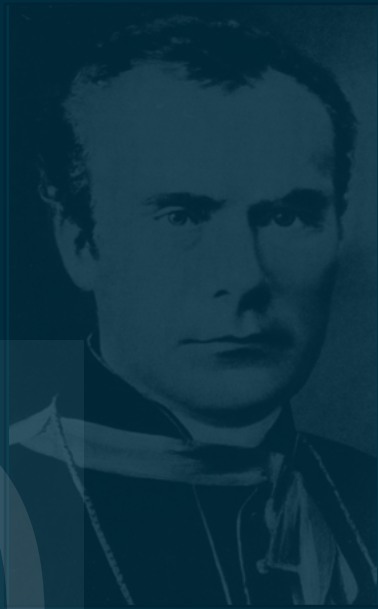




# CODES

**Gaelic Athletic Association** (Established 1884)



**Gaelic Athletic Association  
(Established 1884)**

# **CODES**

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## (1) NATIONAL FLAG & ANTHEM

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- (1.1) The National Flag should be flown at games in accordance with [protocol](#).
- (1.2) Where the National Anthem precedes a game, teams shall stand to attention, facing the Flag, in a respectful manner. In Hurling, players shall remove their helmets during the National Anthem.

## (2) BEHAVIOUR

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### (2.1) Safeguarding of Children/Young People

(Under 18 Years of Age)

[Child Safeguarding & Protection](#)

**Ard Chomhairle directive (Safeguarding) - [Transfers](#)**

### (2.2) Code of Behaviour (Underage)

[Code of Behaviour \(Underage\) \(gaa.ie\)](#)

### (2.3) Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse

[Dealing with Allegations of Abuse](#)

### (2.4) Code of Conduct

[Code of Conduct](#)

### (2.5) Betting

A Player, a Team, a member of a Team Management or a Match Official involved in a Game is strictly prohibited from betting on the outcome of any aspect of the Game concerned.

**Penalty:** A breach shall be penalised in accordance with Rule 7.2(e).

### (2.6) Bookmaking

Bookmaking shall not be permitted within Association property. A member breaching or aiding the breach of this Code shall be suspended for 24 weeks.

## (3) SPONSORSHIP & BRANDING

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### (3.1) Sponsorship

- (a) The Central Council and its subsidiary Councils and Committees shall have authority to negotiate sponsorship which shall include the naming rights for stadia, stands and terraces in accordance with regulations drawn up from time to time by the Central Council.
- (b) The Management Committee shall have the power to negotiate and administer sponsorship and naming rights on behalf of the Central Council.
- (c) Any agreement entered into by the Central Council in respect of its units shall be binding upon all Association units.
- (d) Sponsorship by a betting company of any competition, team, playing gear or facility is prohibited.

**Penalty:** Any unit which breaches the Code shall be liable to disqualification and/or loss of expenses, and an individual to a suspension of not less than twenty four weeks.

### (3.2) Branding

- (a) The Association's corporate logo shall be displayed on all jerseys worn by players during official matches, in pre-match and post-match television or video interviews, player walk-ups and photographs.
- (b) [Only in accordance with an officially approved Sponsorship Agreement](#) may a Sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo be displayed on Jerseys, tracksuits and kitbags of players.  
A Sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo shall not be displayed on the shorts or body of a player or match official.
- (c) A Club shall not be entitled to enter into a sponsorship agreement with regard to the use of sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo on playing gear unless it has obtained the prior written approval of the County Committee.
- (d) A County shall not be entitled to enter into a sponsorship agreement with regard to the use of a sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo on playing gear unless it has obtained the prior written approval of the Central Council. The County Sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo only shall be displayed on jerseys and replica jerseys as per specifications approved by the Central Council.
- (e) The total area of the sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo on jerseys shall not exceed an area of 350 square centimeters. That area shall be calculated by measuring the total area, including background highlighting, covered from one extremity to the other. The calculation of the size does not refer to the area covered by individual letters of a name or distinctive marks or logo but to the total area. Additional branding on other area(s) of jerseys and replica jerseys shall be allowed as per specifications approved by Central Council.
- (f) A brand name(s), distinctive marks of logo or other advertising material shall not be displayed on boots, gloves, hurleys, kicking tees, hand-guards, sweatbands, undergarments, headbands or helmets or on any other item of playing equipment or accessories worn or displayed during official matches or in pre-match or post-match television or video interviews or photographs, other than the manufacturer's or supplier's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo.
- (g) A manufacturer's or supplier's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo may not be displayed on items of playing gear as set out in sub clause (a) of this Code unless such items are included in an Official Licence Agreement previously approved by the Management Committee of the Central Council. A brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo of any nature shall not be displayed on stockings.
- (h) Other than in accordance with sub clauses (c) and (h), no other brand name(s), distinctive marks or logo or other advertising material shall be displayed on jerseys, shorts, tracksuits or kitbags.
- (i) The acceptance of playing gear and/or equipment by any unit of the Association shall be permitted on the following conditions:
  - (i) Compliance with the sub-clauses of this Code;
  - (ii) The presentation of the playing gear and/or equipment is made to Officers of the appropriate Unit of the Association; and
  - (iii) The playing gear and/or equipment complies with the Playing Gear and Equipment Regulations as ratified from time to time by Central Council.
- (j) A unit, team, player, official or member shall not contract itself/themselves to wear or use any particular brand of playing gear, equipment or accessories unless such playing gear, equipment or accessories fully comply with the provisions of Rule and Code.

- (k) (i) No brand name(s), distinctive marks of logo or other advertising material relating to alcohol companies, public houses, or off licence premises, shall be displayed on the playing gear, as set out in sub-clause (a), or any additional gear /equipment, as set out in sub-clause (g) belonging or relating to teams catering exclusively for young people under 18 years of age.
- (ii) Sponsorship of teams catering exclusively for young players under 18 years of age by alcohol companies is prohibited.

**Penalty:** Any unit or team in breach of this Code shall be liable to disqualification and/or loss of expenses, and an individual(s) to a suspension of not less than twenty four weeks or to expulsion.

## (4) CLUB

### (4.1) Registration of Members

- (a) Before April 1st, a Club Registrar shall submit annually to Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration, a list, in the Irish Language (except as provided for in Code 5) of Full Members who have fulfilled their Annual Subscription requirement in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Club Constitution and Articles. This list shall include the full name and address of each Full Member.  
A copy of the Club's Registration shall be forwarded by e-mail by Central Council to the County Secretary and Divisional Secretary, where applicable.
- (b) Before April 1st, a Club Registrar shall submit annually to the Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration a list, in the Irish Language (except as provided for in Code 5) of Youth Members of all ages Under 18 years who have fulfilled their Annual Subscription requirement in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Club Constitution and Articles. This list shall include the full name, address and date of birth of each Youth Member.  
A copy of the Club's Registration shall be forwarded by e-mail to the County Secretary, and where applicable to the Secretaries of Divisional, County Minor and County Juvenile Committees.
- (c) It is optional to have the addresses of Full and Youth Members registered in either Irish or English.
- (d) Clubs shall submit through the County Secretary, an annual fee of €2 for every Full Member who has paid their Club Membership fee for the year.
- (e) Each Member shall be allocated a Registration Number by Central Council. The member shall retain this number while a member of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

### (4.2) Registration of Players

- (a) A Club Registrar shall submit annually to Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration, separate Registers in the Irish Language (except as provided for in Code 5) of the Club's Adult, Under 21/20, Minor and Juvenile (all grades) players. A player is to be included in only one of the Registers.  
A copy of the Club's Registration shall be forwarded by e-mail by Central Council to the County Secretary, the Divisional Secretary, where applicable, and the County Minor and Juvenile Committees, as appropriate. This list shall include the full name, address and date of birth of each player.
- (b) It is optional to have the addresses of Players registered in either Irish or English.
- (c) Additional Registrations may be made subsequently. A Player must be registered at least three days before a game.



- (d) A Register of Players shall be available for inspection to the Secretary of any Unit, upon demand in writing.

**Penalty:** The Penalty for playing a non-registered player shall be:

**On a proven Objection** - Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

**On an Inquiry by Committee-in-Charge** - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

#### **(4.3) Affiliation**

- (a) Before April 1st a Club shall submit annually to Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration, a list in the Irish Language (except as provided for in Code 5) of the names of the Club's Executive Committee.  
A copy of the list shall be forwarded by e-mail by Central Council to the County Secretary.
- (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 Articles. A Club affiliation shall not be accepted unless a Club has held an Annual General Meeting within the preceding 48 weeks.
- (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, except where County Bye-Laws provide for a higher amount.

#### **(4.4) Affiliation of a New Club**

An Application for the affiliation of a New Club shall be made to the County Committee and shall be signed by at least fifteen playing members indicating their willingness to seek membership of the New Club having first complied with the relevant rules on Membership and Transfers contained in the Official Guide, where applicable. Being satisfied that the aforementioned have been complied with, the County Committee may approve the application for affiliation subject to such terms and conditions as are deemed appropriate or may reject the application if, in the opinion of the County Committee, the approval of the affiliation would not be in the best interests of the promotion of football and/or hurling within the County.

## **(5) ADMINISTRATION**

### **(5.1) Correspondence**

All official correspondence to the Central and Provincial Councils in connection with County and Club matters, except as provided for in Rules 7.4 and 7.5 shall come through the Secretary of the County Committee, or if absent, the Assistant Secretary (who was elected at previous County Convention).

Likewise, all official Club correspondence to County Committees or Divisional Committees must come through the Club Secretary, or if absent, the Assistant Secretary, provided that the absence has been officially notified in advance, in writing, to the County Secretary or Divisional Secretary, as appropriate.

Official Lists of Players shall be signed by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary or the Official in charge of the team, whose name must be officially notified in advance to the Committee-in-Charge of the competition.

### **(5.2) Irish**

#### **Use of Irish in Official Documents/Correspondence**

Official documents and correspondence shall have the following in Irish:

- (a) The name of the Club/Committee being represented (where a Club/Committee is involved).
- (b) The signature of the sender, subject to Code 5.3(e).
- (c) The name and address of the addressee, where used, including on envelopes.
- (d) Printing and signatures on official cheque books and cheques in payment of fees.
- (e) Full names of players and signature of Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or the Official-in-Charge of the team, whose name must be officially notified in advance to the Committee-in-Charge of the competition, as per Code 5.1, on Official List of players for games.

Correspondence and documents not complying shall be ruled out of order, but may, subject to any time limit specified by Rule or by the Committee-in-Charge, be resubmitted in compliant form.

#### **Exceptions:**

- (1) In the cases of unusual surnames or where there is more than one form of a surname in Irish, the English form of the surname may be added for the purpose of identification.
- (2) In cases where there is no Irish form of a name.
- (3) Names mentioned in Referees' Reports may be in English.
- (4) In the Electronic Registration of Members and Players (Code 4), it is optional to have the addresses in either Irish or English.
- (5) It is optional to have Fixtures Notifications in Irish or in English or in both Irish and English.

### **(5.3) Communications**

#### **Methods**

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in any given case, all notices and other communications under the Rules of the Association (including Objections, Counter-Objections and Appeals) may be given:
  - (i) to a Member, either:
    - (1) personally, or
    - (2) by post or hand delivery to a Member's usual address, or

- (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the Member to the sender or to the Council or Committee-in-Charge, or
  - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the Member to the sender or to the Council or Committee-in-Charge; or
  - (5) by hand delivery, post, facsimile or email to the appropriate Secretary having regard to the level at which it is alleged a breach of Rule or Code took place (e.g. Secretary of that Member's Club, County Committee, Provincial Council etc.). The Notice shall be personally addressed to the Member concerned.
- (ii) and to a Unit, either:
- (1) personally to its Secretary, or
  - (2) by post or hand delivery to the address of the Unit or the Secretary's usual address, or
  - (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or the Council or Committee-in-Charge, or
  - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or the Council or Committee-in-Charge.
- (b) Where official correspondence is sent by email to or from Units/Committees of the Association or Officers/ Representatives of such Units/Committees who have been allocated email addresses in the form of @gaa. ie, the use of such email addresses shall be mandatory for the purposes of compliance with Rules and Codes governing Correspondence and Communications.

### ***Time of Delivery***

- (c) Unless otherwise proved to the satisfaction of the appropriate Council or Committee-in-Charge (or Appellate Council or Committee as the case may be), such notice or other communication shall be deemed to have been received:
- (i) Where sent by ordinary post, at 10 a.m. on the second day after it was sent;
  - (ii) Where sent by hand delivery, at the time of delivery;
  - (iii) Where sent by e-mail or facsimile, at the time of transmission.

**Exception (to iii):** If the time of transmission is after 9 p.m. on a Monday to Thursday inclusive, the time of receipt shall be deemed to be 9am the next morning. If the time of transmission is during a week-end, i.e. from 6 p.m. on Friday to 12 midnight on Sunday, the time of receipt shall be deemed to be 9a.m. on the following Monday morning.

- (iv) Where sent by any means to a member via the appropriate Secretary, and the member is affected by a time limit in making a response, the time of receipt by the member shall be deemed to be four hours after its receipt by the appropriate Secretary, subject to the provision in the Exception to (iii) above.

### ***Proof of Delivery***

- (d) Where a dispute arises as to the fact or time of service of any notice or other communication by email or facsimile, the sender shall be required to furnish such proof of transmission as the Council or Committee-in-Charge shall deem necessary in the circumstances.

**Signatures**

- (e) Where a notice or other communication requires a signature, transmission of that notice or other communication by email shall be deemed duly signed if the sender's name (in Irish or for Fixtures Notifications in Irish and/or English) is contained in it and the email message is sufficiently identifiable (by reference to the sender's email address or otherwise) as having emanated from the person purporting to have sent it.

**Fees and other Enclosures**

- (f) Where any notice or other communication is to be accompanied by monies or any other enclosure, transmission of the notice or other communication by email or facsimile shall not be invalid if the relevant enclosure is actually received within two working days of the email or facsimile transmission.

**Email Single Transmission**

- (g) Where any notice or other communication, required by Rule or Code to be submitted in duplicate, is sent by email, a single transmission is sufficient compliance.

**(5.4) Video and/or Telephone Conferencing/Decisions by Email**

Video and/or Telephone Conferencing at Conventions, Meetings and Hearings ("the Meeting") is allowable, when deemed appropriate by the Committee-in-Charge.

A member may apply to avail of such facility or an in-person meeting by making application, in writing, at least seven days prior to the Meeting (or immediately, where less than seven days notice has been given of the Meeting).

If the request is not allowed by the Committee-in-Charge, the applicant shall be so informed, in writing, at least three days prior to the Meeting (or immediately, where less than three days notice has been given of the Meeting).

A Member participating in Video and/or Telephone Conferencing shall be considered as being "present" at the Meeting.

When Video and/or Telephone Conferencing is deemed appropriate, the facilities for same shall be provided by the Committee-in-Charge.

Decisions may be taken by email in accordance with parameters set down by Central Council which may be amended from time to time.

**(5.5) Travel and Hotel Expenses**

- (a) The Central and Provincial Councils shall pay the authorised expenses of their Officers and Members.

- (b) Travel and hotel expenses and grants, which shall be reviewed annually, shall be paid to teams competing in All-Ireland Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals. Expenses of all teams shall be withheld by Central Council or Provincial Council until completion of the Championships.

A Central or Provincial Council, as appropriate, may deem that a County fielding an illegal team in an Inter-County Championship shall forfeit travel and hotel expenses or grants.

**(5.6) Records**

- (a) The Records created and received by the Gaelic Athletic Association, its members and administrators are the property of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

- (b) The Records of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall be transferred to a recognised G.A.A. Archive in accordance with such directions as may be given by Central Council.

## (6) TROPHIES & MEDALS

- (6.1) At least twenty trophies shall be awarded in all 15-a-side competitions.  
 A trophy shall not be named after a living person or after any existing political or semi-political organisation.  
 A trophy shall not be used for any commercial purposes. A cup/trophy shall not be filled with any type of alcoholic beverage.

**Penalty:** Twelve weeks Suspension - individual or unit.

- (6.2) Central Council shall award to All-Ireland winners 9 carat gold medals, depicting the design of the Association, of the following weights: Senior Tier 1: 10 dwt; Senior Tiers 2, 3 and 4, Intermediate, Junior and Under 20, 8 dwt; and Minor 6 dwt. As the design of the Championship medals is the registered property of the Association, the distribution of such trophies beyond the number officially awarded is not permitted.  
 Trophies shall be awarded to All-Ireland Championship runners-up in all grades.  
 The number of medals/trophies to be awarded shall be:  
 Senior - up to 26; Intermediate; Junior, Under 20 and Minor - twenty- four.  
 A miniature replica of the All-Ireland Cup shall be awarded to the Captain of a team winning an All-Ireland Inter-County Senior Championship.
- (6.3) The Central Council shall award to Senior Inter-Provincial (Hurling and Football) winners up to twenty four 9 carat gold medals, weighing 8 dwt. and depicting the crests of the four Provinces in enamel, with a gold centre.
- (6.4) Provincial Councils shall award up to twenty six gold medals to the winners of the Senior Provincial Hurling and Football Championships, and twenty-four for all other Championship winners. County Committees shall have discretion as to the nature of the prizes to be awarded to County Championship winners.
- (6.5) All official medals and trophies shall be inscribed in Irish.
- (6.6) Tournament trophies, or their purchase price, shall be lodged with County Committees, Provincial Council, or Central Council, before tournament commences.  
 Where the competition is for individual prizes or awards to players, no such single prize or award shall exceed €400 in value. Cash prizes are forbidden.

**Penalty:** 24 weeks Suspension for the promoting unit and participating Club or Players.

- (6.7) (a) It shall be the privilege of the captain of a winning team to accept the trophy on behalf of the team.  
 (b) One additional player may join the captain in accepting the trophy, if part of a winning Independent Team approved by a County Committee for the purposes of Exception (1) (a) or (1)(b) of the Exceptions to (A), (B), (C) or (D) of Rule 6.7.  
 (c) The safe custody of the trophy shall be the responsibility of the County Committee (Inter-County) or the Club Executive (Club Competition) of the successful team.  
 (d) The Central Council trophies shall be returned to Central Council by the following dates:  
 National Leagues, Inter-Provincial and Inter- Club - 1st February.  
 Inter-County Championship - 1st July.

**Penalty:** re. Section (c) - Fine of €1,000.

## (7) INSURANCE/PLAYERS' INJURY FUND

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### (7.1) Players' Injury Fund

Central Council may make arrangements for the provision of a Players' Injury Fund for registered playing members of affiliated units of the Association within Ireland and Britain. The Fund shall be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Fund as may be determined from time to time.

A team shall not be permitted to participate in any competition or game whatsoever under the jurisdiction of the Association unless they are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Injury Fund.

Failure to fulfil a fixture as a result of such non-compliance shall result in the forfeiture of the game.

Any member or unit of the Association found, following investigation by Central Council, to have made, or assisted in the making of, a fraudulent claim under the Fund shall be deemed to have discredited the Association and shall be liable to penalties set out in Rule 7.2(e).

### (7.2) Property & Liability Insurance

Central Council shall centrally procure and administer Property and Liability Insurance and additional insurance covers as may be required and available for affiliated units of the Association within Ireland and Britain and shall seek to equitably apportion and collect the relevant insurance premiums across those units to the extent possible.

## (8) PLAYING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

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(8.1) A player must be a registered Full Member or Youth Member of a Club and the Association.

(8.2) A player may not be a member of a Club for which the player is ineligible to play.

(8.3) Infractions and Penalties:

- i. Competing for a Club for which one is ineligible to play within the County of one's Own Club:  
**Player** – 12 weeks Suspension;  
**Club Chairperson and Secretary** – 12 weeks suspension;  
**Team** -
  1. On a proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team,
  2. On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.
- ii. Competing for a Club for which one is ineligible to play outside the County of one's Own **Club**: **Player** – 48 weeks suspension;  
**Club Chairperson and Secretary** – 48 weeks suspension;  
**Team**: as above.
- iii. Competing for a County for which one is ineligible to play:  
**Player** – 48 weeks suspension;  
**County Chairperson and Secretary** – 48 weeks; suspension;  
**Team** – As in (i) and (ii) above.

## (9) PLAYING IN U.S.A./CANADA/AUSTRALASIA

(9.1) A weekend Authorisation is required by any player intending to assist a Club in a game under the jurisdiction of the New York Board. The Official Authorisation, in duplicate requires the signatures of the player's Home Club Secretary and the County Secretary and must be presented for signature by the Director General (or other designated person) in Croke Park before 4pm on the Wednesday before the game.

An Authorisation is valid for one week-end only other than where there is a replay of the game for which the Authorisation was granted.

The maximum number of authorised players to assist a Club on any week-end shall be two in Football and three in Hurling.

- (9.2) (i) A player intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by either the New York Board or the Canadian Board - must obtain an Official Sanction in duplicate, signed by the player's Club Secretary, the County Secretary and the Director General (or other designated person).
- (ii) A player intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by the USGAA Board must obtain an Official Sanction or an Official J1 Sanction in duplicate, signed by the player's Club Secretary, the County Secretary and the Director General (or other designated person).

A player who has been included on an Inter- County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification 2.5 (ii)(a) for a game in the current year's Championship shall not be eligible to be accepted for Registration as a member of any Club in the USGAA Board Jurisdiction.

**Exception:** A player who has been included on an Inter-County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification 2.5 (ii)(a), for a game in the current year's Championship, who holds a valid current J1 Visa or meets the eligibility requirements to obtain a J1 Visa, and who obtains an Official J1 Sanction in duplicate, signed by the player's Club Secretary, the County Secretary and the Director General (or other designated person), may be accepted for registration. Such a player may only have the J1 Sanction approved once the player's team has been eliminated from the Inter-County Championship including All-Ireland Qualifier games.

The J1 Visa concerned with this Exception is the J1 Work and Travel Programme Visa only – i.e. the four month Visa for 3rd Level Students.

- (iii) A Sanction shall entitle a player to play with a club in either the New York, Canadian or USGAA Board areas from 1st March to the end of October in any one year.
- (iv) A Sanction shall not be granted after the 1st July for players intending to play in the Canadian Board or USGAA Board areas, or after the 20th July for players intending to play in the New York Board area.
- (v) A player who has received a Sanction shall not be eligible to play with the player's Own Club in Ireland (other than in exceptional circumstances to be determined from time to time by the Central Council) for the 30 days after the date of approval of the Sanction in Croke Park but is eligible to play with the player's Own County.
- (vi) A Sanctioned player who returns to Ireland and plays with their Own Club may not subsequently return to resume playing in America or Canada in the same year.
- (vii) The number of Sanctioned Players permitted for any Club in the USGAA Board area shall be as follows:
- (1) A Club with one team - a maximum of ten.
- Exception:** A Senior Hurling Club with one team may have a maximum of twelve.

- (2) A Club with a second team - a further eight, restricted to the grade of the second team.

In addition, a Club may also avail of the services of Players who have a valid current J1 Visa, as well as a separate J1 Sanction. In the case of the Canadian Board Area, the maximum number of Sanctioned Players per club shall be ten. In the case of New York, the maximum number of Sanctioned Players per team shall be six.

- (viii) All Sanctioned players shall have the same status regardless of when they travel.
- (ix) A player who has received a Sanction may not, in the same year, transfer to a Club in Britain (unless qualified under Rule 6.5), or Europe.
- (x) A player may receive only one Sanction in any Calendar Year.

(9.3) Authorisations and Sanctions, as outlined in (a) and (b) above, are available only to the following categories of players:

- (1) A current playing member of a Club in Ireland.

**Exception:**

A player who obtains an Inter-County Transfer from a Club in Britain to a Club in Ireland shall not be eligible to obtain an Authorisation or Sanction within twenty-four weeks from the date of such a transfer being granted.

- (2) A current playing member of a Club in Britain when the player's First Club, as defined in Rule 6.2, is in Britain.  
Otherwise, playing members of Clubs in Britain are not eligible for Authorisations or Sanctions.

- (9.4) (i) A player who remains permanently (i.e. beyond one Playing Season) in the USGAA or Canadian Board areas shall be eligible to obtain an Inter-County transfer. Applications for such transfer shall be lodged in Croke Park by March 31st in any year.
- (ii) In the case of a player moving permanently to the Area under the jurisdiction of the New York Board or the Australasian Board, a transfer shall be necessary.

A player shall be considered to have moved permanently after the player has been a minimum of four weeks in the new jurisdiction.

(9.5) Application for an Authorisation or Sanction may be made 'online'.

**Penalties:**

- (1) A unit which exceeds its quota of Sanctions, as detailed at (b)(vii) above, will forfeit its entitlement to Sanctioned players in the following year.

For other infringements of this Code - 24 weeks



## **(10) ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS/GRADINGS**

### **(10.1) Senior**

Subject to the Restrictions set out in Rule 6.11, all players are eligible to participate in Inter-County and Inter-Club Senior grade.

### **(10.2) Inter-Club Intermediate**

Subject to the Restrictions set out in Rule 6.11, all players are eligible to participate in Inter-Club Intermediate grade except:

- (a) Those who are currently graded as Club Senior Championship status in the Code.
- (b) Those who are excluded from Intermediate status by County Bye-Law, consequent on their having played on the winning team in the previous year's County Senior or Intermediate Championship Final.

### **(10.3) Inter-Club Junior**

Subject to the Restrictions set out in Rule 6.11, all players are eligible to participate in Inter-Club Junior Grade except:

- (a) Those who are currently graded as Club Senior or Intermediate Championship status in the Code.
- (b) Those who are excluded from Junior status by County Bye-Law, consequent on their having played on the winning team in the previous year's County Senior, Intermediate or Junior Championship Final.

#### **Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks Suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection -- Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

### **(10.4) Inter-County Intermediate Hurling**

Subject to Age Restrictions set out in Rule 6.11, all players are eligible to participate in the Inter-County Intermediate Hurling Championship except:

- (a) Those who have played on an Inter-County Senior Championship team in the current or preceding Championship years.
- (b) Those who have played on Own Club Senior Team in the preceding year's County, Provincial or All-Ireland Championships.

#### **Exceptions:**

- (i) This does not apply to a County that is permitted by the Central Council to play its second best Team.
- (ii) A player who participated as a temporary substitute only, as provided for in Rule 1.5(b), Rules of Control, O.G. Part 2, in a Championship match and consequently did not lose their lower Championship status in accordance with Code 10.7, is eligible to participate in an Inter-County Intermediate Hurling Team.

(c) Those who have played on the winning team in the preceding year's All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge – Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**(10.5) Inter-County Junior Football**

Eligibility to be determined by Central Competitions Control Committee and approved by Central Council.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks Suspension

**Team** - On a proven Objection – Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge – Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**(10.6) County Participation Restriction**

A County may participate in both the Senior (Tier 1) and the Intermediate All-Ireland Hurling Championships. Otherwise, a County shall participate in one Tier - Tier 2,3 or 4 of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

A County may enter only one Team in any permitted Championship Grade unless Central Council grants permission to enter additional Team(s) for developmental purposes.

**(10.7) Club Championship and League Status of Players**

A player is graded by their Championship Status e.g., if a player plays in a Senior Championship game, the player is graded Senior until the player is regraded, but cannot be regraded during that Championship Year.

**Exception:**

A County, through its Bye Laws, may make provision for a player to be regraded during that Championship year subject to any guidelines issued by Central Council.

Participation in the Provincial and/or All-Ireland Club Championships, other than as allowed in Rule 6.7 Exception (2), grades a Player by the relevant status of that Championship.

A player shall not thereafter play in a current year's Competition (Championship, Relegation Play-Off, League etc.) of a lower grade than that of their current Championship status.

A player shall not lose their current Championship status by:

- (1) Playing in a Senior or Intermediate Championship on a Divisional or Group Senior or Intermediate team.
- (2) Playing on a College Club team in a Senior Championship, as allowed by Rule 6.7, Exception (2).
- (3) Participating in a game or Competition the purpose of which is to determine Qualification/Relegation for the following year's Championship.  
or
- (4) Participation as a Temporary Substitute, as provided for in Rule 1.5 (b) Rules of Control, in a Championship Match of a higher grade than player's current Championship status.
- (5) Playing in a higher grade Championship in USGAA, New York or Canadian Board areas under Code 9.

**Penalties:**

**Player** - twelve weeks Suspension.

**Team** - On a proven Objection -- Award of Game to Opposing Team.

On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge- Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

**(10.8) Gradings of Clubs and Players**

The Gradings of Clubs and Players shall be controlled by a County Committee, through a County Bye-Law, which shall set down the Regrading criteria (e.g. timing) which does not conflict with General Rule or Code. The Grading of Clubs shall be subject to Rule 3.28 (j). A County Committee shall delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for Regrading to its Competitions Control Committee subject to the following:

- (a) The County Committee shall retain the right to make the final decision on an application for Regrading by a Club.
- (b) A player aggrieved by a decision on their application for Regrading shall have the right of appeal to the County Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final. The appeal shall be made within three working days of the receipt of notification of the decision, it shall state the grounds on which the appeal is being made and shall be signed by the appellant player. Other formalities regarding submission of appeal (e.g. provision of duplicate copy, fee) outlined in Rule 7.5 (f) to (i), are not applicable in this case. All other relevant sections of Rule 7.5 shall apply. An appeal may only be upheld on the basis of the provisions outlined in Rule 7.5 (o).

A County Committee may, in its Bye-Law, allow for a player to be regraded by more than one level during a Championship Year, provided that:

- (1) The player has not played in a higher Championship Grade in that Championship Year.

**Exception:**

A County, through its Bye Laws, may make provision for a player to be regraded during that Championship year subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Council.

and

- (2) is not regraded by more than one level on a single application i.e. from their existing Championship status to the next lower Championship Level that the player's Club is engaged in at the time of application.

A player who joins, by transfer, a Club whose highest status is lower than the player's current Championship status, shall be automatically regraded to that Club's highest Championship status.

# (11) CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - COUNTY/PROVINCIAL/ALL-IRELAND

## (11.1) County Championships

- (1) A County Committee shall organise its Championships on a Knock-Out, League, or a Combination of League and Knock-Out basis.
- (2) The maximum number of teams that may participate in an adult County Championship shall be 16.

**Exception:** Junior or lower grades (**Note:** to apply from January 1st, 2023).

- (3) A County may be divided into districts for these Competitions.
- (4) The Committee-in-Charge shall draw up and approve all other Regulations governing the Organisation of a Championship, in advance of its commencement. A Regulation once adopted shall remain in force unless altered or deleted by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting. Alterations may be considered only on an annual basis.
- (5) If a Championship is partly organised on a League basis, the following Regulations shall apply:
  - (a) League results shall be credited as follows: 2 points for a win, and one for a draw.
  - (b) If a Team is Disqualified or Retires during the course of the League Stage, its played Games shall stand and its unplayed Games shall be awarded to the Opposing Teams.
  - (c) Except where provided for otherwise in these Rules or Codes, in County Bye-Law or in Competition Regulation, when Teams finish with equal points for Qualification for the Concluding Stages, or for Promotion or Relegation, the tie shall be decided by the following means and in the order specified:
    - (i) The higher number of League Points obtained in the 'Head-to-Head' games defined as the games in which the teams involved in the tie have played each other.
    - (ii) The higher Scoring Difference (subtracting the total Scores Against from total Scores For) in the 'Head-to-Head' games.
    - (iii) The higher Scores For in the 'Head-to-Head' games.
    - (iv) If the application of criteria (i) to (iii) results in a team(s) being successful or eliminated but there is still a relevant tie to be decided, criteria (i) to (iii) are to be repeated for the 'Head-to-Head' games only of the still tied teams.
    - (v) The higher Scoring Difference in all games in the League Group.
    - (vi) The higher Scores For in all games in the League Group.
    - (vii) A Play-Off.

**Exceptions to (c):** Except where provided for otherwise in County Bye-Law or Competition Regulation, Regulations (i) to (vi) inclusive above shall not apply to Under 17 or younger age grade competitions.

Where a team's total Scores For and total Scores Against record is affected by there not being a score for a game consequent on a walk-over, retirement, disqualification or loss of game on a proven objection, an Average Score For and an Average Score Against achieved by the team in its other games played (in Head-to-Head games or All Games in the Group, as applicable) shall be applied to the game concerned and calculated as follows:

If it arises where a 'Head-to-Head' scores criteria is applicable, the team's Scores For and Scores Against made in the 'Head-to-Head' games played shall be separately totalled and both Scores For and Scores Against totals shall be separately divided by the number of 'Head-to-Head' games the team has actually played.

If it arises where a score criteria involving all games in the League Group is applicable, the team's Scores For and Scores Against made in all games played shall be separately totalled and both the Scores For and Scores Against totals shall be separately divided by the number of all games the team has actually played.

- (d) A Disqualification shall only affect further participation in the current Championship involved and not the following year's Championship or Qualification for it. In the context of a Disqualification, in any Promotion or Relegation Process, a Team shall retain the points it has won in a Stage of the Championship run on a League Basis.

### **(11.2) Inter-County Players Availability to Clubs**

Players who are not included in an Inter-County Senior Panel of twenty-six players, shall be available to their Clubs on the week-ends of National League and Senior Championship games.

**Penalty:** A County shall forfeit Home Venue for its next 'Home Game' in the respective National League.

### **(11.3) Notice for Championship Games**

Notice for Club Championship games shall be as follows: Adult Championships, including Under 20/21 - five days (120 hours); Other grades of Championship - in accordance with County Bye-Laws and/or County Regulations governing the Championships, but shall not be less than four days (96 hours); Replays and Refixtures - four days (96 hours). Notice for original fixtures shall be in writing, but notice for replays/refixtures need not necessarily be in writing.

### **(11.4) Disqualification**

The Penalties for a Club/Unit failing to fulfil a Championship Game shall be as follows:

- (a) In a 'Knock-Out' Game - the Club shall be Disqualified from the Championship and the Game Awarded to the Opposing Team.
- (b) In a 'League Stage' of a Championship –
  - (i) For a First Failure - the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team, but without Disqualification, subject to the condition below.  
If in the opinion of the Committee-in-Charge, the failure to field was for an ulterior purpose, affecting the position(s) of other Club(s), the defaulting Club may, at the discretion of the Committee, be disqualified from the Championship.
  - (ii) For a Second Failure – a Club shall be Disqualified from the Championship and the Game shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team.
- (c) A Club/Unit shall be compelled to pay any Fine imposed for loss of revenue by the Committee-in-Charge and all vouched reasonable expenses incurred, and failure to do so shall involve a Suspension of forty eight weeks.
- (d) A Club failing to give two clear days notice, in writing, of its intention not to fulfil a championship Game shall be liable to a Suspension of 24 weeks.
- (e) The Procedures stated in Code 16.1 shall be followed.

**(11.5) Organisation (Provincial and All-Ireland)**

- (a) Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championships shall be organised in Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grades. The following Eligibility Criteria shall apply:
- (i) A Divisional or Group Team winning a County Championship shall not participate.
  - (ii) The Intermediate and Junior Grades shall be confined to Clubs whose top grade is respectively Intermediate or Junior save in circumstances where a Club is nominated by a County Committee, recommended by the Competitions Control Committee of Provincial Council, and prior approval is given by the Central Competitions Control Committee for that Club to compete in the Provincial and All-Ireland Club Championships in a lower grade than its grade status within its County.

If a County Championship winning team is ineligible as a result of (i) or (ii) above or alternatively ineligible by reason of Debarment, Suspension or as a result of any Disciplinary Action whatsoever, the County Committee concerned shall nominate an eligible Club of the appropriate Championship status to represent it.

Similarly, in the event of a County Championship not being completed but only one remaining team in that championship is eligible to participate in the Provincial Championship, the County Committee shall nominate that Club to represent it.

Nominations in any other circumstances are not allowed.

Except as provided above, in the event of a County or Provincial Championship not being completed, the respective Provincial or All Ireland Championship shall continue without a representative of the County or Province concerned.

The County, Provincial and All-Ireland Stages of the respective Club Senior, Intermediate and Junior Football and Hurling Championships constitute the one Competition.

- (b) Where a player's Own Club and College Club win their respective County Championships in the same grade, the player shall be eligible to play only with their Own Club in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championship in that grade. If a player's Own Club and College Club win County Championships in two different grades, the player shall be eligible to play with both Clubs in the Provincial and All-Ireland Championships in their respective grades.

**(11.6) Team Party – Provincial/All-Ireland Club**

A Team Party competing in a Provincial or All-Ireland Club Championship shall consist of not more than thirty players.

**(11.7) Under 13 and Younger Age Grades**

Games in the Under 11 and younger age grades shall be organised on the 'Go Games' model, as approved by Central Council. Games in the Under 12 and Under 13 age grades shall be organised on a league basis, as approved by Central Council.

**(11.8) Numbering of Players**

In Inter-County Championship matches players shall be appropriately numbered from 1 to 24.

**Penalty:** Fine €500.

Numbers shall be on the back, and also, in small format, on the front of the jerseys.

**Exception:** In Senior Inter-County games, the players shall be appropriately numbered from one to not more than twenty-six.

**(11.9) Team Party/Selections**

- (a) A County team party shall consist of not more than twenty-four players and five officials of the County Committee. Exception:  
A Senior Inter-County Team Party may have up to, but not more than twenty-six players.
- (b) In All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals the placing of teams must be given to the Director General at least six days prior to the game.  
**Penalty for (b):** Fine €500.

**(11.10) County Colours**

Each County shall register annually with the Central Council its distinctive County Colours. Counties shall also register alternative colours or an alternative combination of their colours.

**Penalty:** Fine €500.

## **(12) INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION**

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**(12.1) Inter-County Minor/Under 20 Registration**

- (a) All Minor and Under 20 players shall provide the County Secretary with an authenticated Parochial Certificate of Age, on a standard form, or Civil Certificate of Birth.  
At least five days before a County's initial championship game, the County Secretary shall forward to the Provincial Secretary a duplicate Register of players setting out, in Irish, each player's name, club, date and place of birth.
- (b) The Provincial Secretary shall forward the Register to the Central Council at least five days prior to the Province's involvement in the All-Ireland series.
- (c) Additions may be made to the Register for each subsequent game, in advance of the game.

**Penalty:** Fine €200 on the unit concerned.

**(12.2) Registration/Lists for Inter-County Senior Championship Games**

***Special Provisions for Registration of Teams and supply of Team List to Referee for all Inter-County Senior Championship Games***

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Rules or Codes, the following requirements shall specifically apply to all Inter-County Senior Championship Games:

- (a) For all Senior Inter-County Championship Games, the Team line-out (Fifteen Players and maximum Eleven Panel Members - total twenty-six) shall be registered with the Committee-in-Charge not later than 9 am on the Thursday before a week-end game.

**Penalty:** Withdrawal of Sideline Privileges from Bainisteoir for one game and/or maximum €1,000 fine on the County Committee, depending on the circumstances.

- (b) Regulations covering any changes to the Registered Team or Panel shall be included in the Competition Regulations and approved by Central Council.  
Penalty for playing or including on the Team list submitted to the Referee, a player who has not been registered with the Committee-in-Charge: Forfeiture of Game.

- (c) A prescribed Team List (as issued by the Committee-in- Charge from time to time), confirming the 15 starting players and maximum 11 additional panel members, shall be submitted to the Referee not later than forty minutes before the official starting times of the Game and shall only contain the names of Registered Players specified in paragraphs (a) or (b), together with the Team Officials. Regulations covering any changes to a starting team after the team list has been submitted to the Referee shall be included in the Competition Regulations and approved by Central Council.

**Penalty:** Fine on the County Committee - up to a maximum of €1,000 for each minute over the prescribed time.

## **(13) LEAGUES**

### **(13.1) Organisation**

A League shall be subject to the General Rules of the Association. Prior to the start of the competition, the Committee-in-Charge shall draw up the regulations governing its organisation.

Playing Rule changes recommended by Central Council may be experimented with in National and County Leagues of the year prior to a Congress at which motions for revision of Playing Rules are tabled.

### **(13.2) (A) & (B)**

- (A) Leagues may be organised on a single or double round basis. The Regulations outlined in Code 11.1(5) (a), (b), (c) and (d) (in relation to a League part of a Championship) shall apply to League competitions. Where a double round League is played, the combined scores of the two games shall be taken into account when applying clause 5(c)(i) of that Code.

Penalty for each unfulfilled Fixture: Award of Game to Opposing Team; Minimum Fine - County €400, Club €100 or [alternative penalty](#) specified in the Competition's Regulations of the Committee-in-Charge.

- (B) A County that wishes to link League Performance and Championship Status must obtain formal permission annually from its Provincial Council.

### **(13.3) National Leagues**

The regulations governing the composition, timing, promotion, relegation, play-offs and all other matters pertaining to the National Hurling and Football Leagues, shall be decided by the Central Council, on the advice of the Central Competitions Control Committee.

The National Football and Hurling Leagues shall be constructed in order that they be completed, including Finals, over no more than eight, but not necessarily successive week-ends.

#### **Exceptions:**

- (1) Nine weeks allowed for Division 1 of both the National Football and Hurling Leagues.
- (2) Ten weeks allowed for Division 4 of the National Football League.



## **(14) TOURNAMENTS & CHALLENGE GAMES**

### **(14.1) Tournament Games**

- (a) All Tournament games shall be sanctioned by the appropriate controlling authority, which will deal with any disciplinary matters arising.
- (b) An Inter-County Tournament may be organised only in grades up to and including Under 16 (football and hurling) and in Under 19 grade (hurling only).

Sanction must be obtained from Provincial Council where teams are from one Province, and from Central Council where teams are from more than one Province.

- (c) An Inter-Club Tournament shall be limited to a maximum of eight teams, except as otherwise permitted by the Controlling Authority. Sanction must be obtained as follows:
  - From the County Committee where teams are from within one County.
  - From the County Committees involved where teams are from more than one County, and in such circumstances the sanction of the Provincial Council or Central Council, as appropriate, must be obtained.
- (d) All applications for the sanction of Tournaments which involve teams from outside a Club's Own County must be recommended by the Home County Committee.
- (e) A fee of €40 for an Inter-County Tournament and €20 for an Inter-Club Tournament shall be paid with the application.
- (f) Units organising Tournament Games shall make application, in writing, to the appropriate authority/ authorities in such time as to have permission granted or otherwise, seven days prior to the commencement date of the proposed Tournament. The Council or Committee-in-Charge may give authority to its Secretary to grant permission.

Where sanction is required from more than one Unit of the Association for a particular Tournament, notice shall be given by the Applicant Unit, at or about the same time, directly to all relevant Units.

- (g) The following details shall be included in an application: The Names of the Competing Teams; the Venue; the names of neutral Referees, who shall be on the current and recognised List of Referees, at County/ Provincial/National Levels, as appropriate.
- (h) A Referee's Match Report shall be submitted to the appropriate authority within three days of a game. When the Council or Committee-in-Charge deems it necessary, the Report shall be submitted within 24 hours.
- (i) The above Codes apply to Seven-a-Side Competitions, with exception of the limitation of teams as specified in Section (c) above. The number of teams allowed in Seven- a-Side Competition is at the discretion of the appropriate Controlling Authority.

These competitions shall be subject to the Rules of the Official Guide, and other relevant Rules drawn up by the Central Competitions Control Committee or the Development Competitions Control Committee. No alteration in Rules governing discipline shall be permitted.

- (j) The above Codes are applicable to Juvenile Tournaments (involving players at under 16 age group or younger).

- (k) Adult pre-season Inter-County competitions organised by the Provincial Councils shall be completed before the final round of games in Division One of the respective National Leagues.

Failure to comply with any of the above Rule Provisions shall not affect Disciplinary Proceedings being taken, arising from a Game played.

**Penalties:**

**For Organising an Unauthorised Tournament -**

County - Fine €1,000

Club- Fine €500; Liable to a minimum Suspension of 8 weeks.

**For Participation in Unauthorised Tournament -**

County - Fine €500

Club - Fine €250

Team/Player - Liable to a minimum Suspension of 8 weeks

**(14.2) Challenge Games**

- (a) All Challenge Games shall be sanctioned by the appropriate Controlling Authority, which will deal with any disciplinary matters arising.
- (b) An Inter-County Challenge game shall be sanctioned by Provincial Council(s) and Central Council, as appropriate. Sanction must be obtained from the Provincial Council where teams are from the one province, and from the appropriate Provincial Councils and Central Council where teams are from more than one Province.
- (c) An Inter-Club Challenge Game shall be sanctioned by County Committee(s), Provincial Council(s) or Central Council. Sanction must be obtained from the County Committee where the teams are from the one County, from the County Committees and from the Provincial Council where the teams are from two or more Counties, and Sanction must be obtained from the County Committees, from the appropriate Provincial Councils and from Central Council where the teams are from more than one Province.
- (d) Units organising Challenge Games shall make applications, in writing, to the appropriate authority/authorities in such time as to have permission granted or otherwise, two days prior to the date of the proposed game. The Council or Committee-in-Charge may give authority to its Secretary to grant permission. Where sanction is required from more than one Unit of the Association for a particular Challenge Game, notice shall be given by the Applicant Units, at or about the same time, directly to all relevant Units.
- (e) The following details shall be included in the application: The Names of the Competing Teams; the Venue; the Name of the Referee, who shall be on the current and recognised List of Referees at County/Provincial/National Levels, as appropriate. The Referee shall be neutral in the case of a Senior Inter County Game.
- (f) The Referee's Match Report shall be submitted to the appropriate authority within three days of the Game. When the Committee or Council-in-Charge deems it necessary, the Report shall be submitted within 24 hours.
- (g) The above Codes are applicable to Juvenile Challenge games (players in the Under 16 age group or younger). Failure to comply with any of the above Code provisions shall not affect Disciplinary Proceedings being taken, arising from a Game played.

**Penalties:**

For a Unit participating in an unauthorised Challenge Game:

Fine - County €250; Club €100

## (15) GAMES – GENERAL

### (15.1) Award/Facts of Game

The Award of a Game rests with the Committee or Council-in- Charge acting on the Referee's Report.

Where a Referee fails to submit the Report within a period of 10 days after the Game, the Committee or Council-in-Charge has power to deal with the Facts of the Game on the basis of such evidence as the Committee or Council-in-Charge considers appropriate. The Committee or Council in Charge may also award a Game based on the outcome of an Objection or Counter-Objection.

### (15.2) Rules of Specification and Control - Penalties

Penalties for breaches of the Rules of Specification and Control (Part 2) shall be as follows:

- (a) A team failing to field a minimum of thirteen players for the commencement of a game:

**Penalty :** Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.

(b)

- (i) A team exceeding the number of players permitted under Rule 2.1 Rules of Specification, Playing Rules:
- (ii) A team exceeding the number of substitutions permitted under Rules 2.3 (i) and (ii) or breaching Rule 2.3 (iv), Rules of Specification, Playing Rules:

**Penalties:**

On a proven Objection - Award of Game to the Opposing Team, or Replay, or Fine, depending on the circumstances. On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game without Award of Game to the Opposing Team, or Replay, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

(c)

- (i) Failure to provide a list of Players as specified in Rule:
- (ii) A Substitution (including a Temporary Substitution) being made of a player whose name is not supplied to the Referee or the Sideline Official, as appropriate, and as specified in Rule:
- (iii) In Inter-County games, a Substitution, (including a Temporary Substitution) being made of a player whose name is not on the list of Players supplied to the Referee:

**Penalty:**

On an Inquiry by the Committee-in-Charge - Forfeiture of Game, without Award to the Opposing Team, or Fine, depending on the circumstances.

(d) Late Fielding

- (i) A team taking the field late before game: Penalties: County or Provincial - Fine €100; Club Fine €20 - for every five minutes or part thereof up to 15 minutes, and thereafter for every minute or part thereof up to 30 minutes. For over 30 minutes after the appointed Starting Time, the Game shall be considered as conceded and shall be Awarded to the Opposing Team, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

- (ii) (a) A team responsible for a half-time interval being exceeded as specified in 3.3 and 3.7 Rules of Specification:

**Penalties:**

County or Provincial - Fine €80 for every minute or part thereof; Club - Fine €10 for every minute or part thereof.

- (b) A team responsible for an Interval period allowed being exceeded by more than 10 minutes: Penalty: Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.

- (iii) A team(s) failing to field for obligatory extra time, within the specified minutes:

**Penalty:**

Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.

- (e) Jerseys/Colours:

- (i) A County team not wearing its registered distinctive colours in Inter-County competitions, or where there is a similarity of colours not wearing their registered alternative colours or other colours authorised or directed by the Controlling Council:

**Penalty:**

Fine €500.

- (ii) A Club team not wearing its registered distinctive club colours in Inter-Club Competitions, or where there is a similarity of colours, not wearing alternative colours approved by the Controlling Committee.

**Penalty:**

Clubs shall be liable to a minimum of €40 fine.

- (iii) The goalkeeper not wearing a jersey, which is distinctive from the goalkeeper's own team's and the opposing team's colours:

**Penalty:**

Fine €80.

**(15.3) Closed Periods/Collective Training**

Collective training: *Collective training is where one or more player(s) is/are required to be at a specific place at a specific time on a specific date.*

Inter-County panels may return to collective training and/or games for the following year on a timetable determined from time to time by the Central Council.

Collective Training for all Senior Inter-County Team Panels which involves an overnight stay is not permitted unless written permission has been given in advance by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

An Under-Age Inter-County Team (i.e., Under 20 or Minor) shall be restricted to a maximum of three collective sessions - Training and/or Games - per week.

Restrictions in relation to collective training and/or games for County Development Squads or any other group of Players under the control of a County Committee, shall be as determined from time-to-time by Central Council.

**Penalties for breaches:**

Senior Inter-County panels: The team shall forfeit Home Venue for its next 'Home Game' in the National League.

All Other Panels:

Team Penalty: removal from competition.

Person(s) in charge of the Team: 24 weeks suspension.

#### **(15.4) Higher Education and Post Primary Schools All-Ireland Championships**

- (a) Post Primary Schools All-Ireland Championships shall be completed on or before the weekend immediately following St Patrick's Day annually.
- (b) The Sigerson Cup Final shall be played on or before the 7th Sunday of the year.
- (c) The Fitzgibbon Cup Final shall be played on or before the 8th Sunday of the year.

## **(16) ENFORCEMENT OF RULES & CODES**

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### **(16.1) Procedures for Disciplinary and Related Hearings**

Initiation of Disciplinary Action

- (a) The investigation and processing of matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes shall be dealt with by:
  - (1) In the case of matters arising from Competitions or Games, the Competition Control Committee of the Council or Committee-in-Charge, and
  - (2) In the case of matters arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games, the Management Committee.

The Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee may appoint one or more of their number to carry out certain of its functions in connection with any Disciplinary Action.

- (b) References in this Code to the Competitions Control Committee shall be construed as references to the Management Committee in cases of Disciplinary Action arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games.
- (c) The Hearings Committee shall adjudicate in all instances where a Hearing is requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Codes, other than Objections and Counter-Objections.
- (d) Disciplinary Action shall commence where:
  - (1) a Referee's Report discloses an alleged Infraction,
  - (2) the Competitions Control Committee decides that Disciplinary Action is appropriate arising from Competitions or Games, subject to Code 16.1(f), or
  - (3) the Management Committee decides that Disciplinary Action is appropriate arising otherwise than from Competitions or Games.
- (e) The Competitions Control Committee may make a written Request for Clarification from a Referee:
  - (1) where there is any ambiguity in the Report, or
  - (2) where the Competitions Control Committee is in the course of investigating a possible Infraction not stated in the Report (even if the incident itself is disclosed).
- (f) Disciplinary Action alleging an Infraction as having occurred on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play, immediately before, during or after a game may only be commenced by the Competitions Control Committee where:
  - (i) The Referee's Report discloses the alleged Infraction; or
  - (ii) The Referee has failed to submit a report within a period of five days after the Game concerned; or
  - (iii) Clarification of the Referee's Report is received stating that the Referee did not adjudicate upon the subject matter of the Request.

- (g) The procedural Codes following shall not apply in the cases of the imposition of a specified minimum fine in Rule, Code or Match Regulation or loss of points for failure to fulfil a league fixture, in which cases the Unit concerned shall be entitled only to written notice of the imposition of the penalty, and not to a Hearing from a Hearings Committee.

### ***Preparation of Charge***

- (h) Where Disciplinary Action is commenced, the Competitions Control Committee shall investigate the matter in such manner as is expedient, interview such persons (including Match Officials) as they deem appropriate, accumulate such relevant evidence as is made available to it (whether suggestive of the commission of an Infraction or exonerative of the Members or Units concerned), and prepare a Report (“the Disciplinary Report”).

A formal Disciplinary Report is not necessary where sufficient detail is contained in a Referee’s Report and a copy of the Referee’s Report or the applicable part thereof is supplied to the Defending Party, with a covering letter stating the Rule(s) or Code(s) concerned.

In the event that the Competitions Control Committee omits from the Disciplinary Report evidence that is subsequently shown to be relevant, this shall not of itself affect the validity of the Disciplinary Action.

- (i) The Disciplinary Report shall contain:
- (1) The identity of any person(s) or Unit(s) against whom Disciplinary Action is being taken (“the Defending Party”),
  - (2) A statement of the alleged infraction quoting the Rule(s), Code(s) and/or Bye-law(s) it is alleged have been breached,
  - (3) Copies of all relevant documents available to the Competitions Control Committee (including, where appropriate, any Referee’s Report or the applicable part thereof, and any Clarification received insofar as it contains reference to the Infraction alleged), and
  - (4) A list of witnesses, if any, who will be required to attend the Hearing on behalf of the Competitions Control Committee. This list may be updated at any stage up to 24 hours before any Hearing.

### ***Urgent Cases***

- (j) In urgent cases, where a Player or Team Official believes that they may be the subject of Disciplinary Action, but has not received Notice of Disciplinary Action, a Player or Team Official may request the Competitions Control Committee to clarify their position. The Competitions Control Committee shall make emergency arrangements on receipt of such a request to check and direct on the position of the Player or Team Official concerned.

### ***Notice of Disciplinary Action***

- (k) The Hearings Committee may, at any stage of Disciplinary Action, allow any document submitted by any party to that Disciplinary action to be amended. Where a document used in the course of Disciplinary Action prior to a Hearing requires amendment, the party requiring its amendment should notify the other party at the earliest reasonable opportunity of the proposed amendment, and the Hearings Committee shall be entitled to give retrospective effect to any amendment as befits the circumstances.
- (l) Where Disciplinary Action is commenced, Notice shall be given to the Defending Party. Central Council shall prescribe Forms of Notice for the assistance of Competitions Control Committees.

- (m) Notice shall be given in the manner prescribed for service of Notices under Code 5.3 - Communications.
- (n) The Notice shall contain a copy of the Disciplinary Report, and shall propose a penalty (not less than the minimum) which in the opinion of the Competitions Control Committee is appropriate under the Rules and Codes of the Association (“the Proposed Penalty”).
- (o) The Notice shall also advise the Member/Unit of the right to a Hearing, and of the right to call witnesses.

### **Reply**

- (p) The Defending Party shall reply within two days from the date and time of receipt by the Defending Party of the Notice and may:
  - (1) accept the Proposed Penalty, or
  - (2) request a Hearing, by sending a written Reply.
 Central Council shall prescribe Reply Forms for the assistance of Members and Units.

**Exception:** Where the Fixed Penalty for Debarment,

- (a) In the case of a Player from playing for the Remainder of the Game, to include any extra-time, set down for non-repeat Category 1 and 11 infractions is concerned, or
- (b) In the case of a Team Official from acting in that capacity for the Remainder of the Game, to include any extra-time, set down for a Category 1a infraction, the member involved shall be entitled only to written notice of the Confirmation of the Penalty initially a member may seek a Hearing on any or all Category I or II infractions (Player) or on a Category 1a infraction (Team Official) involved only at the point when a Match Suspension, or its time equivalent, is proposed but may request Clarification of the Referee’s Report, as provided for in Code 16.1(s), at any time from the time of being notified of an alleged Category I or II infraction (Player) or Category 1a infraction (Team Official) contained in the Referee’s Report up to the time of seeking a Hearing on a proposed Match Suspension or its time equivalent.
- (q) Where the Defending Party accepts the Proposed Penalty, that Penalty shall be imposed. The Competitions Control Committee shall confirm imposition of the Penalty to the Defending Party by Notice, quoting the Rule(s) or Code(s) under which the Penalty is imposed.
- (r) Failure to reply to a Notice of Disciplinary Action within two days from the date and time of receipt of the Notice shall constitute acceptance of the Proposed Penalty. If it is later proved to the satisfaction of the Hearings Committee that service of the Notice of Disciplinary Action was not effected by the Competitions Control Committee in accordance with this Code, the Hearings Committee shall direct re-service of the Notice of Disciplinary Action and the matter shall proceed accordingly.
- (s) Where the Defending Party requests a Hearing, the Defending Party shall indicate in their Reply any special requirements with regard to the Hearing (e.g. video playing equipment). The Defending Party may also submit a written Request for Clarification of the Referee’s Report, subject to guidelines issued by Central Council, and that Request and the Clarification received shall be furnished by the Competitions Control Committee to the Hearings Committee and the Defending Party. Such a request may also be submitted in relation to an alleged Category I or II Infraction, as provided for in Code 16.1(p).
- (t) Where the Defending Party requests a Hearing, the Competitions Control Committee shall pass a copy of the Notice and the Reply, with all references therein to the ‘Proposed Penalty’ deleted, to the Secretary of the Hearings Committee, who shall arrange the Hearing and, as soon as possible thereafter, notify the Defending Party and the Competitions Control Committee of the place, date and time of the Hearing, and of any other relevant matters.

## Hearings

- (u) The Hearings Committee shall preside over any Hearing. The Hearing shall require a quorum of three members of the Hearings Committee, however not more than five members shall preside where the Defending Party is a Juvenile Member (under 16 years of age). Not more than two members of the Competitions Control Committee shall attend the Hearing to present the evidence contained in the Disciplinary Report.
- (v) A member of the Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee, who is a member of any Unit or has a role in relation to any Member, Team or Unit, involved in the proceedings, shall stand down from prosecuting or adjudicating the case.
- (w) No Member of the Association may communicate with any member of the Competitions Control Committee or the Hearings Committee with a view to influencing the outcome of the Hearing. Unauthorised communication in breach of this Code shall be treated as Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association. This Code shall not, however, prevent any witness giving relevant evidence at a Hearing.
- (x) Save as provided in Rule 6.6, a Club, Committee or Council shall be represented at any Hearing by a maximum of two of its Full Members.  
An Adult Member shall attend personally and may be accompanied by one Full Member of their Club/Unit.  
A Youth Member may attend personally and be accompanied by one Full Member of their Club/Unit together with their parent(s) or guardian(s); or can be represented by their parent(s) or guardian(s) accompanied by one Full Member of the Youth Member's Club/Unit.
- (y) Where the Defending Party who has requested a Hearing fails to attend it without reasonable explanation, the Proposed Penalty shall be imposed, together with a Fine of €100 in the case of a Club or €300 in the case of a County Committee or Provincial Council.
- (z) The Hearings Committee will decide on all matters of procedure, and may adjourn Hearings and take such steps as are necessary and appropriate to the Hearing.
- (aa) The following Rules of Evidence shall apply:
  - (1) In general, evidence at a Hearing shall be oral, except that:
    - (i) Agreed matters of fact may be stated in writing;
    - (ii) The Hearings Committee shall attach to documentary evidence (including video evidence) such level of reliability as befits it in the circumstances of the Hearing;
    - (iii) Video evidence introduced by any party shall be admissible provided that:
      - (a) a copy has been furnished to all other parties within a reasonable period prior to the Hearing, and
      - (b) the Hearings Committee is satisfied that the video evidence is reliable and unedited;
      - (iv) Age may be proved with a valid Birth Certificate or valid Passport. The obligation to prove age shall be on the person whose age is in dispute, or the person's Club or other representative Unit;
      - (v) Where the Defending Party is in the exclusive or best position to prove or disprove a disputed allegation (e.g. for a Club to prove the identity of one of its members) and does not take the opportunity to give evidence on the matter, the Hearings Committee may draw adverse inference from that failure;
    - (vi) A Referee's Report, including any Clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it;



- (vii) A Referee or other Official shall not be required to give oral evidence or to appear for cross-examination;
  - (viii) After the Hearing, the Hearings Committee may, in its sole discretion, seek Clarification in writing of any matters in the Referee's Report. Any written Clarification or comment by the Referee shall have the same status as the Referee's Report itself, but may only be used for the purposes of exoneration of the Defending Party or mitigation of any allegations made against the Defending Party. Such Clarification may not be challenged in any way or made the subject matter of any further Hearing.
- (2) The Defending Party may call witnesses to give evidence on its behalf, and it is its own responsibility to secure the attendance of such witnesses.
  - (3) No evidence shall be given or submissions made in the absence of any party to the Disciplinary Action unless they fail to attend at the Hearing without reasonable explanation. If evidence is so given through inadvertence, it shall be repeated in the presence of all parties, so that no prejudice is caused to the party previously absent.
  - (4) A Member deliberately giving false evidence or otherwise misleading a Hearing, whether orally or in writing, on any matter of fact, shall be guilty of Misconduct Considered to have Discredited the Association and:
    - (i) If that Member is the Defending Party and the Hearings Committee makes a finding of the Defending Party having misled it on foot of the Hearing itself, the applicable penalty under Rule 7.2(e) shall be imposed by the Hearings Committee without a further Hearing, in addition and consecutive to any other penalty imposed on foot of the Hearing; and
    - (ii) In all other such cases, Disciplinary Action arising from such infraction shall be commenced and prosecuted under Rule 7.2(e) by the Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee, as applicable under Code 16.1(a) (1) and (2).
  - (5) Evidence or information shall not be accepted or considered unless applicable to a period not longer than 96 weeks prior to the date of the Notice of Disciplinary Action.  
Exceptions to this provision shall be:
    - (i) Copy Extracts of Official Records
    - (ii) Proof of Age
    - (iii) Where a matter is considered to be of exceptional seriousness by the Hearings Committee concerned for reasons to be set out in writing by that Hearings Committee.
  - (6) Any 'Proposed Penalty' shall not be disclosed to a Hearings Committee, but if disclosed mistakenly, such disclosure shall not invalidate the Hearing, and it shall be disregarded by the Hearings Committee.

### **Decision**

- (bb) The Hearings Committee has the final power to determine all matters of fact and all sources of evidence submitted to the Hearing shall be considered. An Infraction shall be treated as proved if, in the opinion of the Hearings Committee, the Infraction alleged is more likely to have occurred than not to have occurred. The Hearings Committee may remit a matter for reprocessing to the relevant Committee, with or without recommendations as to procedure.
- (cc) Where the Infraction alleged is proven to the satisfaction of a Hearings Committee, the Hearings Committee shall be entitled to impose such penalties as it deems fit, subject to

Rule or Code, and with due regard, where appropriate, to Rules 7.2(b) and (c) (as these relate to 'Repeat Infraction') and/ or 7.3(b), and without being bound in any respect by the terms of the Proposed Penalty.

- (dd) Subject to the Rules of Evidence above, the Hearings Committee may make a finding that the facts proven disclose an infraction but either:
- (i) One less serious than that alleged in the Notice of Disciplinary Action
  - or
  - (ii) One that differs from that alleged in the Notice of Disciplinary Action but is in the same Category of Infraction.
- and may make a decision accordingly.
- (ee) Where a player or Team Official who is involved in/with either:
- (1) An Inter-County team in a current Championship or National League
  - or
  - (2) A Club Team in a current Provincial or All-Ireland Club Championship is reported, within the player's County, as having committed
    - (i) A Category V Misconduct at Games by Players Infractions or a Category IVa Misconduct at Games by Team Official Infraction and that Player or Team Official, when notified of the commencement of Disciplinary Action against that Player or Team Official, seeks a Hearing, that Hearing shall be conducted by the Provincial Hearings Committee or the Central Hearings Committee, as appropriate, and not the County Hearings Committee or a Divisional/Other Sub-Committee Hearings Committee.
    - (ii) A Category VII Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction or a Category Va Misconduct at Games by Team Officials Infraction and that Player or Team Official when notified of the commencement of Disciplinary Action against that Player or Team Official, seeks a Hearing, that Hearing shall be conducted by the Central Hearings Committee, and not the County Hearings Committee or a Divisional/Other Sub-Committee Hearings Committee.

Save for these procedural changes, such Disciplinary Action cases shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in this Code 16.1.
- (ff) A decision shall be made by a majority of the members of the Hearings Committee presiding over the Hearing. The decision and the Rule(s) or Code(s) under which it was taken shall be recorded and shall be notified to the Competitions Control Committee and the Defending Party. In the event of a Penalty being imposed, the Competitions Control Committee shall record the Penalty.
- In the event of an Infraction not being proven, the Hearings Committee shall provide a reason for its decision.
- (gg) No decision made on foot of any Hearing shall affect the validity of any decision of the Referee with regard to the allowance or disallowance of a score or award of any free or the playing time allowed, or the validity of any Suspension served prior to the Hearing.

[Directive re Non compliance with Disciplinary Rules.docx](#)

## **(16.2) Validity of Team Constitution**

- (a) Without prejudice to the general disciplinary jurisdiction of the Council or Committee-in-Charge or the Rules concerning Objections, the Competitions Control Committee of a Council or Committee-in-Charge may of its own volition at any time, or shall on receipt of a request from a Unit involved in a game, or from a unit not involved in a game but who may have been directly impacted by the result

of the game, not later than three days after the official starting time of the game, investigate in such manner as it deems fit the validity of the constitution of a Team taking part in the Game.

- (b) Where on foot of such investigation, and not an Objection, the constitution of a Team taking part in a Game is found to be invalid, the Competitions Control Committee shall impose such penalty in respect of the result of the Game as applies (including Forfeiture, where appropriate, but without Award of Game to the Opposing Team). The Competitions Control Committee may also commence such Disciplinary Action as is appropriate in the circumstances.

### **(16.3) Disqualification of Teams and Forfeiture of Games**

- (a) Where Forfeiture is imposed, the Team concerned shall be treated as if it had lost the Game concerned, but the Game shall not be Awarded to the Opposing Team, unless provided for in the applicable Rule or Code under which the penalty was imposed.
- (b) Where a Team is Disqualified from a Competition, that Team shall take no further part in that Competition, and if the Disqualification arises from a particular Game, the Team shall be treated as having Forfeited that Game.
- (c) Any Infractions recorded, Disciplinary Action initiated, or Suspensions or other Penalties imposed in respect of any breaches of Rule or Code at or in connection with any Games played by the Disqualified Team, shall stand.
- (d) No Team defeated by a Disqualified Team in a Knock-Out Competition (including Knock-Out stages of a Competition otherwise organised on a League basis) shall be reinstated into the Competition (except where the Disqualification arises out of a proven Objection).
- (e) Where a team has points deducted from it in a League Competition, it shall play all games in that competition but shall have the appropriate number of points deducted at the conclusion of the competition.

### **(16.4) Fines**

- (a) Fines shall be in the amounts set out in Rules, Codes, Bye-Laws and Regulations. Where not specified, the amount of a Fine shall be at the discretion of the Council or Committee-in-Charge but not less than €200.
- (b) Fines shall be imposed only on Units, not on Members.
- (c) In the event of failure to pay a Fine within such period as may be stipulated by the Council or Committee-in-Charge (either at the time of imposition of the Fine or afterwards), the Unit concerned and/or its Officers shall be liable to such sanctions as the Council or Committee-in-Charge shall deem appropriate.

### **(16.5) Debarment**

- (a) In appropriate cases, the Council or Committee-in-Charge may, by way of penalty, debar a member from identified privileges of the Association such as playing Games, attending Games, holding office, handling funds, attending occasions other than Games etc.
- (b) Where the Management Committee or Competitions Control Committee (as the case may be) considers that the interests of the Association or its Members may be compromised during a period after notification of Disciplinary Action under Code 16.1 and any Hearing on foot of that notification, Debarment may be imposed pending the completion of Disciplinary Action, subject to the right to a review by the Hearings Committee. This Rule shall not affect Suspensions that commence, under Rule 7.5(i), prior to a Hearing.

Penalty for Breach of Debarment:

Suspension from all functions and privileges of the Association for the period of Debarment, together with further Suspension for 12 weeks.

**(16.6) Expulsion**

- (a) No Unit other than a County Committee or higher Unit may exercise the jurisdiction to expel a Member or Club.
- (b) Where a Committee not having jurisdiction to expel, having conducted Disciplinary Action in relation thereto, is of the opinion that Expulsion is the appropriate penalty to be imposed, its recommendation to that effect shall be submitted to its parent Unit having such jurisdiction, for ratification.
- (c) Provided there has been no misapplication or infringement of Rule or Code and the parent Unit is satisfied that the sanction of Expulsion is appropriate, it shall ratify the recommendation and impose the Expulsion recommended. If the recommendation is not ratified, an [alternative penalty](#) may be imposed by the parent Committee in substitution for Expulsion or the matter may be remitted to the original Committee for reconsideration.
- (d) Where a Club is expelled from the Association, the Club shall be wound up in accordance with Rule 3.4.
- (e) Where a Club is expelled from the Association, all of its Members shall be expelled in consequence. An individual Member of the expelled Club may apply to the Council or Committee which imposed the penalty of Expulsion to be allowed to acquire Membership of the Association through another Club. The said Committee shall have discretion to grant or refuse such an application, having consulted with the Committee that recommended the Expulsion, where appropriate.







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