asked to draft submissions for inclusion in CDP.
- Clubs should then be asked to bring these submissions to the attention of their local councillor.

Councillors and to seek support for their inclusion in CDP.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Currently Active | • Mid-Ulster District Co. |
| • Meath Co. Co. | • Cork Co. Co. |
| • Offaly Co. Co. | • Roscommon Co. Co. |
| • Westmeath Co. Co. | • Leitrim Co. Co. |
| • Wexford Co. Co. | • Cavan Co. Co. |
| • Wicklow Co. Co. | • Carlow Co. Co. |
| • Mayo Co. Co. | • Kerry Co. Co. |
| • DLR Co. Co. | • Cork City Co. |
| • Belfast City Co. | • Galway Co. Co. |



- Review in 2020
- Review in 2021+



GUIDELINES FOR GAA CLUBS/UNITS UNDERTAKING DEVELOPMENT WORK DURING THE COVID 19 CRISIS

THE GOVERNMENTS ROADMAP FOR REOPENING SOCIETY AND BUSINESS OUTLINES THAT FROM MAY 18TH WE CAN "RETURN TO OUTDOOR WORK".

To help reward this contribution this implies that construction and pitch development work can possibly be undertaken by our Clubs. It is acknowledged, that whilst the Association has stated that GAA facilities would remain closed for the time being, that Club Officers are anxious to use this time to undertake necessary work on facilities which will improve them and make them better for our members.

In deciding on whether to start any the following guidelines should be adhered to:

(1) Financing of development works

Where developments and enhancements of facilities can be undertaken without recourse to borrowings, this is an ideal opportunity to undertake these works. However, clubs should factor into their decision making that there may be very limited further income this year before using up cash balances on capital works or maintenance. Clubs should be absolutely sure they have enough funding to see them through to 2021 before spending now.

Where borrowings are required Clubs are advised not to enter debt at the present time when the fundraising ability of our Clubs are reduced due to the Public Health restrictions. The current crisis has given

rise to a very difficult financial situation for our units, and indeed the wider economy, whilst we are all anxious to develop our facilities, we should take a prudent approach in this regard.

It should be noted that loans already approved from the GAA Development Fund will remain in place until things return to normal.

Clubs should advise the Department of Sport (or other funders) where grants have been allocated that the project is being delayed due to the current restrictions.

Clubs are advised that there will be no capital development grants available in 2020 but works undertaken will be considered for grant aid in future years.

(2) Insurance

As per the terms and conditions of the GAA Insurance policy all construction activities must be notified and agreed in advance with GAA Insurance Department or GAA Insurance Brokers Marsh Ireland. Failure to notify development works in advance will result in the development being uninsured when completed meaning GAA Property & Liability Insurance will not extend to development when completed.

The requirements of The Association in relation to contractors undertaking construction work are as follows:

- Contractor to provide evidence of Public Liability insurance with a minimum limit of €6.5 Million



- Contractor to provide evidence of Employers Liability Insurance (if applicable) with a minimum limit of €13 Million
- Contractor to Provide evidence of Contractors All Risk Cover in place
- The limit of insurance on the Contractors All Risks policy must be equal or greater to that of the contract/ project.
- GAA club must be noted as Joint Insured in Contractors All Risk policy and are specifically indemnified (along with The Association) under the Contractors Liability Policy.
- A copy of the contract to be provided to the GAA Risk & Insurance Manager/ Marsh Ireland in advance of any works

taking place

- Contractor must operate the site in full compliance with Construction Industry SOP for Covid-19 return to work and have completed a Covid-19 risk assessment.

(3) Health & Safety

All developments and enhancements of Club facilities must adhere to current Health, Safety and Welfare legislation, must comply with all relevant medical advice in relation to the safe operation of workplaces, take account of construction industry guidelines (i.e. Construction Industry Federation – C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures and Construction Employers Federation NI guidance) adhere to all relevant Covid-19 specific legislation including social distancing measures.

GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND

DEPOSITS

- **CLUBS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DEPOSIT MONEY INTO THE GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND EG. CLUB LOTTO**
- **THE VARIABLE INTEREST RATE A CLUB CAN EARN ON THEIR DEPOSIT IS CURRENTLY 1.9%.**
- **MINIMUM DEPOSITS ARE €1,000/£1,000.**
- **DEPOSITS CAN BE SENT VIA BANK TRANSFER OR BY CHEQUE.**
- **CLUBS WHO SUPPORT THE FUND ARE GIVEN PRIORITY WHEN APPLYING FOR A LOAN.**
- **FORMS FOR DEPOSITING FUNDS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FINANCE TEAM IN CROKE PARK.**





C	E	A	R	N	Ó	G	B	H	A	B	H	L	Á	L	A	E	C
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I	C	C	A	D	L	E	A	E	G	M	C	P	A	Ó	B	P	I
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Á	C	É	I	G	U	Ó	H	P	Í	C	E	D	G	F	B	Ú	I
N	H	O	N	H	R	L	P	S	M	H	R	N	Í	L	G	L	D
M	S	Ú	N	B	F	Ó	I	P	U	T	D	A	O	R	A	D	H
Í	G	A	R	C	H	E	A	P	A	D	Ó	I	R	T	P	Ú	M

Aimsigh na focail seo a leanas a bhaineann le cluiche corr:

Babhlálaí (Bowler) / **Buail** (Tag) / **Buille Baile** (Home Run) / **Ceapadóir** (Fielder) / **Ceapadóir Cúil** (Backstop) / **Ceapadóir Daoraidh** (Base Minder) / **Cearnóg Bhabhlála** (Bowling Area) / **Daoradh** (Base) / **Dóite** (Out) / **Garcheapadóir** (Shortstop) / **Maor** (Umpire) / **Mí-larracht** (Bad Ball) / **Rith** (Rounder) / **Teorainn** (Foul Line) / **Thar Teorainn** (Foul Ball) / **Scaoileadh** (Walk-on) / **Slacán** (Rounders Bat) / **Slacáí** (Batter)

GAA SUCCESS IN THE GLOBAL DESIGN CHALLENGE

THE GLOBAL DESIGN CHALLENGE WAS SET UP IN ORDER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES FACED IN THE RETURN TO SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DURING AND AFTER COVID-19.

The Global Design Challenge for Sport and Physical Activity is set in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals following the Kazan Action Plan (2017):

- Developing a comprehensive vision of inclusive access for all to sport, physical education and physical activity
- Maximising the contributions of sport to sustainable development and peace
- Protecting the integrity of sport <https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan>

A total of 188 entries were reviewed by an International Judging Panel and the overall winner was the GAA entry based on “EnerEthics” - the key to “Moulding Better Humans”. The Judging Panel “were very impressed by the radical and disruptive nature of the entry” which backbones the project known as “Going WeLL”.

Apart from being a phrase that is commonly used to denote that life - or some facet of it - is progressing on a favourable basis, there is also a deeper significance attaching to “Going WeLL” in that its origins, in this context, are rooted in the development of Wellbeing & Lifelong Learning.

“Going WeLL” was devised by Pat Daly, GAA Director of Organisational Planning & Development and further information can be elicited from him by contacting: pat.daly@gaa.ie



By John Harrington

CAISEAL GAELS SHOW HURLING CAN BLOSSOM IN MAYO

TOO OFTEN PEOPLE THINK THAT HURLING IS A DELICATE FLOWER THAT CAN ONLY PUT DOWN ROOTS IN THE FERTILE SOIL OF THE SPORT'S TRADITIONAL COUNTIES.

The truth is that it can blossom in any corner of this country as long as you have enough people there committed to nurturing it along the way.

The impressive growth of Caiseal Gaels hurling club in Mayo prove the point.

Formed in November 2008 as a juvenile club, they reached a significant milestone earlier this month when they played their first adult hurling challenge game against close neighbours Tourlestrane of Sligo.

It's a testament to both the commitment of the players themselves and the dedication of the coaches who have worked with them that eight of the current senior panel are graduates of the Caiseal Gaels U-14 team that played in the club's maiden match in March 2009 against Tooreen.

The first seeds were sown in Carracastle National School who won the Mayo Cumann na mBunscoil Mini7s Hurling title in 2008.

Thanks in no small part of the efforts of Mayo GAA Games Promotion Officer, Adrian Hession, hurling was also developing green shoots in nearby national schools Derrinabroc, Bursna, and Kilmovee.

Hurling enthusiasts in the Carracastle, Ballagherreen, Kilmovee, and Charlestown areas could see the potential, so they banded together to form Caiseal Gaels.



THE HISTORY MAKING CAISEAL GAELS SIDE WHO PLAYED TOURLESTRANE ON SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020 IN WHAT WAS THE CLUB'S FIRST TIME FIELDING AN ADULT SIDE.

Dermot Dillon has taken every step of the journey along the way. A teacher in Carracastle NS, he helped coach the team that won that Mini 7s hurling title in 2008 and became the first Chairman of the newly formed club.

And when Caiseal Gaels played their first ever senior match a couple of weeks ago against Tourlestrane, he donned a jersey and played alongside team-mates that he'd coached back in the day in primary school.

"I was teaching in Carracastle national school and had no experience of hurling but there was a teacher with me, a Cork man, Michael Bracken," Dillon told GAA.ie.

"He became club secretary back then and

is still club secretary now and he was the driving force and got me into it.

"I ended up being the founding chairman and have done a bit of coaching ever since really. I never played it myself, but I've gone back now and I'm enjoying toying out with the lads.

"I had taught a lot of them earlier on in the school and coached them too and now I'm playing with them which is nice.

"Picking up hurling at the age of 37 is a bit unusual, but at least I'll be able to say I played it anyway for a year or two.

"What was interesting about the night the club was founded was that there were five

or six fifth and sixth class boys who were enjoying playing hurling in primary school and they came along to the meeting which showed great maturity at the time.

"They would have then played all the way up through the age-grades with the club and they're playing now on the senior team as well."

From their very first U-14 match against the always strong Tooreen in 2009, the young Caiseal Gaels players showed they had considerable ability.

In the following years they went from strength to strength and passed some significant milestones along the way as 'A' titles were won at U-12, U-13, and U-16



THE CAISEAL GAELS U14 HURLING SIDE WHO PLAYED THE FIRST UNDERAGE GAME FOR THE CLUB IN MARCH 2009 IN TOOREEN. EIGHT OF THESE PLAYERS MAKE UP THE CURRENT HISTORY MAKING ADULT PANEL IN THE CLUB IN 2020.

level.

Transitioning from a solely juvenile club to one that also had a senior team was always going to be a difficult task, and along the way Caiseal Gaels got some invaluable help from their neighbours.

“We played U-21 for three years and joined up with Ballyhaunis for two of those years,” says Dillon. “Our lads got a taste of training with Ballyhaunis seniors which gave them an idea of what it was like at U-21 which was great. It was great for them to play with the likes of Keith Higgins and Pearse Higgins who were all very supportive.”

“We’ve linked up with Ballina and Ballygarvey who are also juvenile clubs. We linked up with those through amalgamations as well which has helped us field teams in the last two years or so when we would have been tight on numbers in the three clubs just to get teams out and get lads playing.”

“We’ve had a good few lads that played with

Mayo at underage and hopefully they’ll be good enough to progress to senior level as well.

“We’ve had two Celtic Challenge captains in the club over two years so the lads have enjoyed the experience of wearing the red and green as well.”

Hurling is often viewed suspiciously by some in counties where Gaelic Football is the dominant sport, but Caiseal Gaels have also benefited enormously from the help of their local GAA clubs.

“80 per cent of our membership would be a member of a football club in Ballaghaderreen, Charlestown, or Kilmovee,” says Dillon.

“The football clubs have been very supportive. We play our home games mainly in Ballaghaderreen and Charlestown. While Kilmovee would host an annual schools blitz as well for us. The three of them have been very supportive.”

Caiseal Gaels aren’t just relying on the generosity of others, though.

They’ve done great work to fund and build a state of the art astropark and hurling wall in Carracastle, which is a vivid testament to their ambition as a club.

“It’s hopefully upwards and onwards from here,” says Dillon.

“We had 23 lads togged out for the first game and 22 training last night and we’re playing another challenge match on Thursday night against Roscommon Gaels.

“One of the silver linings of the Coronavirus lockdown is that there are more of the younger players around. With only four other senior clubs in Mayo we’re under no illusion that it will be very tough to compete with the likes of Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Wespport, and Castlebar.

“Tooreen and Ballyhaunis have competed in Connacht Finals in the last few years with Tooreen winning two of them so it will be very difficult for us to compete with them.

“We’ve been encouraged by Martin FÓgarty

(National Hurling Development Manager) coming down from Croke Park to visit us and I know he was involved with Damien Coleman and Adrian Hession in Connacht setting up the Cúchulainn League which is an adult version of the Táin League.

“We would be encouraged by that because it will allow us to get games in the province and outside the province against teams that would be on our level. We would also hope to see other juvenile clubs in Mayo make the step up to senior in the coming years.

“The likes of Ballyvary and Claremorris are doing great work at underage, so it would be great to see them make the step-up so we have more clubs in Mayo that could start competing in the Cuchulainn League.

“And if there’s any more players or people in our part of Mayo who would like to get involved or give hurling a go, we’d be delighted to hear from them because it is a challenge to keep enough numbers at underage level.”

Any new players in the area or coaches wishing to join or support Caiseal Gaels can email secretary.caisealgaelshurling.mayo@gaa.ie



THE CAISEAL GAELS U12 SIDE AT THE CROKE PARK ‘PLAY & STAY’ INITIATIVE IN 2009.

HURLING AROUND THE WORLD WEBINAR

THE CURRENT SERIES OF HURLING SPECIFIC WEBINARS REACHED ITS CONCLUSION ON MONDAY WITH A HUGELY INFORMATIVE LOOK INTO THE GROWTH OF THE GAME BEYOND THESE SHORES.

The 'Hurling Around the World' webinar featured contributions from incoming GAA President, Larry McCarthy, from New York, the GAA's International Officer, Áine Gibney, Chairman of the World GAA Committee, Niall Erskine, and Chairman of the European Board, Tony Bass, among others.

You can view a recording of the full webinar below.



THE HURLING AROUND THE WORLD WEBINAR GAVE A FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO THE GROWTH OF THE GAME BEYOND OUR OWN SHORES.

Asia

- Asian Gaelic Games hosted in Manila, Singapore, Phuket, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Penang and Bangkok.
- Asian Youth Championship hosted in Hanoi, Vietnam
- 22 affiliated clubs

Singapore

280 15-16 year olds
8 Sessions currently running once a week for 6 months

Hurling Around The World

Watch later Share

THE TOUGHEST SUMMER

AIB, SPONSORS OF THE ALL-IRELAND GAA FOOTBALL AND HURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE GAA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, IN CELEBRATION OF THE STRENGTH AND TENACITY OF GAA COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE, HAVE TEAMED UP WITH AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, ROSS WHITAKER, TO TELL THE STORY OF GAA'S TOUGHEST SUMMER.

Ballyhale Shamrocks and Kilkenny hurler TJ Reid joined AIB at the launch of "The Toughest Summer" series, made up of five webisodes as well as a full-length feature documentary to air on RTE 1 at the end of August. TJ Reid features in the first webisode that will be available on AIB's YouTube channel from 1pm on Thursday 23rd July at www.youtube.com/aib.

Following the unprecedented halt to the games we love, AIB's "The Toughest Summer" will chart the return to GAA of players, coaches, volunteers and clubs and the joy that being able to restart Gaelic Games has brought to communities nationwide. The story will document GAA and Camogie communities as they look towards the first year without an All-Ireland Series to follow the County Club Championships and the first ever winter All Ireland Inter-County Championships. The Toughest Summer will be a celebration of all that is wonderful about GAA. It will highlight the strength of GAA grassroots and the power of the GAA community as they show their support across the country in navigating a summer like no other,

proving just why GAA is such a special sport and community, quite unlike any other in the world.

Michael Dargan, Head of Consumer Marketing, added "GAA plays a unique role at the heart of local communities. This was apparent by the contribution of so many in the GAA to support their communities across the island of Ireland, especially more so over the past four months. We at AIB are hugely proud of our long-standing support of both the GAA and the Camogie Association and were delighted to be able to commission one of Ireland's leading filmmakers, Ross Whitaker, to tell the story of The Toughest Summer - the summer without sport as we know it - and the return of the games we love. The Toughest Summer will be a celebration of Gaelic Games and its unique role in making both our local communities and us as a people stronger.

Speaking about The Toughest Summer, Ross Whitaker said: "I am really excited about collaborating with AIB to tell the story of "The Toughest Summer". I have been a fan of AIB GAA's #TheToughest campaign from the outset and its celebration of GAA as a sport. The role played by so many in the GAA during the pandemic showcases why Gaelic Games is such a special sport, unique in so many ways in world sport. In what other sport for example, did elite athletes play such a key role in a country's response to the virus. It is for this reason that I am honoured to be able to tell the story of how the GAA community make it through this strange summer and in doing so help the country survive this crisis. The Toughest

Summer will be a celebration of GAA, its contribution to Ireland and I hope will leave us all inspired and hopeful about our future."

The Toughest Summer will air weekly, every Thursday at 1pm, on YouTube at www.youtube.com/aib for five weeks

from July 23rd through August 20th with Episode One following legendary Ballyhale Shamrocks and Kilkenny hurler TJ Reid as he shares his own experience of these past testing months. The final feature length documentary will air on RTE 1 in late August.



THE TOUGHEST SUMMER WILL AIR WEEKLY, EVERY THURSDAY AT 1PM, ON YOUTUBE AT WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/AIB FOR FIVE WEEKS FROM JULY 23RD THROUGH AUGUST 20TH WITH EPISODE ONE FOLLOWING LEGENDARY BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS AND KILKENNY HURLER TJ REID AS HE SHARES HIS OWN EXPERIENCE OF THESE PAST TESTING MONTHS. THE FINAL FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY WILL AIR ON RTE 1 IN LATE AUGUST.

GAA AND FRS RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCE NEW GAAGO PARTNERSHIP

THE GAA HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRISH RECRUITMENT EXPERTS, FRS RECRUITMENT AND GAAGO, RTÉ AND THE GAA'S ONLINE SERVICE FOR STREAMING GAELIC GAMES OUTSIDE IRELAND. UNDER THIS PARTNERSHIP, FRS RECRUITMENT WILL SPONSOR THE SERVICE OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, WITH FRS SPOTS FEATURING BEFORE GAMES AND DURING HALF-TIME, WHILE THEIR BRANDING WILL FEATURE EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE APP, ON LIVE STREAMS AND ON OTHER GAAGO COMMUNICATIONS.

Stories are welcome from both the partnership will begin with the streaming of the GAA Club Championships beginning on 17th July featuring St. Martins v Oulart The Ballagh from Wexford Park in the Pettitt's SuperValu Wexford Senior Hurling Championship. The partnership will continue through the inter-county hurling and football championships which are due to begin in October. Games featured on GAAGO are streamed in high-quality HD and include full commentary, scores, and studio programming as broadcast to audiences in Ireland. GAAGO subscribers can view the games live and on-demand on any internet-enabled device including mobile phones, tablet devices and laptops.

FRS Recruitment expect to reach more than 3 million Irish viewers abroad over the course of the partnership, as part of their "Ireland is Hiring" initiative. Launched in 2018, "Ireland is Hiring"

seeks to recruit qualified expats for jobs in Ireland, particularly across the healthcare, IT, construction, medical device/ pharmaceutical and financial sectors.

Speaking about the partnership, Colin Donnery, General Manager with FRS Recruitment said: "We are really excited about this partnership agreement for GAAGO. For the past two years FRS Recruitment has been working with qualified members of the Irish community located across the four corners of the globe to fill high calibre positions in Ireland. That has been particularly noticeable during the Covid-19 crisis, with the minds of many Irish abroad turning to life back home. There are a range of opportunities, particularly in sectors like healthcare, IT, construction, medical device/pharmaceutical and finance where talented candidates are needed and we expect that will continue even as the country emerges from the Covid-19 crisis. When we are speaking to these expats what is clear is the appeal of Ireland never diminishes. Now, working with the GAA and RTÉ we will be able to provide the Irish diaspora with the chance to experience 70 minutes of home on a regular basis."

Peter McKenna, GAA Commercial Director and GAAGO Board Member said: "Many members of the Irish community across the globe miss the GAA experience when they are away from home. That was one of the key reasons behind the establishment of GAAGO – we wanted Gaelic games to be within reach of the Irish diaspora no



TOMMY WALSH AND JOHN McGRATH PICTURED AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FRS RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH GAAGO.

matter where they were in the world. Working with FRS Recruitment, this partnership will remind them that there are also opportunities waiting for them back home. In recent years the GAA itself has benefitted from the likes of Tommy Walsh and others returning to our shores. Through this partnership we hope we can provide a further reminder to the diaspora of what Ireland has to offer, both on and off the pitch."

In 2020 GAAGO viewers can expect exceptional GAA coverage including All-Ireland Championships in both hurling and football, Bord Gáis Energy Under 20 Hurling

Championship, EirGrid All-Ireland U20 Football Championship as well as GAA club games from around the country and plenty more Gaelic Games activity.

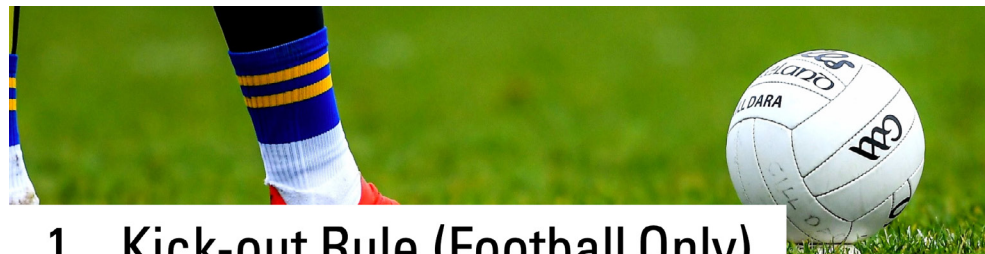
FRS Recruitment is one of the leading recruitment businesses operating in Ireland. They have 10 offices nationwide, with locations in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Tipperary, Limerick, Kerry, Kilkenny, Offaly, Cavan and Roscommon. A 100% Irish business, FRS Recruitment is part of the FRS Network – the social enterprise co-operative.

GAA PLAYING RULES UPDATE | JULY 2020

2020 sees three new rules implemented in Gaelic Football. These rules are applicable to all grades.

CLICK HERE for videos to take you through these rules.

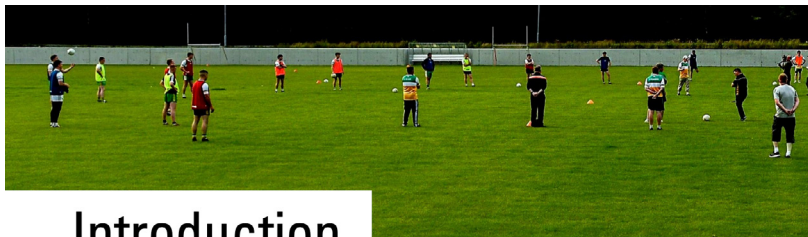
The July update presentation delivers some additional information and FAQs.



1. Kick-out Rule (Football Only)

Rule 2.7(a) and (c) applies.

- Kick-out shall be taken from the ground at the centre of 20m line.
- Kick-out cannot be kicked backwards.
- All players to be outside 20m line, 13m from the ball and outside the semi-circle arc.
- Goalkeeper not taking the kick-out shall remain in the small rectangle.
- • The ball shall not travel less than 13m and outside the 20m before been played by another member of the defending team.
- The player who directly receives the ball from a kick-out cannot pass the ball back to the goalkeeper without another person playing it. Free to be taken from where the Goalkeeper receives the ball.
 - "Pass" means all passes, including kick passes (from the hand or the ground) and hand passes.
 - To "Pass the ball directly back to goalkeeper" should be interpreted as cannot be passed to the goalkeeper, regardless of direction.
 - Free is conceded when the Goalkeeper plays the ball.
- If the defender is kicking out the ball, the rule does not prevent the ball being played back to the defender.



Introduction

Below is a summary of the GAA playing rules changes introduced in 2020 covering the following;

- Kick-out Rule
- The Mark (Kick-out & Advance)
- The Sin Bin
- Role of the Sideline Official

Furthermore, guidelines for players & team officials during Covid-19, are also included.

Note: Should any conflict arise between the information contained in this document and text of the latest GAA Officials Guide, the text of the latest GAA Officials Guide shall prevail.

[Click here for the video on the](#)



NEW KICK-OUT RULE



2. Mark (Football Only)

Rule 2.12 applies to

- Any player can claim a mark, he has two options to take the kick or to play on.
- Clean catch from a kick-out.
- On or past the 45m line.
- The referee awards a mark by blowing the whistle.
- Player claims the mark by putting his arm in the air.
- If claiming the mark, the player has 15 seconds to take the free-kick.
- In exceptional circumstances where the player is unable to avail of the mark, his nearest teammate designated by Referee can take the mark and **may score from it**.
- A player who does not claim his mark may play on immediately.
- In these circumstances the player may not be challenged for the ball until he carries the ball up to a maximum of four consecutive steps or holds the ball for no longer than the time needed to take four steps and/or makes one act of kicking, hand-passing, bouncing or toe-tapping the ball.
- If a player is awarded a mark by Referee and claimed by the player, and then decides that he is going to play on, the Referee should ensure that the mark is taken.
- A mark is considered a set play once awarded by the Referee and claimed by the player.

2.2 Advance Mark

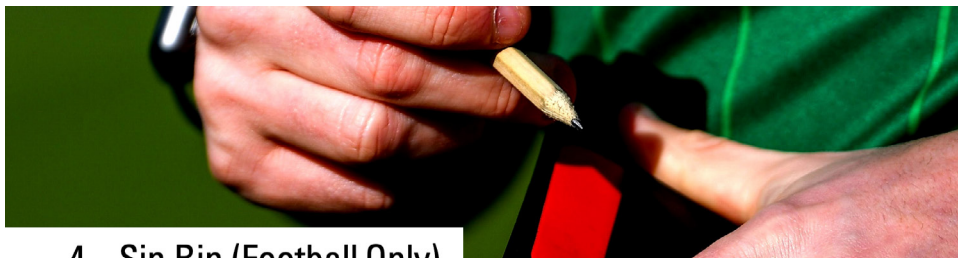
Rule 2.12 applies to

- Any player can claim a mark, he has two options to take a kick or to play on.
- Clean catch on or inside the 45m line and delivered by attacking player in open play on or beyond the opposing teams 45m line.
- The ball must travel at least 20m.
- The referee awards the mark by blowing their whistle.
- Player claims the mark by putting his arm in the air.
- If claiming the mark, the player has 15 secs to take the free-kick.
- If the mark is awarded to an attacking player within the 13m line the free kick is to be taken from 13m line opposite where the mark is claimed.
- If the mark is taken by a defending player, the mark should be taken from where the mark is claimed.
- In exceptional circumstances where the player is unable to avail of the mark, his nearest teammate designated by Referee can take the mark and **may score from it**.
- If the player does not claim the mark, he may play on immediately
- In these circumstances the player may not be challenged for the ball until he carries the ball up to a maximum of four consecutive steps or holds the ball for no longer than the time needed to take four steps and/or makes one act of kicking, hand-passing, bouncing or toe-tapping the ball.
 - **Exception: If the mark is taken inside the large or small rectangle and the player decides to play on, the player can be challenged immediately. Changed at congress 2020.**
- If a player is awarded a mark by Referee and claimed by the player, and then decides that he is going to play on, the Referee should ensure that the mark is taken.
- A mark is considered a set play once awarded by the Referee and claimed by the player

[Click here for the video on the](#)



THE MARK



4. Sin Bin (Football Only)

Rules affected: Rules 1.2(ix)(e) and 4.1, Rules of Control; Rules 2.4(i) and (iv), 2.6 Rules of Specification; Rules 5.10 – 5.14 inclusive, Rules of Football.

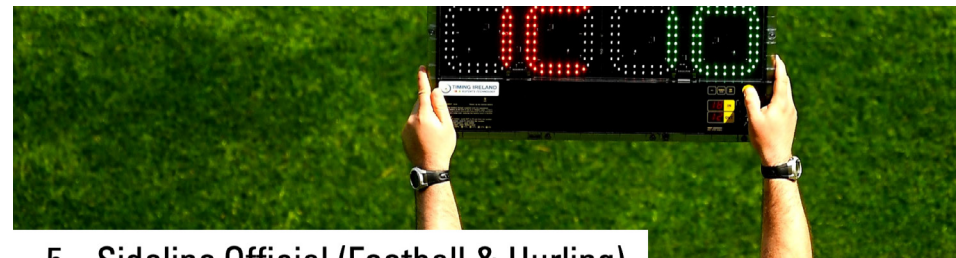
A player who commits a Category II Infraction – Cynical Behaviour. Rule 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13 or 5.14.

- The player shall be sent to Sin Bin for 10minutes.
 - **Exception**, a player who had earlier been issued a yellow or black card, commits a Cynical Behaviour Infraction, shall be shown a red card, and sent off for the remainder of the game, including extra time.
- If a player is in the Sin Bin with unexpired period and the game goes to extra time the team shall start extra time with 14 players.
- If a player has been sent off during normal time with a Red card (either a straight red or any combination of Yellow & Black Cards) can be replaced for the start of extra time as per rule.
- **The 10 minutes begin** when the Referee restarts the game.
- The player shall return to play after 10minutes at the **next break in play**.
- The number of substitutions has changed from six to five.
- If the player returns to play without permission of the Referee at a break in play, he will be penalised by issuing him with a yellow card under **Rule 6.1 Challenging the Authority of Referee** and then given a red card.
- If a goalkeeper gets a black card, it is at the discretion of the relevant team management as to how to address this matter (e.g. they may choose to use a substitute & bring on their reserve goalkeeper or use a player already on the pitch as a goalkeeper, who will need a distinctive top to have the goalkeeper privileges).
- The black cards carry into extra time.
- If the player while in the Sin Bin commits another aggressive infraction he shall be issued with an appropriate card and cannot return to the game.

[Click here for the video on the](#)



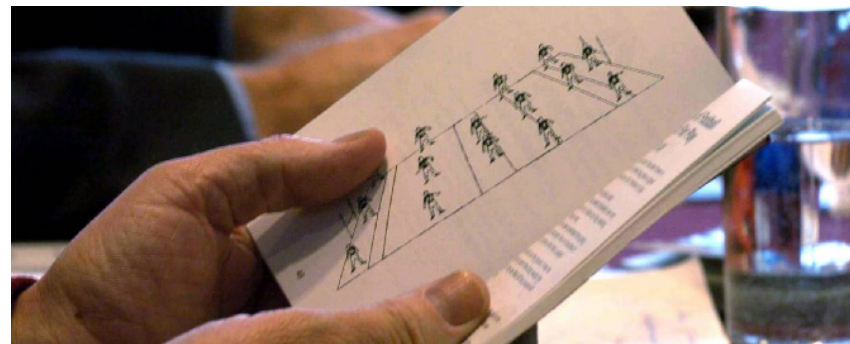
THE SIN BIN
BLACK CARD INFRACTIONS



5. Sideline Official (Football & Hurling)

From Congress 2020 the Sideline Official has the same power as umpires and Linesmen to bring to the attention of the Referee particular rough or dangerous play, striking, hitting or kicking. The Referee may apply the appropriate rule following such consultations. Rule 1(ii).

RULES

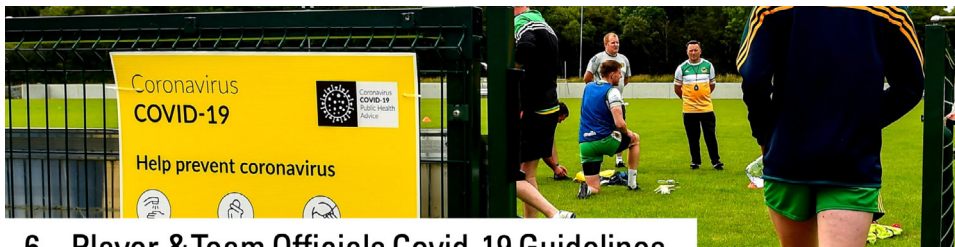


In this section you will find downloads of the GAA's Official Guides and Disciplinary Handbook in the section below.

More information on the [Disciplinary Process Summary](#) is also available.

For detailed information on the Playing Rules of Hurling and Football, equipment specifications and more, visit the [Coaching & Games Development section](#).

You can also log in to the GAA's interactive [e-learning portal](#) for further information.



6. Player & Team Officials Covid-19 Guidelines

The following guidelines are issued to Players & Team Officials to reduce risk and maximise personal safety.

- No handshakes before or after games
- No spitting or nose-clearing
- Team huddles should only take place where social distancing is observed
- Use hand-sanitisers before and after every match
- Players should use their own clearly marked water bottles
- Interaction with opponents & match officials should be kept to a minimum after the match

Players & team officials are reminded of the following disciplinary rules during the Covid-19 Emergency.

Players

- Spitting at an opponent, teammate or match official is dealt with in Rule 5.20 (Hurling) and Rule 5.18 (Football) – Red Card; Cat III; one-match ban
- Deliberately coughing in the face of an opponent may be considered “behaving in a way which is dangerous to an opponent” (5.17 H; 5.19 F) – Red Card; Cat III; one-match ban
- Challenge the authority of the Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official (6.1 H & F) – Yellow Card
- Remonstrate in an aggressive manner with a Match Official (5.13 F) – Black Card (football)
- Threatening or abusive conduct to a Match Official (5.39 H; 5.35 F) – Red Card; Cat V; 12 weeks

Team Officials

- Any type of physical interference with an Opposing Player or Team Official – Cat IIa; 8 weeks Suspension
- Abusive language to Match Official- Cat Ia; 4 weeks Suspension
- Threatening or abusive conduct to Match Official – Cat IIIa; 12 weeks Suspension
- Assault on Match Official – Cat IVa; 48 weeks Suspension
- The Referee has the authority during the game to send any person in breach of Match Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.

Note: All suspensions below are the minimum and can be increased by the relevant committee.



Additional Information

- Should any conflict arise between the information contained in the document and text of the latest GAA Officials Guide, the text of the latest GAA Officials Guide shall prevail.
- The GAA Officials Guide 2020 (Part 1 & 2) can be found at the following link: <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/rules-regulations/>
- If you require any additional information or have any questions, please e-mail referee@gaa.ie.



Football

Hurling

Club

General

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to clubnewsletter@gaa.ie.

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