Meath GAA

Adult Competition Regulations

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COMPETITION REGULATIONS (FOOTBALL)

Adult Football Leagues

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The league is a development competition, with a much higher performance (competing to win) ethos inherent in the top divisions. From division 6 down there is a higher development and participation ethos, hence the need to slightly modify regulations between the top and bottom divisions.

(b) More expansive knockout formats (Semi-Finals and relegation play-offs) help clubs that provide county players and are disadvantaged for early league rounds. County players are typically unavailable until later rounds.

2. League Format

(a) Leagues shall be run on a league/knockout format as per GAA Official Code 11.1

(b) Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 shall operate under the following regulations:

i) Divisions shall comprise of 12 teams.

ii) The top four teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall qualify for the semi-finals to determine promotion, (Division 2, 3, 4 and 5) with a final to decide the league winner.

iii) The second and third lowest ranked team as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall play in a Relegation Play-Off to determine which team is relegated. The bottom team will be automatically relegated.

iv) Semi-finals and play-offs will typically be played at a neutral venue. The CCC may fix higher ranked teams to play at home.

v) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league in Divisions 1 to 5, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team, and the offending team shall suffer a four-point deduction.

vi) The team that gives the walkover shall forfeit the game and shall suffer a four-point deduction in their league point tally. The team that suffers the walkover shall be awarded the two points.

vii) League games in divisions 1 to 5 can be played down to 13 if one side has no more players available.

(c) Divisions 6 and below shall operate under the following regulations:

i) Divisions shall comprise 10 or less teams.

ii) The top two teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall be promoted and qualify for the final.

iii) The bottom two teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall be relegated.

iv) The CCC may regrade teams outside of previous year's league placing where appropriate

v) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league from Division 6 down, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team.

vi) League games in 6 and below can be played down to 11 players if one side has no more players available.

3. League Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a **senior football championship** club, listed or otherwise, **that starts six times** or more for any team, shall not be eligible to play in a grade or division below that grade or division in the same competition, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Where a club has teams competing in a lower division of the football league, a list of players must be submitted to the C.C.C. before the competition starts, in line with Table 3 below.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(c) The list shall not contain the names of any players known to have out-migrated or retired.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.

(d) Players who have played a senior competitive inter-county game for Meath (League or Championship) in the relevant code, in the current year or the previous year, and are not retired, should be listed and are only eligible to play for the first team.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.

(e) Where a team fails to submit a panel, the C.C.C. shall consider the fifteen players who start the first game in the league to be ineligible to play in a lower division of the football league.

Football League Eligibility Table

	Cannot Play Second Team or below	**Cannot Play Third Team or below**	**Cannot Play Fourth Team or below**	**Cannot Play Fifth Team or below**
	List 1	**List 2**	**List 3**	**List 4**
Senior Football Championship Clubs	15	13	11	9
Intermediate Football Championship Clubs	13	11	9	
Junior & Junior B Football Championship Clubs	11	9	7	

4. Competition Regulations

(a) In all divisions, unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture fine for League

(a) A minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

Adult Football Cups

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The adult cups are preseason competitions for development, participation, and retention.

(b) The intention is that they are used to allow clubs to prepare for the league, build fitness, establish playing numbers, and begin to sort panels for the year.

(c) Clubs with large numbers of **U-18s and U-19s** should use the **U-19** league for post minor retention rather than enter reserve cups because they cannot play both.

(d) Reserve cup teams are better used by clubs with large playing numbers that will be available to play in February. Reserve cups are of limited use to clubs with smaller numbers given restrictions and the lower availability of players at the start of the season.

2. Cup Format

(a) Cup Competitions shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1, with group winners only qualifying for semi-finals or finals.

3. Cup Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a **senior football championship** club, that starts any cup game, or makes two cup appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Any player from an **intermediate football championship** club, that starts the first cup game, or makes two cup appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(c) Any player from a **junior/junior B football championship** club, that starts the first cup game, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) Any player that plays any adult cup game shall be ineligible to play U-20 League thereafter, (Penalty for breach: €100 fine to club only)

4. Competition Regulations

(a) In all divisions, unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(a) All cup games can be played down to 13-a-side if one side has no more players available to play.

(b) Reserve cup games can be played down to 11 if one side has no more players available to play.

(c) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture fine for Cup

(a) A minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

U-20 Football Championship

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The purpose of the competition is the retention of players as they move into adult teams. Because the competition is a championship there is a significant performance ethos attached to the U-20 championship.

2. U-20 Championship Format:

(a) U-20 Championship Competition shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1, with group winners and runners up qualifying for semi-finals.

(b) Teams will be graded into divisions of eight and drawn into two groups of four to play on a round- robin basis. Lower division format may differ depending on affiliations.

3. Competition Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) A Player shall have celebrated their 16th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 20th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

(b) Only players who are U-17, U-18, U-19, and U-20 are eligible to play in this competition. For avoidance of doubt, U-16 and younger players, and U-21 and older players are ineligible to play in this competition.

(c) Any U-20 player from a **senior football championship** club, that starts any game, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-20 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) Any U-20 player from an **intermediate football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-20 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(e) Any player from a **junior/junior B football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-20 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(f) Players who have played a competitive inter-county U-20 ~~or minor football game~~ for Meath (League or Championship), in the current year or the previous year, are only eligible to play for the first U-20 championship team.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

4. Competition Regulations:

(a) Unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) All U-20 Championship games can be played down to 13 if one side has no more players available to play.

U-19 Football League

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The purpose of the competition is retention and is for players just out of minor not quite ready for adult football and should be entered by clubs that will not use those U-19 players in their cup teams.

(b) Clubs with many minors without significant adult experience should enter the U-19 League at the start of the year, whereas established adult U-19 footballers may be better served playing in the first team cup competitions. (The competition is also useful preparation for minor teams in advance of their competition)

(c) At the end of the competition, it is intended that U-19 players be integrated into club league panels.

2. U-19 League Format:

(a) U-19 League Competition shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1, with group winners qualifying for knockout stages.

(b) The final format will depend on affiliations and clubs will be advised of any changes in advance of knockout fixtures.

3. Competition Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) A Player shall have celebrated their 15th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 19th. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

(b) Only players who are U-16, U-17, U-18, and U-19 are eligible to play in this competition. For avoidance of doubt, U-15 and younger players, and U-20 and older players are ineligible to play in this competition.

(c) Any U-19 player from a **senior football championship** club, that starts any game, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-19 League grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) Any U-19 player from an **intermediate football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-19 League grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(e) Any player from a **junior/junior B football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-19 League grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(f) Any player that plays any adult cup game shall be ineligible to play U-19 League thereafter. (Penalty for breach: €100 fine to club only)

4. Competition Regulations:

(a) The U-19 League competition shall have unlimited substitutions for all games.

(b) All U-19 league games can be played down to 11 -a-side if one side has no more players available to play.

Adult All-County Football Championship (ACFC)

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The purpose of the competition is to provide a meaningful developmental and performance-based competition for all our players. The top division is played at standard commensurate with intermediate championship and is a performance based (compete to win). The other top divisions have a higher developmental focus whereas the lower divisions are intended to foster participation.

2. All-County Football Championship Format

(a) All-County Football Championship Competition shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1.

(b) The highest grade is Intermediate All-County Football Championship, the second grade is Junior All-County Football Championship 1, the third grade is Junior All-County Championship 2 etc.

(c) The All-County Football Championship shall have eight teams, drawn into two groups of four to play on a round-robin basis.

(d) The Intermediate ACFC knockout format, including relegation, will reflect the senior football group knockout format (Top division only) and All Intermediate ACFC games will be played at neutral venues.

(e) Depending on affiliations, from the second All-County grade down (Junior ACFC), the top two teams in each group will qualify for semi-finals. The competition winner will be promoted and the bottom teams in each group will go into a relegation play off.

(f) From the second All-County grade down, higher ranked teams will play knockout games, except the final, at home. Lower division formats may differ depending on affiliations. The CCC may regrade teams outside of previous year's All-County placing where appropriate.

3. Competitions Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a **senior football championship** club, that starts any championship game, or makes two championship appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play in a championship or All-County grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Any player from an **intermediate football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, or makes two championship appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a championship or All-County grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(c) Any player from a **junior/junior B football championship** club, that starts the first championship game for any team, shall not be eligible to play in a grade below that championship or All-County grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) Players who have played a senior competitive inter-county senior football game for Meath (League or Championship), in the current year or the previous year, are only eligible to play football for the first team.

Penalty for any eligibility breach, 3 a) to 3 d), team that breached rule are disqualified from competition.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

4. Competition Regulations

(a) Five substitutions are allowed in normal time in all games in the Intermediate All-County Championship (Top Division only) division with a maximum of three substitutes for extra time in knockout games

(b) Fifteen players must start for Intermediate All-County Championship games (Top Division only).

(c) In all divisions of the Junior All-County Football Championship Div. 1 and below shall have unlimited substitutions allowed in normal time and extra time.

(d) All games in Junior All-County Championship 1 and below, can be played down to 13 players if one side has no more players available.

(e) All games in Junior All-County Championship 5 and below can be played down to 11 players if one side has no more players available.

(f) When a team is withdrawn or disqualified from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture All-County Football Championship

(a) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in any division of the All-County Football Competition, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team and a minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) For a Second Failure – a Club shall be Disqualified from the competition, and the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team.

(c) Any team that withdraws or is disqualified from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

Regional Football Championship

1. **Purpose of the competition**
   - **a)** The purpose of the competition is **to provide all players with an opportunity to compete at a higher level and represent their region**.
   - **b)** The secondary purpose of the regional competition is to help the talent identification process for the Meath senior football team.
2. **Regional Football Championship Format**
   - **a)** The Regional Football Championship shall be played under a tournament format with four regional teams.
   - **b)** The teams will play in a group of four played on a round-robin basis.
   - **c)** The top two teams in the group qualify for the final. All knockout games are finish on the day.
   - **d)** A decision about a plate final for 3rd v 4th will be made later by the Meath CCC.
3. **Competitions Regulations regarding Eligibility**
   - **a)** The County Committee has the authority to make amendments to regional teams as necessary.
   - **b)** Teams may be amended on annual basis to equalise the regions.
4. **Competition Regulations**
   - **a)** The regional football competition shall have unlimited substitutions for all games.
   - **b)** Regional games can be played down to 13-a-side where there are no more players available.
5. **Other**

The teams for each region in 2026 shall be as follows:

Maigh Fionnráithe – Moyfenragh (South)

St. Peter's Dunboyne, Na Fianna, Trim, Summerhill, Ballivor, Kilbride, Moynalvey, Blackhall Gaels, Ballinabrackey, Longwood, St. Paul's, Boardsmill, Clonard

An Tuaisceart – The North (North)

Gaeil Colmcille, Simonstown Gaels, Wolfe Tones, Oldcastle, Castletown, Drumbaragh, Kilmainham, Meath Hill, Nobber, Syddan, St. Michael's, Ballinlough, Carnaross, Drumconrath, Kilmainhamwood, Moylagh, Moynalty, St. Brigid's

Gleann na Bóinne – Boyne Valley (East)

Donaghmore/Ashbourne, St. Colmcille's, Duleek-Bellewstown, Seneschalstown, St. Patrick's, Rathkenny, Curraha, Slane, St. Vincent's, St. Marys, Eastern Gaels

Teamhair – Tara (Central)

Dunshaughlin, Ratoath, Navan O Mahony's, Walterstown, Skryne, Clann na nGael, Dunsany, Bective, Dunderry, St. Ultan's, Cortown

COMPETITION REGULATIONS (HURLING)

Adult Hurling Leagues

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The league is a development competition, with a much higher performance (competing to win) ethos inherent in the top divisions. From division 3 down there is a higher development and participation ethos.

2. League Format

(a) Leagues shall be run on a league/knockout format as per GAA Official Code 11.1.

(b) The League shall operate under the following regulations:

i) Divisions shall comprise of 8 or less teams.

ii) In Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6, the top two teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall qualify for a final to decide the league winner. The bottom team will be automatically relegated.

iii) In Division 5, the top four teams as decided as per GAA Official Code 11.1 shall qualify for the semi-finals to determine promotion, with a final to decide the league winner. The bottom team will be automatically relegated.

iv) The CCC may regrade teams outside of previous year's league placing where appropriate

v) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league in Divisions 1 to 3, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team, and the offending team shall suffer a four-point deduction.

vi) The team that gives the walkover shall forfeit the game and shall suffer a four-point deduction in their league point tally. The team that suffers the walkover shall be awarded the two points.

vii) Should a club fail to fulfil a fixture in the league in Division 4 down, the game shall be awarded to the opposing team.

viii) League games in Division 1 to 3 can be played down to 13 players if one side has no more players available.

ix) League games in Division 4 down can be played down to 11 players if one side has no more players available.

3. League Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a **team playing in Division 1 or 2**, listed or otherwise, **that starts four** times or more for any team, shall not be eligible to play in a grade or division below that grade or division in the same competition, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Where a club has teams competing in a lower division of the hurling league, a list of players must be submitted to the C.C.C. before the competition starts, in line with Table 4 below. The list shall not contain the names of any players known to have out-migrated or retired.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.

(c) Players who have played a senior competitive inter-county game for Meath (League or Championship) in the relevant code, in the current year or the previous year, and are not retired, should be listed and are only eligible to play for the first team.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player named.

Where a team fails to submit a panel, the C.C.C. shall consider the fifteen players who start the first game in the league to be ineligible to play in a lower division of the hurling league.

Hurling League Eligibility Table

	Cannot Play Second Team or below	Cannot Play Third Team or below	Cannot Play Fourth Team or below	Cannot Play Fifth Team or below
	List 1	**List 2**	**List 3**	**List 4**
Senior / SHC B Clubs	15	13	11	9
Intermediate / IHC B Clubs	13	11	9	
Junior / JBHC Clubs	11	9	7	

4. Competition Regulations:

(a) In all divisions, unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture fine for League

(a) A minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

Adult Hurling Cups

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The adult cups are preseason competitions for development, participation, and retention.

(b) The intention is that they are used to allow clubs to prepare for the league, build fitness, establish playing numbers, and begin to sort panels for the year.

2. Cup Format

(b) Cup Competitions shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1, with group winners only qualifying for semi-finals or finals.

3. Cup Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a senior / SHC B club, that starts any cup game, or makes two cup appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Any player from an intermediate / IHC B club, that starts the first cup game, or makes two cup appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(c) Any player from a junior /JBHC club, that starts the first cup game, shall not be eligible to play a cup grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

4. Competition Regulations

(a) Unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) Cup games can be played down to 13 a side if one side has no more players available to play.

(c) In the Corn Dónal Ó Loingsigh, all games can be played down to 11-a -side if one side has no more players available to play.

(d) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture fine for Cup

(a) A minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

Junior and Junior 'B' Hurling Championships

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The purpose of the competitions is to provide a meaningful developmental competition whilst also retaining a performance element for knock out games. The Junior Hurling championships have a developmental focus whilst also are intended to foster participation.

2. Competition Format

(a) The Junior Hurling Championship competition shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1.

(b) The JHC shall have eight teams, drawn into two groups of four to play on a round-robin basis.

(c) The competition winner will be promoted and the bottom teams in each group will go into a relegation play-off.

(d) The Junior 'B' Hurling Championship competition format may differ depending on affiliations.

(e) The CCC may regrade teams outside of the previous year's placing where appropriate.

3. Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) Any player from a senior / SHC B club, that starts any SHC, SHC B, IHC, IHC B or JHC game, or makes two SHC, SHC B, IHC, IHC B, or JHC appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(b) Any player from an intermediate /IHC B club, that starts the first IHC, IHC B, or JHC game, or makes two IHC, IHC B, or JHC appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play a grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(c) Any player from a junior / JBHC club (first teams only), that starts the first JHC/JBHC game, shall not be eligible to play a grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) A player that makes any appearance for the first team cannot play for the third team down in the junior or junior B championship.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

4. Competition Regulations

(a) Unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) All games can be played down to 11-a -side if one side has no more players available to play.

(c) When a team is withdrawn from a competition, all teams playing at grades below that team are automatically withdrawn.

5. Failure to fulfil a fixture fine

(a) A minimum fine of €100 shall be imposed on the team failing to fulfil the fixture.

(b) Any team that withdraws from a competition shall be fined a minimum of €200.

U-21 Hurling Championship

1. Purpose of the competition

(a) The purpose of the competition is the retention of players as they move into adult teams. Because the competition is a championship there is a significant performance ethos attached to the U21 championship.

2. U21 Championship Format

(a) U-21 Championship Competition shall be run on a combination of a league and a knockout basis under GAA Code 11.1, with group winners and runners up qualifying for semi-finals.

(b) Teams will be graded into divisions of eight or less and drawn into two groups of four or less to play on a round- robin basis.

(c) Lower division format may differ depending on affiliations.

3. Competition Regulations regarding Eligibility

(a) A Player shall have celebrated their 16th. birthday prior to January 1st. and their 21st. birthday on or after January 1st. of the Championship Year.

(b) Only players who are U-17, U-18, U-19, U-20, and U-21 are eligible to play in this competition. For avoidance of doubt, U-16 and younger players, and U-22 and older players are ineligible to play in this competition.

(c) Any U-21 player from a senior / SHC B club, that starts any game, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-21 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(d) Any U21 player from an intermediate / IHC B club, that starts the first championship game for any team, or makes two appearances, for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-21 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(e) Any player from a junior / JBHC club, that starts the first championship game for any team, shall not be eligible to play an U-21 championship grade below that grade, in the current year.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

(f) Players who have played a competitive inter-county U20 ~~or minor hurling game~~ for Meath (League or Championship), in the current year or the previous year, are only eligible to play for the first U21 championship team.

Penalty: Two-point deduction for first team for every ineligible player played.

4. Competition Regulations

(a) Unlimited substitutions are allowed in normal time and extra time.

(b) All U-21 Championship games can be played down to 13 if one side has no more players available to play