

Regulations for the Administration for Youth Football and Hurling 2014

The Competitions Control Committee shall in compliance with the Official Guide, County Bye-Laws and Annual County Regulations be given power herewith to;

Player Eligibility

1. In relation to under-twelve, under-fourteen and under-sixteen competitions the Parish Rule will apply in all cases except that the *Competitions Control Committee* gives permission to include players from outside the parish.

Permission may only be granted where the following criteria are met:

- (i) That there is agreement between the two clubs involved.
- (ii) That the player in question is a child of a former or current adult player of the club for which the player wishes to play.
- (iii) That the player in question is a child of a former or current designated officer (of 2 years standing) of the club for which the player wishes to play.
- (iv) That another member of the players' immediate family is already playing legally with the club for which the player wishes to play.
- (v) The onus is on the club seeking the player to provide evidence that above criteria has been met.
- (vi) A maximum of five players per club shall be granted in any one-competition year.

Penalty: A team found guilty of breach of this regulation shall be suspended for the remainder of the competition.

2. Applications by clubs for permission to play juvenile players from outside the parish must be made in writing to the County Secretary. The latest date for application by clubs for permission to play juvenile players from outside the parish shall be 8th January 2014 and the last day for determining such requests shall be the next meeting of the *Competitions Control Committee* who will consider such applications and decide on acceptance or otherwise.

Note: An *Coiste Bainisti* shall hear a request from any Club for a review arising from a decision of Competitions Control Committee in relation to this regulation.

3. A club registering a player for the first time, where more than one club affiliates from the same parish shall require written consent signed by a parent/s or guardian/s. This consent form to be retained by the registering club. The minimum age for first time registration shall be nine years of age.
4. Players wishing to transfer to another club in the same parish must obtain an official transfer from the *Competitions Control Committee*.
5. All juvenile players must be registered on the GAA management information system, at least 3 days prior to a fixture, to be eligible to play games under the control of *Competitions Control Committee*

Fixtures

6. Under-sixteen football and hurling fixtures shall not be made for the twelve days prior to the commencement of the *Department of Education and Science* examinations or during the period of the examinations.
 - a) No fixtures will be played by Under 16s during this period, regardless of any agreements between clubs.
7. Juvenile competitions will have no closed holiday period.
8. All juvenile fixtures shall be played as per dates and times shown on the Official Fixture list.
9. No postponement of any fixture under the auspices of the *Competitions Control Committee* shall be allowed except in the following circumstances;
 - a) Subject to the prior approval of the *Competitions Control Committee*, the two competing teams may make an alternative arrangement at least six (6) days before the fixture is scheduled, the fixture then must be played within seven (7) days either side of the original date on the official fixtures list.
 - b) Clubs are restricted to a maximum of seven (7) alterations in any one-year over all age grades of hurling and football. For amalgamated clubs a fixture change will count as 1 change for all clubs involved in the amalgamation.
 - c) For clubs entering "B" teams, the maximum number of changes is still seven (7) changes.
 - d) Changes to accommodate Communion, Confirmation, and Community games will be taken from the allocation of seven (7) permitted fixture changes.
10. All requests for a change to a juvenile fixture must be communicated to the Youth Fixtures Secretary;
 - a) A change to a juvenile fixture will only be accepted from a club's Youth Officer, or in their absence the Club Secretary. No requests for changes will be accepted from any other party.
 - b) A change to a juvenile fixture will only be confirmed when both clubs involved in the fixture send written (emailed) confirmation agreeing to the change, at least six (6) days before the fixture is scheduled.
 - c) No changes will be accepted by phone call or SMS.
11. Clubs shall give two clear days' notice of cancellation or non-fulfilment of any underage fixture to the Youth Fixtures Secretary of the *Competitions Control Committee*.
Penalty: Loss of match and fine of €25.
12. The *Competitions Control Committee* shall decide upon the status and placing of each team in all underage League and Championship competitions.
Note: An *Coiste Bainisti* shall hear any request from any Club for a review arising from a decision of the *Competitions Control Committee* in relation to this regulation.

13. First team drawn in championship has home advantage up to and including the semi-final stages.
14. The semi-finals and finals of all league competitions and all championship matches must be played on enclosed pitches.
15. In the event of a draw extra time shall be played in all juvenile league semi-finals as well as Under 14 and Under 16 Football and Hurling Championships up to and including semi-finals.
 - a) Under 12s: 2 periods of 7 minutes duration.
 - b) Under 14s: 2 periods of 7 minutes duration.
 - c) Under 16s: 2 periods of 10 minutes duration.
16. In juvenile league competitions, position determines home advantage for semi-finals.
17. In the event of two teams or more finishing on equal points positions that effect qualification for semi-finals will be determined by a play off. Score difference is not calculated in any situation.
18. All Clubs entering a second or third team in the same age group must be aware that these teams will have fixtures fixed for the same date and time, at different venues. *See the Player Grading section for more regulations regarding second or third teams.*
19. All Youth Championship draws will take place at the February CCC meeting.
20. A fixture may, if the need arises, be called off ONCE only due to an unplayable pitch. In the event of the fixture being refixed and the club pitch still declared unplayable the fixture will be reversed (Team originally fixed to play at home will play away) if the home team does not nominate an alternate venue at least 5 hours prior to the starting time for the fixture.
21. In all Leagues where there are 6 teams and a shield competition: In each case, the top team in the league will qualify for the final of the Cup. 2nd and 3rd placed teams will play in the Cup semi-final. The team finishing 4th will qualify for the final of the Shield and the 5th and 6th placed teams will play in the Shield semi-final.
22. In all Leagues where there are 5 teams and a shield competition: In each case, the top team in the league will qualify for the final of the Cup. 2nd and 3rd placed teams will play in the Cup semi-final. The teams finishing 4th and 5th will play in the Shield final.
23. All Juvenile trophies to be returned to a representative of the Trophies Committee at the April meeting of the County Committee.
Penalty: a fine of €100 to be imposed for breach of this regulation.

24. The Respect Initiative will apply in all juvenile competitions. Players and coaches line up behind their manager before and after the game to shake hands with the referee, opposing players and coaches.

25. Juvenile matches must be played on enclosed pitches when available. When juvenile matches are played on a pitch which is not enclosed, clubs must designate and steward a viewing area for all spectators. This should not border the dugouts or substitute areas.

Penalty: a fine of €50 to be imposed for breach of this regulation.

26. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that best practices are observed to ensure the safety of all players, the referee and his/her officials.

27. At all juvenile matches, one member of each management team will wear an identifiable Respect bib. This person is the primary point of contact in relation to any disciplinary issues along the sideline.

Penalty: a fine of €25 to be imposed for breach of this regulation.

28. Clubs given a dispensation in a division can field at a lower number for certain league matches only, to a minimum of:

- Under 16 Football Division 1 – 13 a side
- Under 16 Football Division 2 – 11 a side
- Under 16 Football Division 3 – 11 a side
- Under 16 Football Division 4 – 9 a side
- Under 14 Football Division 1 – 13 a side
- Under 14 Football Division 2 – 11 a side
- Under 14 Football Division 3 – 9 a side
- Under 14 Football Division 4 – 9 a side
- Under 14 Football Division 5 – 9 a side
- Under 12 Football Zone G – 9 a side
- Under 14 Hurling – 11 a side
- Under 12 Hurling – 9 a side

a) Championship matches, League semi-finals and League finals must be played at the standard numbers for the division, as set out in the league structures.

b) There should be no subs for the club given the dispensation, if the numbers are being reduced to facilitate the match proceeding.

c) Both teams should field an equal amount of players when starting the match.

d) Referees will advise the playing numbers to both clubs.

e) The pitch size does not change from the standard size for the division, if the playing numbers are reduced under this rule.

f) Any club given a dispensation and seen to be breaking this regulation will lose their dispensation status and will have to field in the remainder of their fixtures at the standard numbers for the division, as set out in the league structures.

Playing Rules

29. Under 12 Football Competitions:

- a) Eight substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game. Black Card substitutions count against this allocation.
- b) Playing pitch must not be less than 100m long and should be within the following range:

Under 12 Football	Pitch length	Pitch width
11 a side	20m line to 20m line	Min 50m – Max 55m
9 a side	20m line to 20m line	Min 40m – Max 45m

- c) The maximum width for goal posts will be 4.50m wide and maximum height of crossbar 2.1m high
- d) 13metre frees... from a line 13metre from juvenile goal posts.
- e) 45metre frees... from the 45metre line on the adult pitch.
- f) Kick outs and 45metre frees can be taken from the hand.
- g) Goal nets to be provided. ***Penalty*** for breach €25.
- h) Size 3 football to be used.
- i) Matches shall be of three periods of 20 minutes duration.
 - i. One period will be deemed to be non-competitive. This will be the middle period unless this is agreed by both clubs before the start of the games and the referee is informed. This agreement must be communicated to the referee by representatives of both clubs before the start of the match.
 - ii. Clubs must play in opposite directions for each of the two competitive periods.
 - iii. The final score of the game is calculated at the end of the second competitive period and all substitutes are to be used in the non-competitive period.
- j) In Under 12 games in the Spring League, all scores shall count as one point.
- k) A player in possession of the ball is allowed one solo & one hop or two solo's and then must release the ball. If a player deliberately drops the ball to the ground or loses control of the ball once they have taken two touches, another player must touch the ball before the original player can touch the ball again.
- l) Player fouled must take the free awarded. In the event of the player fouled being injured and unfit to continue, the substitute who replaces him takes the free.
- m) All girls involved in under 12 matches must play by the same rules as the under 12 boys.

30. Under 14 Football Competitions:

- a) Eight substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game. Black Card substitutions count against this allocation.
- b) Playing pitch must not be less than 100m long and should be within the following range:

Under 14 Football	Pitch length	Pitch width
15 a side (Div. 1 C'Ship)	Full adult pitch	Full adult pitch
13 a side	13m line to 13m line	Full adult width
11 a side	13m line to 13m line	Min 55m – Max 60m
9 a side	13m line to 13m line	Min 50m – Max 55m

- c) Goal posts shall be:
 - i. Under 14 division 1 championship: Full adult size.
 - ii. All other Under 14 competitions: maximum width for goal posts will be 4.50m wide and maximum height of crossbar 2.1m high
- d) 13metre frees... from a line 13metre from juvenile goal posts.
- e) 45metre frees... from the 45metre line on the adult pitch.
- f) Kick outs and 45metre frees can be taken from the hand.
- g) Goal nets to be provided. ***Penalty*** for breach €25.
- h) Size 4 football to be used.
- i) Under 14 Football, excluding Feile Competition:
 - i. Games shall be of four quarters of 15 minutes duration.
 - ii. A player in possession of the ball is allowed one solo & one hop or two solo's and then must release the ball. If a player deliberately drops the ball to the ground or loses control of the ball once they have taken two touches, another player must touch the ball before the original player can touch the ball again.
 - iii. Player fouled must take the free awarded. In the event of the player fouled being injured and unfit to continue, the substitute who replaces him takes the free.
- j) Under 14 Football Feile Championship (Division 1):
 - i. Must be played under Feile rules with the winners gaining entry to the Feile competition.

31. Under 16 Football Competitions:

- a) Six substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game. Black Card substitutions count against this allocation.
- b) Playing pitch should be within the following range:

Under 16 Football	Pitch length	Pitch width
15 a side	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
13 a side	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
11 a side	Full adult pitch	Min 55m – Max 60m

- c) Goal posts shall be full adult size.
- d) Goal nets to be provided. ***Penalty*** for breach €25.
- e) Size 5 football to be used.
- f) Games shall be of two halves of 30 minutes duration.
- g) A player in possession of the ball is allowed one solo & one hop or two solo's and then must release the ball. If a player deliberately drops the ball to the ground or loses control of the ball once they have taken two touches, another player must touch the ball before the original player can touch the ball again.

32. Under 12 Hurling Competitions:

- a) Eight substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game.
- b) Playing pitch must not be less than 100m long and should be within the following range:

Under 12 Hurling	Pitch length	Pitch width
11 a side	13m line to 13m line	Full adult width

- a) The maximum width for goal posts will be 4.50m wide and maximum height of crossbar 2.1m high
- b) Goal nets to be provided. ***Penalty*** for breach €25.
- c) Matches shall be of three periods of 20 minutes duration.
 - i. One period will be deemed to be non-competitive. This will be the middle period unless this is agreed by both clubs before the start of the games and the referee is informed. This agreement must be communicated to the referee by representatives of both clubs before the start of the match.
 - ii. Clubs must play in opposite directions for each of the two competitive periods.
 - iii. The final score of the game is calculated at the end of the second competitive period and all substitutes are used in the non-competitive period.
- d) Player fouled must take the free awarded. In the event of the player fouled being injured and unfit to continue, the substitute who replaces him takes the free
- e) Goals and points to have the same value, 1 point.

33. Under 14 Hurling Competitions:

- a) Eight substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game.
- b) Playing pitch must not be less than 100m long and should be within the following range:

Under 14 Hurling	Pitch length	Pitch width
15 a side (Championship)	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
13 a side (League Only)	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
11 a side (League Only)	13m line to 13m line	Full adult width

- c) Goal posts shall be full adult size.
- d) Goal nets to be provided. ***Penalty*** for breach €25.
- e) Under 14 Hurling League:
- i. Games shall be of four quarters of 15 minutes duration. Teams shall play in the opposite direction at the start of each quarter.
 - ii. Player fouled must take the free awarded. In the event of the player fouled being injured and unfit to continue, the substitute who replaces him takes the free.
 - iii. Under 14 hurling teams are allowed to play a League fixture with a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 13 players per team.
 - Teams should strive to field at 13 a side.
 - Fielding 12 or less players for the sake of gaining a competitive advantage would not be in keeping with the spirit of the league.
 - Both teams must field an equal amount of players, and the team with the lesser number of players must be accommodated for the fixture to proceed.
- f) Under 14 Feile Hurling Championship:
- i. Must be played under Feile rules with the winners gaining entry to the Feile competition.

34. Under 16 Hurling Competitions:

- a) Five substitutions allowed, substitutions can be made at any time in the game.
- b) Playing pitch should be within the following range:

Under 16 Hurling	Pitch length	Pitch width
15 a side (Championship)	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
13 a side (League)	Full adult pitch	Full adult width
11 a side (League)	Full adult pitch	Full adult width

- c) Goal posts shall be full adult size.
- d) Goal nets to be provided. **Penalty** for breach €25.
- e) Full adult hurling rules applying, with the exception that in the League competition games are played 13 a side.
- f) Under 16 hurling teams are allowed to play a League fixture with a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 13 players per team.
 - i. Teams should strive to field at 13 a side.
 - ii. Fielding 12 or less players for the sake of gaining a competitive advantage would not be in keeping with the spirit of the league.
 - iii. Both teams must field an equal amount of players, and the team with the lesser number of players must be accommodated for the fixture to proceed.
- g) Under 16 hurling teams are allowed to play a Championship fixture with a minimum of 13 players and a maximum of 15 players per team.
 - i. Teams should strive to field at 15 a side.
 - ii. Fielding 14 or less players for the sake of gaining a competitive advantage would not be in keeping with the spirit of the league.
 - iii. Both teams must field an equal amount of players, and the team with the lesser number of players must be accommodated for the fixture to proceed.

Player Grading

35. Where clubs are entering a second or third team in the same age group, the following rule applies:

- a) The appropriate numbers of players, as determined in the table below, must be submitted to the County Youth Officer seven days prior to commencement of competition.

Division Size	No. of Players Graded
15 a side	First seventeen players
13 a side	First fifteen players
11 a side	First thirteen players
9 a side	First eleven players

36. U 12 Player Grading can be reviewed by clubs at a certain point during the year, i.e. after spring league finals.

37. U 14 Division 1 Football and Hurling teams will grade 17 players for championship (15 a side) with top 15 graded players eligible for league (13 a side).

38. Graded players are ineligible to play on second or third teams.

Penalty: Loss of match.

Other Matters

39. The gate receipts collected from Finals of Juvenile competitions shall go towards the promotion of coaching.

40. The Competitions Control Committee deal with day-to-day matters that may be delegated from time to time by *An Coiste Bainisti* on behalf of *An Coiste Chontae*