

Fo-Dhlithe CLG Laoise 2024

(To be read in conjunction with An Treoraí Oifigiúil)

(Approved by An Coiste Bainistíochta, on behalf of Ard Comhairle, 26 Eanáir 2024)

1. In accordance with Rial 3.9, T.O. 2023, the County Convention shall elect the following:

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Representatives (2) on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council. It shall appoint a Children's Officer and a Planning and Training Officer, Demographics Officer as recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

Exception - In accordance with Rule 3.9 (b) (2), T.O, 2023, the Treasurer & Children's Officer are not subject to the maximum period of office of five years.

2. In accordance with Rial 3.16, T.O. 2023, the County Committee shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Planning and Training Officer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Children's Officer, Demographics Officer, Representatives on Provincial Council, Representative on Central Council, County Referees Administrator, County Safety and Facilities Officer, one named representative each from Primary and Post-Primary Schools' Committees, Handball Representative, Chairpersons of Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee and one named representative of each affiliated club. All members, with the exception of the Secretary, shall have voting rights.

3. In accordance with Rial 3.18, T.O. 2023, the following Sub-Committees, whose powers and functions shall be as detailed in Rial 3.18, T.O. 2023 and as otherwise outlined in these Bye-Laws, shall be appointed by, and be subject to the County Committees. Members of all Sub Committees shall be named:

a) **Management Committee:** It shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary (non-voting), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, County Safety and Facilities Officer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Representatives on Provincial Council, Representative on Central Council and Chairpersons of Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee.

b) **Competitions Control Committee.** It shall consist of the following: County Chairperson, County Secretary (non-voting), County Public Relations Officer, a Fixtures' Analyst and Chairpersons of Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee and three other suitable personnel as nominated by the County Chairperson for appointment by the County Committee, together with the County Referees Administrator, who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees.

- It shall have Plenary Powers conferred on it by the County Committee.

c) **Hearings Committee.** It shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Secretary and five other suitable personnel appointed by the County Committee. No Member of the Management Committee, Competitions Control Committee, Coiste na nÓg or Post Primary Committee may serve as a member of the County Hearings Committee.

d) Coaching and Games Development Committee. It shall consist of County Coaching Officer (who shall be its Chairperson), Games Development Manager (who shall be its Secretary), Games Development Administrators, one named representative each from Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee, Primary Schools and Post-Primary Schools, Handball Committee, Camogie and four other personnel appointed by the County Committee.

e. Safety and Facilities Committee: It shall consist of six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in R. 3.19 (v) T.O. 2023.

f. Cultural Committee. It shall consist of County Officer for Irish Language and Culture (who shall be its Chairperson) and a Secretary who shall be nominated by the County Chairperson and appointed by the County Committee. The rest of the committee shall be comprised of named representatives (one per club) of the clubs which compete in Scor competitions.

g. Public Relations and Marketing Committee. It shall consist of County P.R.O. who shall act as Chairperson and five other suitable personnel nominated by the County Chairperson and appointed by the County Committee.

h. Referees Administration Committee. It shall consist of County Referees Administrator who shall act as Chairperson and five other members as appointed by the County Committee.

i. Youth Committee. (Coiste na nÓg). It shall consist of Chairperson and Secretary plus four other suitable personnel nominated by the County Chairperson and appointed by the County Committee, along with the Games Manager and the Games Development Administrators. It shall make recommendations to CCC for arrangements for all Competitions and/or Championships of underage football and hurling below the Minor grade at Club and School levels.

j. Finance Committee. It shall consist of County Treasurer who shall act as Chairperson and eight other suitable personnel nominated by the County Chairperson and appointed by the County Committee.

k. Information Technology Committee. It shall consist of Chairperson and five other suitable personnel who have I.T. skills nominated by the County Chairperson and appointed by the County Committee.

l. Teams Management and Panels Sub Committee: The membership of the County Teams Management and Panels' Committee shall be as outlined in the Charter for County Committee / Player relationships as approved by Árd Chomhairle from time to time. The functions of this Committee will be as outlined in Rule 3.20(xiii), T.O. 2023.

m. Fixtures Analysts: It shall consist of two Fixtures Analysts nominated by the Management Committee.

n. Health & Wellbeing Committee: It shall consist of Chairperson to be nominated by the County Chairperson, County ASAP Officer, County Children's Officer, County Coaching Officer, County Social Initiative Officer, Coiste na nOg Chairperson and two Club representatives as nominated by the County Chairperson with expertise / professional experience in one of the following areas – health promotion, mental health, alcohol / drug abuse prevention, counselling, physical health and exercise, diet and nutrition.

o. Planning and Training Committee: It shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.

p. Audit and Risk Committee: It shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

q. Demographics Committee: It shall be responsible for monitoring the impact of population changes and advising the County on the formation of policies to deal with those changes. It shall liaise with the relevant committees within the Association and with relevant bodies outside the Association in carrying out its functions. It shall consist of at least five members to include the Demographics Officer, who shall act as Chairperson. All other members shall be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the Terms of Reference of the Committee

4. In accordance with Riall 3.17 (l), T.O. 2023 the County Committee shall appoint the following subcommittees whose functions and powers shall be as detailed in these Bye-Laws:

a) **Hurling Committee.** (Coiste Iomana). It shall consist of Chairperson, Secretary plus four other suitable personnel nominated by the County Chairperson for appointment by the County Committee.

- It shall be responsible in conjunction with the Coaching and Games Development Committee, for the promotion and implementation of Hurling Games Development at Club and Schools level.
- It shall be responsible for servicing the necessary needs, other than financial, and liaising with respective Managements of County Hurling teams from Minor to Senior grades.

b) **Football Committee.** (Coiste Peil). It shall consist of Chairperson, Secretary plus four other suitable personnel nominated by the County Chairperson for appointment by the County Committee.

- It shall be responsible in conjunction with the Coaching and Games Development Committee, for the promotion and implementation of Football Games Development at Club and Schools level.
- It shall be responsible for servicing the necessary needs, other than financial, and liaising with respective Managements of County Football teams from Minor to Senior grades.

c) **Post-Primary Schools' Committee:** It shall consist of Chairperson as nominated by the County Chairperson for appointment by the County Committee, one representative each from the Management Committee, County Coaching & Games Development Committee, Youth Committee and a named representative from each affiliated Post-Primary School.

- Its membership shall constitute its C. C. C.
- It shall be responsible in conjunction with the Coaching and Games Development Committee, for the promotion and implementation of Football Games Development and Hurling Games Development at Post--- Primary Schools level.
- Appeals against decisions of this Committee and requests for a Hearing shall be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

5. Attachment to First Club

In accordance with Riail 6.3 (c), T.O. 2023, a person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be restricted to joining a Club in the Catchment Area of their Permanent Residence or where they have Other Relevant Connection as below. (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Riail 6.2, TO 2023).

Other Relevant Connection to assist Clubs when deciding an applicant's eligibility to join Club to be used in conjunction with an Treoraí Oifigiúil:

- a) Parentage Rule – A player may apply to join a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a Player in Adult Competition or a Club Officer or Member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that Club.
- b) Primary School – A player may apply to join a Club in the catchment area where they are presently attending or have attended Primary School. The Primary School rule will only be taken into consideration where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year.

6. Transfers

A. A player shall be restricted to playing for a Club in the Catchment Area of their permanent residence as per Riail 6.4 (a) & (b), TO 2023 (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Riail 6.2, TO 2023).

B. There shall be two distinct Club “designations” – Urban and Rural. This will allow the CCC to distinguish between Transfers as follows: (i) Urban to Rural Clubs, (ii) Rural to Rural Clubs and (iii) Rural to Urban Clubs.

C. Portlaoise GAA Club will be designated an “Urban” Club and all other Clubs in Laois will be designated “Rural”.

D. Requests for transfer shall not be considered unless submitted to the County Secretary before January 31st in any year. Exception: In the case of an Urban to Rural Transfer, an application may be granted provided the player has not participated in Club Competition in the year in which the Transfer is sought.

E. The C.C.C. shall process and make initial decisions on all applications for Transfer within the county, in a timely manner with consideration to the commencement of competitions (Riail 6.4, T.O. 2023). Such decisions shall reflect the ethos of the Association as outlined in Riail 6.1, T.O. 2023 and give due consideration to the negative effect, if any, it may have on the player's First Club and/or Own Club.

F. In exceptional circumstances the CCC may, after due consideration, approve the transfer application.

Other Relevant Connection to be used in conjunction with an Treoraí Oifigiúil to assist CCC in their deliberations:

(i). Urban to Rural Transfer

A player from a designated Urban Club may, at any time, transfer to, any Rural Club without the necessity of meeting any of the criteria and / or exceptions usually associated with such Transfers, provided the player has not participated in Club Competition in the year in which the Transfer.

(ii). Rural to Rural Transfer

a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area of the Club to which they wish to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of their/ their family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in their name for the property), as outlined in Riail 6.2 T.O. 2023, that it has been their principal private residence for at least the previous twelve weeks and is likely to be for at least the ensuing year.

b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a Player in Adult Competition or a Club Officer or Member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered.

c) Primary School – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area where they are presently attending or have attended Primary School. The Primary School rule will only be taken into consideration where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year.

(iii). Rural to Urban Transfer

a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area of the Club to which they wish to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of their/their family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in their name for the property), as outlined in Riail 6.2 T. O. 2023, that it has been their principal private residence for at least the previous twelve weeks and is likely to be for at least the ensuing year.

b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a player in adult competition, or in exceptional circumstances, a Club Officer or Member who, over a reasonable period of time, has made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered.

7. Playing Restrictions (Club)

A Club that may be experiencing demographic decline in either or both codes that is threatening the sustainability and vibrancy of the said unit, may apply to Laois CCC to be a “Designated Club” for the purpose of this Byelaw, before 31 January in any year.

(a). Subject to Riail 6.7, (c), T.O. 2023, the CCC shall process and make decisions on applications received on or before 14th. February in any year for permission for an Adult player from an exclusively Football Club to play Hurling with a Dual Club or a player from an exclusively Hurling Club to play Football with a Dual Club.

Where players have received permission heretofore to play with another club in the aforementioned circumstances, these existing relationships between players and clubs shall be permitted to continue unless the CCC considers it to be contrary to the promotion of hurling or football within the county or his First Club decides to field a team in that particular code.

A player from an exclusive Football Club may play Hurling with an exclusive Hurling Club, and vice versa, within their catchment area, or may make application as below.

Applications will be decided by CCC based on the following criteria:

- If from an exclusive Football or Hurling Rural Club (as determined in Byelaw 6) with no particular code in that Club, the player shall be accommodated in that code by another Rural Club within his catchment area;
- If there is no Rural Club with that particular Code within his catchment area, the player shall be accommodated in that code by a “Designated Club” or in a bordering catchment area or in nearest proximity to the players First Club;

(b). Subject to Riail 6.7, (d), Exception (1), T.O. 2023, the CCC shall process and make decisions on applications received on or before 14th. February, in any year for permission for a Club’s Underage (up to including U20 / U21) players who may be without an Underage Team in a particular Grade or Code or who may be from an exclusive Football Club to wishing to play Hurling with a Dual Club or a player from an exclusive Hurling Club wishing to play Football with a Dual Club.

All applications must be made by a Club on behalf of its players, to play with the same club or independent team. Any exception, for individual players to go to different clubs, shall be decided by the CCC. Application shall be decided in accordance with the Central Council Code, Guideline and directive policy for the regulation of Independent Team and as outlined in Riail 6.7, (c), Exception (1) (a) & (b), T.O. 2023.

Applications will be decided based on the following criteria:

- If from an exclusive Football or Hurling Rural Club (as determined in Byelaw 6) with no particular code in that Club, the player shall be accommodated in that code by another Rural Club within his catchment area;
- If there is no Rural Club with that particular Code within his catchment area, the player shall be accommodated in that code by a “Designated Club” or in a bordering catchment area or in nearest proximity to the players First Club;

8. Grading

All Clubs, competing in more than one grade in each code, shall name and list a minimum of 15 players for each grade of League excluding the Club’s lowest grade before 28 February each year and list a minimum of an additional 2 players for each grade of Championship before 14 May each year. The names for each grade of league and championship must correspond in most instances to their previous year’s championship status, except where a team is relegated or promoted or where a Club use in excess of 17 players in a championship grade. Only in exceptional circumstances, which must be submitted in detail, may a Club’s Championship panel vary from that approved by County Committee for League. All players subject to the aforementioned exceptions and wishing to play at a lower grade, must be named at that grade, in order for them to be officially regraded to play at that that lower grade. Each Clubs list is subject to examination by the CCC, who may at their discretion make additions or amendments to the names listed. Grading is subject Codes 10.1 to 10.8, T.O. 2023.