

## 2024 Laois GAA Rules and Regulations:

The following Rules and Regulations were approved for ratification by Laois County Committee on 29/01/24, in accordance with Rule 3.17 (d):

- a) **Laois GAA Club's Catchment Area** shall be defined as within the Parish and within the County boundary. (List of 24 Parishes based on the boundary of the Roman Catholic Parish - Clonaslee, Rosenallis, Mountmellick, Emo, Portarlinton, Stradbally, Portlaoise, Ballyfin, Camross, Castletown, Mountrath, Raheen, Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Ballyadams, Barrowhouse / Athy, Arles, Doonane, Graiguecullen / Killeslin, Durrow, Aghaboe, Rathdowney, Borris in Ossory, Kyle / Roscrea).
- b) **Affiliations & Entry Fees:** In accordance with GAA Code 4.3 (b) - A Club shall affiliate annually with the County Committee on a standard affiliation form, which shall include the names of the Club Executive Committee, the Club colours and alternative colours and shall confirm that it has adopted the appropriate form of the Official Club Constitution and Rules. The closing date for submission of such affiliation form shall be 14 January each year, and in accordance with GAA Code 4.3 (c) - Before a Club may take part in any competition, an affiliation fee of €20 shall be paid for the year to the County Committee. Entry fee for Championships shall be €20 for each adult team and €8 for each under-age team. The closing date for entry into championship and league competitions **shall be 14 January each year.**
- c) **In Hurling**, the team which wins the Senior, Premier Intermediate, Intermediate, Junior, Junior "B" and Junior "C" Championship must play in the higher grade of respective Championship the following year. The exception being where the club has a team competing in the higher grade, whereby they must either apply to CCC for regrading or at the discretion of the CCC, promotion to the higher grade for the following year will be determined by means of a playoff between the team to be relegated from the higher grade and the team which was beaten in the final of that respective Championship. Relegation will take place in Senior, Premier Intermediate, Intermediate, Junior and Junior "B" Championships with one team being relegated via the Relegation process, exception being where it is otherwise outlined in the agreed Championship format. The relegation process will proceed regardless of whether Clubs have teams in the lower grade or it being a Group or Divisional team. *(Exception being for realignment of Hurling Championship formats for 2025, whereby 2024 placings as outlined in CCC Minutes of 08/01/24 will be in place);*
- d) **In Football**, the team which win the Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Junior "B" and Junior "C" Championship must play in the higher grade of respective Championship the following year. The exception being where the club has a team competing in the higher grade, whereby they must either apply to CCC for regrading or at the discretion of the CCC, promotion to the higher grade for the following year will be determined by means of a playoff between the team to be relegated from the higher grade and the team which was beaten in the final of that respective Championship. Relegation will take place in Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Junior "B" Championships with one team being relegated via the Relegation process, exception being where it is otherwise outlined in the agreed Championship format. The relegation process will proceed regardless of whether Clubs have teams in the lower grade or it being a Group or Divisional team. *(Note in the event of any Fixture Review Committee proposal for realignment of Championships for following year – 2023 placings will determine any such realignment);*
- e) **Group Senior or Intermediate team** applications will only be considered provided they are in accordance with Rule 3.17 (n & o), T.O. 2023 and where the team is confined to within Catchment areas or historical Independent teams or where Clubs cannot justifiably field teams on their own. Group Senior or Intermediate team relegated in Senior or Intermediate Championships will not be allowed participate in that grade the following year.

- f) **In Hurling Leagues** – where full division is played, the Top 4 Teams qualify for the Semi-finals (Top Team v Fourth Team & Second Team v Third Team, with first named Home Venue in Semi-final); where division is divided into two groups, Top 2 Teams in each group qualify for semi-finals (Top Team Group A v Second Team Group B and Top Team Group B v Second Team Group A, with first named Home Venue in Semi-final). In the event of a draw in Semi Finals and Final, “Winner on the Day regulations” to be applied. The team that wins the League Final is promoted, and the bottom team is relegated. In the event of the Club having a team already in that Division, where promotion is concerned the beaten finalist will be promoted, where relegation is concerned the team will still be relegated, with the team of that Club in the lower Division being automatically relegated to the next lower Division. *(Note in the event of any Fixture Review Committee proposal for realignment of Leagues for following year – 2024 placings will determine any such realignment);*
- g) **In Football Leagues** - Division 1, 2 & 3 will consist of Groups x 8 teams, whereby on conclusion of the seven Round Robin games, the Top 4 teams and Bottom 4 teams in each Division play an additional four team Round Robin competition, giving each team a further three games (Nb points accrued in initial round robin series will not be carried forward). The top 2 teams from the “Top 4” in each Division will then play the respective league finals and the bottom 2 teams in the “Bottom 4” will be relegated. The two teams that contest the League Final are promoted, and the bottom two teams are relegated. In Divisions 4, 5, 6 & 7, the Top 4 Teams qualify for the Semi-finals (Top Team v Fourth Team & Second Team v Third Team, with first named Home Venue in Semi-final); where division is divided into two groups, Top 2 Teams in each group qualify for semi-finals (Top Team Group A v Second Team Group B and Top Team Group B v Second Team Group A, with first named Home Venue in Semi-final). In the event of a draw in Semi Finals and Final, “Winner on the Day regulations” to be applied. The team that wins the League Final is promoted (with exception of Division 4, where the two teams that contest the League Final are promoted), and the bottom team is relegated. In the event of the Club having a team already in that Division, where promotion is concerned the beaten finalist will be promoted, where relegation is concerned the team will still be relegated, with the team of that Club in the lower Division being automatically relegated to the next lower Division. *(Note in the event of any Fixture Review Committee proposal for realignment of Leagues for following year – 2024 placings will determine any such realignment);*
- h) **Seeding in Championships** – In the event of a Draw in a Championship or for some exceptional circumstance a game is postponed, where seeding applies, and if CCC deem necessary that the draw for the next round should proceed prior to replay or rescheduled game, CCC shall treat the two teams involved in replay as same for seeding purposes (i.e. if Team “A” cannot play Team “B”, then the team meeting Team “A” in replay game, cannot play Team “B” either);
- i) **Home Clubs pitch unplayable** – In all competitions played on a Home and Away basis, where the Home Clubs pitch is deemed unplayable either by the Referee or the Home Club, the re-fixtures will be fixed for the opposing Clubs grounds or in the event of that ground being deemed unplayable, at an alternative venue determined by CCC.
- j) **All Junior “B” & “C” Competitions** are 13-a-side competitions. In the interests of sportsmanship where Clubs have sufficient players at these grades, it is recommended that 15-a-side be played. This is permissible once there has been agreement between both Clubs and the Referee has been notified. The semi-finals and finals of these competitions shall be 15-a-side. Unlimited Substitutions are permitted, providing Referee is notified and provided with a substitution list for each substitution.
- k) **All Under Age Grades in “B”, “C” & Development Competitions (U13 to 21 Grades)** are 15 –a-side competitions. Exception being should teams be unable to field 15-a-side, Clubs may agree on a number suitable for both teams (minimum of 13), but the Referee has final decision”. Unlimited Substitutions are permitted, providing Referee is notified and provided with a substitution list for each substitution.
- l) **ACFL Div. 5, 6 & 7 and ACHL Div. 4, 5 & 6 League Competitions** are 13-a-side competitions. In the interests of sportsmanship where Clubs have sufficient players at these grades, it is recommended that 15-a-side be played. This is permissible once there has been agreement between both Clubs and the Referee has been notified. Unlimited Substitutions are permitted providing Referee is notified and provided with a substitution list for each substitution.

- m) **In the event of teams finishing with equal points for Qualification for the concluding stages, or for Promotion or Relegation in League or League stages of Championship in all grades (including Underage)**, the tie shall be determined as per Code 11.1 (5). In a case where no team is exiting a competition, a “toss”, rather than a “playoff” may be used by CCC to determine a specific team placing. Where a team is exiting a competition, a “playoff” as determined by CCC shall be used.
- n) **In the event of a Draw in all knockout stages of League competitions or Championship games, “Extra Time” and “Winner on the Day” Regulation** will apply as per Rules of Specification 3.4, T.O. Part 2 2023. Extra time shall consist of two periods of ten minutes each way and in the event of a Draw, “Winner on the Day” regulation shall apply. In Under 14 or younger grades, “Winner on the Day” regulation shall not apply and Extra time shall consist of two periods of seven minutes each way. This will apply in all “knockout” competition games, with the exception of:
- Senior, Intermediate & Junior Football Championship Semi-finals and Senior, Premier Intermediate & Intermediate Hurling Championship Semi-finals, which in the event of a Draw shall go to Extra-time. In the event of a Draw after Extra-time, the game shall go to a Replay (which shall be replayed the following Wednesday evening or a maximum of four days from initial fixture), where “Winner on the Day” regulation shall apply in the event of a Draw after Extra-time;
  - Senior, Intermediate & Junior Football Championship Finals and Senior, Premier Intermediate & Intermediate Hurling Championship Finals, which in the event of a Draw, the game shall go to a Replay (which shall be determined by CCC), where “Winner on the Day” regulation shall apply in the event of a Draw after Extra-time;
- o) **Home and Away arrangements for Venue** to apply in all Under Age Competitions (Under 13 to 20 Grades) and Intermediate (Hurling), Junior, Junior “B” and “C” Competitions in Football and Hurling, (First named Team – Home Venue) up until and including quarter final stage of Competition or Championship. Exception being where CCC may determine that this is not applicable and may nominate an alternative venue or in the event of the Home Venue being deemed unsuitable by the CCC, the Home Club may be allowed to nominate an alternative venue. The Home Club is responsible for payment of Referee expenses and may charge a gate admittance fee to a maximum of €5, exception being Under 13 and 15 Competitions.
- p) CCC reserve the right to fix any Championship or Competition games under Floodlights, regardless of any earlier Home or Away arrangements in place.
- q) All County Football & Hurling and Underage Development Leagues to be played and concluded without Inter-County panellists if they are in training or playing with the County during the Inter-County season. CCC may in agreement with Inter-County Managers to designate a number of rounds in respective Leagues, whereby County players will be available to Club. Clubs who play their County players in these competitions, without the consent of respective Team Managements shall be liable to a sanction being imposed for deduction of points where appropriate.
- r) The penalties for a Club /Unit failing to fulfil a Championship game including “League Stage” of Championship and all League competitions (including Under Age grades U13 to 21) will be determined as per Code 11.4 & 16.2. In Championship and “League Stage” of Championship, the penalty for a first unfulfilled fixture shall be award of game to opposing team and a minimum fine of **€500**, with a second unfulfilled fixture shall be disqualification from the Championship. In all Hurling and Football Leagues, penalty for an unfulfilled fixture shall be award of game to opposing team, and a minimum fine of €100. Penalty for a second unfulfilled fixture will be disqualification from the League and a minimum fine of €100 and automatic relegation to lower League Division for the following year (or alternative penalty as determined by CCC). Note Exception to this is Phase 1 of ACFL Div 1, 2 and 3. In all Under Age competitions, penalty for a second unfulfilled fixture shall be award of game to opposing team, disqualification from the competition and a minimum fine of €100.
- s) In an instance whereby a Club wishes to/or **withdraws a team from a League Competition or Championship**, after the Draw for this League Competition (as approved by County Committee) or Championship has been made, it shall apply to the lowest ranked team from that club. In effect a Club withdrawing a team from either League or Championship, it shall be the lowest ranked team from that club will be eliminated. Forfeiture penalty shall be a minimum fine of **€500**.

- t) Requests for **postponements** will only be entertained in the event of a death in a player's or official's immediate family or at the discretion of the CCC and only whereby the re-fixture will be played within three days of the postponed fixture or prior to the next game in that competition. All such requests must be communicated through the CCC Secretary;
- u) In the event of a postponement being agreed by the two Clubs and with the permission of the CCC, the re-fixture must take place by agreement with the two Clubs within three days of the postponement or prior to the next game in that competition. Failure to do this will result in forfeiture of points for the two teams.
- v) In the event of a **clash of colours** both teams must change jerseys for championship games, for league games home team must change.
- w) Games will not be changed after **10.30am on a Monday**, prior to the Fixture.
- x) **Referees Remuneration** of €50 expenses per game is the responsibility of the Home Club for League, Championship and Competition games played on Home and Away basis (Exception being remuneration of expenses for U13 & U15 games is €40 and is also responsibility of Home Club). In the event of the opposing Club failing to turn up and where the Referee has not been notified, the Home Club will be responsible for reimbursing the Referee his expenses in full. Where a Gate Collection has been organised by the Committee in Charge, the CCC or Host Club is responsible for payment of Referee expenses. Payment must be paid to Referee by Club prior to game.
- y) League games – Host club and Travelling Club, each to be responsible for providing **two umpires and one linesman** in the event of the referee having none.
- z) **Videoing / Streaming Games** – Permission must be sought in writing from Laois CCC Secretary for the videoing / streaming of all games under the jurisdiction of Laois GAA. Such application shall include the name of the person videoing the game. An unedited copy of dvd of the game shall be made available to the Laois CCC Secretary, on request, within 12 hours of the game. Only unedited video evidence supplied of the full game on dvd and submitted 24 hours prior to the meeting for all or any Hearing application requests wishing to use video as evidence will be accepted and provided permission has been sanctioned by Laois CCC (through its Secretary) for videoing of game. Fine €500 may be imposed for failing to submit dvd of game on request or unauthorised videoing / steaming of games.
- aa) **Independent / Divisional or Area Teams in all Under Age Grades Competitions (U13 to 21 Grades)** are discouraged from competing in respective "B" or "C" competitions. Such competitions should be confined to weaker or rural Clubs, exception being where CCC in exceptional circumstances may permit their participation in such competitions;
- bb) **Under Age Grades**, in accordance with Rule 6.11, internal Under Age Grades for Competition purposes in Laois GAA are determined as follows Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, Under 17 and Under 20, and within the parameters as outlined in Rule 6.11;
- cc) **Coaches / Mentors / Volunteers / Club Officers working or mentoring players under 18 years of age**, in accordance with the law and Association policy, must have completed Garda Vetting; GAA Child Safeguarding Course and a minimum standard GAA Foundation Coaching Award course;
- dd) **Competition Regulations:**
  - U15 to U21 Grades: Games played on a 13 or 15-a-side basis shall take place on a full-size pitch;
  - U15 Grade: No limit on the number of plays; Size 4 Football / Sliothar and in Football, Kick-outs from the ground;
  - Under 13 Grade: Juvenile Goals to be used from 13 metre line to opposite 13 metre line, full width; 25 minutes-a-side; Size 4 Football / Sliothar; In Football, maximum of two plays (i.e. One Hop / One Solo or Two Solos) - (Penalty - Free Kick (indirect) from where the foul occurred) & all kick-outs from the Hand from own 20 metre line; No square ball or penalties & Sin Bin Rule does not apply.