

# County Europe- Gaelic Games Europe

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## Bye-Laws & Deviations 2022

(Gaelic Games Europe (Co. Europe) Bye-Laws passed at GGE Convention 2022 in Malaga, Spain on Saturday, the 26th November 2022.)

(Approved by An Coiste Bainistíochta, on behalf of Ard Comhairle, 27 Eanáir 2023)

The County Europe Committee also known as (Gaelic Games Europe) is the officially recognised governing body for the continent of Europe (*excluding the UK & Ireland*) for the Gaelic Games and cultural organisations known as the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA), the Handball Association (GAAHA) & the Camogie Association (CA) whose headquarters are based in Dublin, Ireland. These Bye-laws should be read in conjunction with GAA Official Guide primarily, along with relevant provisions of the official Guides of the LGFA and CA and any “deviations from Rule” agreed by Central Council of the GAA, LGFA and/or CA.

### Section A. - County Convention

1. The Annual Convention of the Europe County Committee shall be held on or before November 30th each year, in a venue to be determined by the County Committee.
2. Delegates may attend and vote at Convention virtually (online) or physically.
3. The County Committee shall act as the Standing Orders Committee for Convention and shall have authority to examine motions submitted and:
  - a. decide whether a motion is in order or not;
  - b. determine that a motion relates to a Rule, Bye-Law or Regulation.
    - c. if the wording of a motion is unclear or does not specify a relevant Rule or Bye-Law, seek clarification from the unit concerned and allow for resubmission within a specified timeframe.
4. The Annual Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee, who shall be officers of the Management Committee and hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention: Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson, Secretary; Treasurer; Coaching Officer, Planning & Training Officer; Public Relations Officer, Central Council Delegate
5. The Annual Convention shall:
  - (a) In addition to those named in bye-law 4 ELECT the following Officers of the County Committee:  
Assistant Treasurer/Registrar, Youth Officer, Camogie Officer, Football Officer, Handball Officer, Hurling Officer, Ladies Football Officer, Irish Language & Cultural Officer, and
  - (b) APPOINT the following Officers of the County Committee:  
Planning & Training Officer, IT Officer, Children’s Officer, Sponsorship Officer, Health & Wellbeing Officer who shall be recommended by the outgoing County Committee who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual Convention.
6. The Annual Convention shall further ELECT one representative on the GAA Central Council, who shall hold office in line with the provision of the Official Guide.

## Section B. - County Committee

1. The County Committee shall consist of:
  - (a) the officers specified in Bye-Laws A. 5
  - (b) the elected representative specified in Bye-Law A. 6
  - (c) one representative from each Region; and
  - (d) the Referee's Administrator.
2. Should a vacancy arise in the officers, or other elected members, of the County Committee the Official Guide shall apply and the ballot referred to shall be conducted by electronic mail, in accordance with deadlines and procedures to be adopted by the Management Committee within 28 days of the vacancy occurring.
3. The penalties for a Club failing to fulfil a Championship Game shall not apply to teams unable to travel to fixtures in Championships organised by the Europe County Committee. A geographically based committee which represents an area which is deemed to be part of a Regional Committee area shall not be entitled to representation.
4. The Treasurer shall not be limited to serving five years in his/her office.

## Section C. - Management Committee

1. The following Officers of the County Committee, shall be members of the Management Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Planning & Training Officer, Public Relations Officer and Central Council delegate.
  2. The Management Committee is authorised to select delegates to attend the Annual Congress, or any Special Congress, of the GAA, LGFA or CA but the delegates shall include the Chairperson and the Secretary, when available.
  3. The Management Committee is authorised to select delegates to attend the National Youth Forum of the GAA or any other relevant meeting of the GAA, LGFA or CA.
  4. The normal manner for the conduct of meetings (and formal votes) of the Management Committee and/or any Sub-Committee thereof, shall be by telephone or video conference in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Management Committee.
  5. The Management Committee shall meet at least six times per annum at venues nominated by the Management Committee and shall cause a record to be kept by way of formal minutes of all matters dealt with.
  6. Failure to participate (as recorded by the Secretary, with reference to log-in data if required) in such a meeting shall be construed as an absence from the said meeting for the purposes of Rule 3.8 (e) of the Official Guide.
  7. The Management Committee shall exercise the powers granted to the County Management Committee under Rule 3.19 of the Official Guide, subject to the overriding power of the County Committee to overturn a decision at its next meeting or Annual Convention.
  8. The Sub-Committees shall be chaired by the relevant County Committee Officer/member, or such other suitable person appointed by the County Committee. Each Sub-Committee will have at least three members not including the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of all Sub-Committees.
  9. All Sub-Committees shall consult with affiliated clubs at least once annually.
- The terms of reference of all Sub-Committees, and job specifications of all Officers thereof, shall, if they vary in any form those specified in the Official Guide (Rule 3.20), be documented and distributed to all members of the said Committee and all clubs, following approval by the County Committee.

## Section D – Competitions Control Committee

1. The County Committee shall appoint a Competitions Control Committee (CCC) – which shall be responsible for all arrangements, for control of, and any matters arising from Games under the jurisdiction of the County Committee, including disciplinary matters other than those functions reserved to the Hearings Committee. It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, including hearing Objections and Counter-Objections.
2. It shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel, together with the County Referees' Administrator, who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees.
3. The Vice-Chairperson of the County Committee shall chair the CCC and the Assistant Secretary of the County Committee shall be the convenor of this Committee.
4. The quorum for meetings shall be three voting members.

5. The CCC shall have Plenary Powers delegated to it by the County Committee. Appeals against decisions of the CCC shall be to the Appeals Committee.
6. The CCC shall decide on which club a member may join based on the principle of playing with the club in closest proximity to their home address, place of work or place of study, at the time of joining the club. In the event of a dispute, all relevant parties including clubs, applicant, Regional Committee (if any) shall be consulted.
7. A member may transfer at any time from one club to another within Europe County Committee's area upon receipt of an official Europe inter-club transfer form. Such application shall be subject to Bye-Law D.6, if the member's current club objects to the transfer.
8. The CCC will draw up Regulations for all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Such Regulations will reflect decisions taken at Annual Convention, or other meetings convened to discuss same, and shall be approved by the County Committee, prior to the commencement of a competition.
9. Regional Committees shall be responsible for other competitions which are limited to clubs within the said committees' jurisdiction, subject to those Regulations being submitted to, and approved by the CCC and County Committee, prior to the commencement of a competition.
10. Regional Committees shall be required to appoint a Competitions Control Committee if they organise their own competition.

## **Section E – Hearings Committee**

1. The County Committee shall appoint a Hearings Committee which shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary matters where a Hearing is requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules (except Objections and Counter-Objections) arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the County Committee.
2. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel. No member of the County Committee or Competitions Control Committee may serve as a member of the Hearings Committee.
3. The powers of the Hearings Committee shall be plenary powers delegated to it by the County Committee. Appeals against decisions of the CCC shall be to the Appeals Committee.

## **Section F – Appeals Committee**

1. The County Committee shall appoint an Appeals Committee which shall hear appeals against decisions of the Hearings Committee.
2. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel. No member of the Management Committee, Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee may serve as a member of the Appeals Committee.
3. The quorum for meetings of the Appeals Committee shall be three members.
4. Its decisions on appeals shall be final and binding subject only to a case being taken to Arbitrations as provided for in the GAA Official Guide (or Official Guides of the LGFA or CA).

## Section H - Deviations

### Rule 1.7 – Use of Irish in Official Documents / Correspondence

English to be the language of meetings and written communications of and with County Committee. Regions may decide on the language of meetings and written communications within the Region subject to approval from County Committee.

### Rule 1.8 (a) – National Flag and Anthem

Flying the Irish flag is not always possible or appropriate in countries outside of Ireland (depends on local laws/protocols etc).

### Rule 1.18 Playing Gear and Equipment- Branding- (f)

Multiple sponsors allowed on club jerseys and may exceed 350 square centimeteres.

### Rule 3.4 – Club Name

Necessity for an Irish name of club does not apply.

### Rule 3.5 – Club Constitution and Rules

Adoption of the “Official Club Constitution” (Appendix 5 of GAA rules) is not required provided a club’s constitution and rules are “in line with the principles of, or modelled on, the Official Club Constitution as contained in Official Guide”.

### Rule 3.9 – Loss of Rights of Club

Clubs who fail to participate in a ‘championship’ in the current year may retain ‘rights’ for two years from each date of acceptance of reasons by County Committee.

### Rules 3.10-3.24 – County Conventions/Committees etc

Deviations from GAA Rules as provided for in Europe Bye-laws (2020) where applicable.

### Rule 3.39- National Youth Forum.

See European Bye-law B.3. (2013)

Rule 6.6 (i) – A Player who transfers from one County to another County and within 96 weeks thereafter transfers back to the former County, shall rejoin the Club of which he was a member prior to the initial transfer.

Players who transfer back to Europe may join a different club to the one they were previously a member of - if returning to a different area/city/country.

#### Rule 6.8 (A) – Playing Restrictions (Club)

Players transferring to Europe may play in a championship even if they have already played in a championship with their previous club.

## Glossary

CA Camogie Association (An Cumann Camogaiochtá)

CCC Competitions Control Committee

Congress Congress of the GAA (primarily) or Congresses of the LGFA or CA

Convention Meeting of the Europe County Committee and all Clubs

EC Europe County Committee

GGE Gaelic Games Europe (GAA, LGFA, CA, GAAHA,)

GAA Gaelic Athletic Association (Cumann Luthcleas Gael)

IT Information Technology

LGFA Ladies Gaelic Football Association (Cumann Peil Gael Na mBan)

MC Europe County Management Committee

Official Guide Official Guide of the GAA

John White

Secretary

Gaelic Games Europe

6th December 2022