



**COMHAIRLE ARDOIDEACHAIS (CA)**

**CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL**

**CONSTITUTION**

**2024/25 Academic Year**

**GENERAL**

**(1) Name:**

The name of the Council shall be Comhairle Ardoideachais (CA), Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

**Interpretations**

Singular and Plural – A word importing the singular shall be read as also importing the plural, and a word importing the plural shall be read as also importing the singular.

Gender – A word importing the masculine gender shall, where the context admits or requires, be read as also importing the feminine gender.

“Academic year” is defined as the period from 1st September each year to 31st August of the following year.

**(2) Aims:**

The aims of the Council shall be:

- (i) To further the aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education through the development, administration and promotion of Gaelic games and pastimes;
- (ii) To support the advancement of the Irish language and culture, and, through its Councils, Committees and Clubs, to promote an increasing role for the Irish language as a medium of communication.

- (iii) To encourage students to experience and develop skills of leadership and administration with a view to their future contribution to the work of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

**(3) Jurisdiction:**

- (a) Subject to the jurisdiction of the General Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and the overall control of Ard Chomhairle, CA shall have responsibility for the organisation and control of all Higher Education Gaelic games in Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education.
- (b) Councils, Committees, Clubs and Members of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall be subject to the Constitution and Regulations of Comhairle Ardoideachais.
- (c) Councils, Committees, Clubs and Members of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall be bound to resolve any and all disputes that arise within the framework of existing procedures, the appeals system and the Disputes Resolution provisions as set out in the Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

**ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**(4) Date:**

An Annual National Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall be held before 31 October of each calendar year.

**(5) Composition:**

- (a) The Annual Convention shall consist of:
  - i. The Officers and Members of the outgoing Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.
  - ii. One Delegate from each CA Club in Ireland which participated in a CA Championship of the previous academic year.  
A CA Club which participated in a CA Hurling and a CA Football Championship of the previous academic year shall be entitled to have two Delegates.

- (i) One Delegate from each of the four designated regions of Britain viz. Scotland, Wales, Northern England and Southern England.

(b)

- (i) Should any member of an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin resign, or his position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall, at their discretion, have the power to fill the vacancy, by, in the event of the vacancy occurring from the elected nominees of a CA Provincial Council to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin inviting that Provincial Council to nominate a replacement or in the case of a vacancy arising amongst the other members by co-opting a replacement from the body of the Full Membership.
- (ii) The service of any Member so co-opted on to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall not be reckoned in calculating the seniority of such Member, if subsequently elected to serve on An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.

**(6) Functions:**

The functions of the Annual Convention shall be.

- (a) To hear the address of An Cathaoirleach and consider the Report of An Rúnaí
- (b) To consider the Report of An Cisteoir and Audited Accounts.
- (c) To elect by secret ballot and on the basis of proportional representation, the following five Officers who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention – Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Cisteoir and Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí – and Teachta don Ard Chomhairle, who shall all hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Congress.
- (d) To formally declare elected the nominees (5) of the CA Provincial Councils to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.
- (e) To consider Motions and to enact, amend or rescind Rules of this Constitution.

- (f) To forward motions to Annual Congress on matters affecting the Association at Higher Education level.
- (g) To approve outline fixtures and competition structures for the coming academic year.

Notes:

- (i) The maximum period of office for any specific officership or other position on An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall be five years.
- (ii) A member of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall not hold more than one of the positions listed at Rule (6) (c) simultaneously.
- (iii) Decisions of the Annual Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall be binding on all Councils, Committees, Clubs and Members of Comhairle Ardoideachais.

**(7) Agenda and Notice:**

Subject to Rule (24), An Rúnaí of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall send the following to the Secretary of each CA Club and to the members of the outgoing Coiste Feidhmiúcháin at least one week before the Annual Convention.

The Agenda, Reports, Financial Statement including Audited Accounts, Nominations and Motions.

**(8) Nominations:**

A candidate for any of the positions outlined at Rule (6) (c) above, shall be nominated by a CA Club.

Nominations shall be submitted on the Nomination Paper which shall be sent to An Rúnaí of each CA Club at least four weeks prior to the Annual Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais and which shall be completed and returned to An Rúnaí of Comhairle Ardoideachais at least two weeks prior to the Annual Convention.

The Nomination Paper shall be signed by An Rúnaí of the CA Club or, if absent, by An Cathaoirleach.

**(9) Motions:**

- (a) Motions for the Annual Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais shall be submitted as follows:
- (i) Motions from CA Clubs.
  - (ii) A maximum of one motion from a CA Provincial Council carried at a CA Provincial Convention;
  - (iii) An Coiste Feidhmiúchán shall be entitled to submit motions on.
    1. Any relevant rule-changes arising out of Motion(s) passed at Annual Congress.
    2. Any relevant matter relating to rule arising from a decision of the Disputes Resolutions Authority Tribunal, Central Appeals Committee or Central Hearings Committee in the previous academic year.
    3. A maximum of three Motions other than those in the categories listed above.
- (b) Motions shall be submitted on the Motion Paper which shall be sent to An Rúnaí of each CA Club and each CA Provincial Council at least four weeks prior to the Annual Convention and which shall be completed and returned to An Rúnaí at least two full weeks prior to the Annual Convention.
- The Motion Paper shall be signed by An Rúnaí of the CA Club or CA Provincial Council, as appropriate, or, if absent, by An Cathaoirleach.
- (c) Motions to enact new or amend existing Rules shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment and also quote the number(s) of the Rule(s) affected thereby.
- (d) Motions to remove or amend an existing Rule shall be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

- (e) Comhairle Ardoideachais Rules as contained in this Constitution shall not be contrary to a Rule of An Treoraí Oifigiúil and shall become operative when sanctioned by An Coiste Bainistí on behalf of Ard Chomhairle.
- (f) Motions may be forwarded from the CA Annual Convention to Annual Congress on matters affecting the Association at Higher Education level. Such motions shall be carried by a simple majority of those entitled to vote and voting.

## **AN COISTE FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN (CA)**

### **(10) Composition:**

- (a) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall consist of at least twelve (12) members and not more than thirteen (13) members:
  - (i) Five Officers elected at the Annual National Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais – Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cisteoir, Rúnaí and Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí – and Teachta don Ard Chomhairle.
  - (ii) One nominee of each of the five CA Provincial Councils formally declared elected at the Annual National Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais.
  - (iii) One member appointed by An Coiste Bainistí.
- (b) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall have the power to co-opt not more than one additional member. This member shall be co-opted for a maximum term of one year.
- (c) All members of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall have voting rights.
- (d) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin meetings shall be attended by the duly appointed Comhairle Ardoideachais Administrator, who shall not have voting rights.
- (e) The member nominated to represent the CA Provincial Council of Britain may be represented by a proxy who shall be a member of that CA Provincial Council. No other member of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin may be represented by a proxy.

**(11) Powers and Functions:**

Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Comhairle Ardoideachais, the powers and functions of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall be:

- (a) To implement the policies of Comhairle Ardoideachais and to manage the affairs of Comhairle Ardoideachais.
- (b) To adjudicate on applications for affiliation from Higher Education Colleges / Institutes.
- (c) To adjudicate on all issues of eligibility for Higher Education teams, subject to Riall 6.8 T.O. 2019.
- (d) To act as Coiste Stiúrtha na gComórtas CA (CA Competitions Control Committee), and as such to carry out the following powers and functions.
  - (i) To be responsible for the organisation, administration and control of the national Higher Education Championships and Leagues in Hurling and Football in Senior, Intermediate, Junior and First-Year ('Fresher') Grades, including the selection of venues and appointment of referees.
  - (ii) To draw up Regulations governing the organisation of competitions under its control and the control of CA Provincial Councils – including composition, timing, and promotion and relegation – prior to the start of CA competitions.
  - (iii) To be responsible for the investigation and processing of matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, in the case of Competitions or Games under the jurisdiction of Comhairle Ardoideachais and CA Provincial Councils, including matters arising from Referees' Reports and objections.

Exception – the CA Provincial Council of Britain may investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, in the case of its own domestic Competitions

or Games, where permitted by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin; who will be subject to the overall control of the Provincial Council of Britain in respect of such enforcement

- (iv) To devolve responsibility for the organisation, administration and control of specified competitions to CA Provincial Councils.
- (v) To make recommendations to the CA for the re-grading of teams and players.
- (e) To appoint any sub-committee as required, and to define the terms of reference of such committees.
- (f) To be responsible for the management of all funds received by Comhairle Ardoideachais and for submitting audited accounts to the Annual Convention of Comhairle Ardoideachais for approval.
- (g) To hear appeals against decisions of CA Provincial Councils.
- (h) To convene a Special General Meeting of Comhairle Ardoideachais at any time provided ten days' clear notice in writing is given to the CA Clubs and members of Comhairle Ardoideachais.

## **CA PROVINCIAL ANNUAL CONVENTION**

### **(12) Date:**

The Annual Convention of each CA Provincial Council shall be held before the CA National Annual Convention and in any event not later than 30 September of each calendar year.

### **(13) Composition:**

The Annual Convention shall consist of:

- (i) The Officers and Members of the outgoing CA Provincial Council.
- (ii) One Delegate from each CA Club in the Province which participated in a CA Championship of the previous academic year.



A CA Club which participated in a CA Hurling and a CA Football Championship of the previous academic year shall be entitled to have two Delegates.

**(14) Functions:**

The functions of the Annual Convention shall be:

- (a) To hear the address of An Cathaoirleach and consider the report of An Rúnaí.
- (b) To consider the Report of An Cisteoir and Audited Accounts.
- (c) To elect by secret ballot, and on the basis of proportional representation Officers (including Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí and Cisteoir), a Representative to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, a Representative to the Provincial Council C.L.G. and other Members, if desired, who shall all hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Provincial Convention.
- (d) To consider motions for submission to the National Annual Convention.

Note: The maximum period of office for any specific officership or other position on a CA Provincial Council shall be five years.

**(15) Agenda and Notice:**

An Rúnaí of the CA Provincial Council shall send the following to An Rúnaí of each CA Club in its respective province and to the members of the outgoing CA Provincial Council at least one week before the Annual Convention.

The Agenda, Reports, Financial Statement including Audited Accounts, Nominations and Motions.

**(16) Nominations:**

A candidate for any of the positions outlined at Rule (14) (c) above shall be nominated by a CA Club.

Nominations shall be submitted on the Nomination Paper which shall be sent to An Rúnaí of each CA Club at least four weeks prior to the Annual Convention and which shall be completed and returned to An Rúnaí of the CA Provincial Council at least two weeks prior to the Annual Convention.

The Nomination Paper shall be signed by An Rúnaí of the CA Club or, if absent, by An Cathaoirleach.

**(17) Motions:**

(a) Motions for the Annual Convention may be submitted by CA Clubs and a maximum of three motions may be submitted by the respective CA Provincial Council.

(b) Motions shall be submitted on the Motion Paper which shall be sent to An Rúnaí of each CA Club at least four weeks prior to the Annual Convention and which shall be completed and returned to An Rúnaí of the CA Provincial Council at least two weeks prior to the Annual Convention.

The Motion Paper shall be signed by An Rúnaí of the CA Club or, if absent, by An Cathaoirleach.

(c) Motions to enact new or to amend existing Rules shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment and also quote the number(s) of the Rule(s) affected thereby.

- (d) Motions to remove or amend an existing Rule shall be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- (e) A CA Provincial Rule shall neither be contrary to a Rule of An Treoraí Oifigiúil nor to the National CA Constitution and shall become operative when sanctioned by An Coiste Bainistí on behalf of Ard Chomhairle.

## **CA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

### **(18) Composition:**

The CA Provincial Council shall consist of An Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Cisteoir, a Representative to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, a Representative to the Provincial Council C.L.G. and four (4) representatives from CA Clubs within the Province. All members shall be elected at the CA Annual Provincial Convention and shall have voting rights.

### **(19) Powers and Functions:**

Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Comhairle Ardoideachais, the powers and functions of a CA Provincial Council, within its province, shall be:

- (a) To implement the aims and manage the affairs of Comhairle Ardoideachais as relevant to its Province.
- (b) To be responsible for the organisation, administration and control of CA Competitions devolved or approved by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin; the CA Provincial Council of Britain may investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules, arising from its own domestic competitions.
- (c) To be responsible for managing funds received by the CA Provincial Council and for submitting Audited Accounts to its CA Provincial Annual Convention for approval.

- (d) To liaise with An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, the Provincial Council C.L.G. and CA Clubs within the Province on matters affecting the Association in Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education.
- (e) To submit one motion to the CA Provincial Convention for forwarding to the CA Annual National Convention, carried by the CA Provincial Convention.

**ADMINISTRATION (Applicable to CA Conventions, General Meetings, Councils and Committees as specified)**

**(20) Voting:**

Decisions at meetings shall be taken by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting and in the event of a tie, An Cathaoirleach shall have a second or casting vote.

**(21) Rescinding a Decision:**

Subject to R. 3.19 (d), T.O. 2021 decisions taken at a duly convened meeting shall not be rescinded at a subsequent meeting, unless due notice in writing of intention to propose rescindment has been previously conveyed to each member, and the consent of two thirds of those present entitled to vote and voting is obtained.

**(22) Quorum:**

- (a) The quorum for CA Annual Conventions and CA Special General Meetings shall be one quarter of the members entitled to attend.
- (b) The quorum for meetings of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, CA Provincial Councils and CA Committees shall be one quarter of the members entitled to attend, subject to a minimum of three, one of whom shall be an officer.

**(23) Absence from Meetings:**

A member absent, without reasonable explanation, from three consecutive meetings of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin or a CA Provincial Council shall automatically become disqualified from membership of that body, as appropriate, for that academic year.

**(24) Correspondence:**

All official correspondence shall comply with Riail 1.7 and Riail 4.6 T.O. 2021.

Exception: The name of the Comhairle Ardoideachais Administrator may appear on official correspondence in lieu of that of An Rúnaí, CA, as appropriate.

Facsimiles and E-mail may be used for official correspondence including communication of information to CA Councils, Committees, Clubs and Members.

These shall be accepted forms of communication for notification of fixtures, notices of meetings, circulation of minutes of meetings and communication of disciplinary findings.

**(25) Objections / Counter-Objections:**

An Objection or Counter-Objection shall be lodged in accordance with the Rules of An Treoraí Oifigiúil.

**(26) Éisteachtaí (Hearings)**

- (a) The Central Hearings Committee shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules (excluding Objections and Counter-Objections) arising from Games under the jurisdiction of CA.
- (b) Where an applicant wishes to contest a decision of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin in relation to permission to play he may appeal that decision to the Central Appeals Committee.
- (c) All applications for hearings shall be subject to the relevant rules of An Treoraí Oifigiúil 2021.
- (d) Where a person wishes to contest his proposed penalty in person, but cannot appear before An Coiste Éisteachta at the appointed meeting due to exceptional inconvenience of travel or cost, his hearing may be conducted via video-link or telephone conference-call, in which event he shall be responsible for paying the costs

of the hearing. In any case it is at the discretion of An Coiste Éisteachta to determine the method by which a hearing shall be conducted.

**(27) Appeals:**

- (a) Appeals against decisions of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall be made to the Central Appeals Committee in accordance with the Rules of An Treoraí Oifigiúil 2021.
  - (i) Appeals against decisions of CA Provincial Councils shall be made to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin in accordance with the Rules of An Treoraí Oifigiúil 2021.
- (b) There shall be no Appeal against a decision of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin with regard to:
  - (i) Arrangements for the date and venue of a Game (provided that required notice is given).
  - (ii) Appointments of Referees.

There shall be no Appeal against a decision of An Comhairle Ardoideachais with regard to grading of Clubs and Players.

**NOTE:** Only CA can make final decision regarding the grading of Clubs and Players.

**THE CA CLUB**

**(28) Aims and Responsibilities:**

- (a) The CA Club shall be defined as a body or unit which encompasses all of the teams that represent a Higher Education Institute in hurling and /or Gaelic football and which is recognised by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, Comhairle Ardoideachais and is included on the register of recognised and eligible Higher Education Institutions as outlined in Rule 30(b).

- (b) The CA Club shall promote the aims of Comhairle Ardoideachais through the promotion of Gaelic Games and Irish culture, including support for the advancement of the Irish language.
- (c) The members of a CA Club shall be bound by the General Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and the Constitution and Regulations of Comhairle Ardoideachais, and shall be expected to have a full knowledge of them.
- (d) A CA Club shall hold an annual general meeting before 31 October of each calendar year.
- (e) A CA Club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its players, members and known partisans.
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of each CA Club to ensure that its teams have adequate insurance cover (or such alternative in respect of CA Clubs under the jurisdiction of CA Provincial Council of Britain), either through the GAA Player Injury Fund or through its College / Institute insurance scheme.

**(29) Affiliation:**

- (a) A CA Club shall affiliate annually with Comhairle Ardoideachais on a standard affiliation form, which shall include the names of the Club Executive Committee, the Club colours, alternative colours and home venue. All details on the Affiliation Form must be filled out properly before it can be accepted.
- (b) Application for affiliation by a new Club shall be made to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.
- (c) A CA Club may also affiliate under the General Rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael with the County Committee C.L.G. of the county in which it is situated.
- (d) A CA Club may play in Non-CA County and Provincial competitions, where permitted by the appropriate County Committee C.L.G. or Provincial Council C.L.G.

- (e) Teams from two or more different Higher Education Colleges / Institutes may not play together as an independent team, except where An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin grants specific permission. Application for such permission shall be made to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on an annual basis.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **(30) Eligible Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education:**

- (a) The term 'Higher Education', for the purposes of Comhairle Ardoideachais, shall comprise all educational establishments in the post-secondary education sector, including:
  - (i) University Colleges.
  - (ii) Institutes of Technology.
  - (iii) Institutes of Education.
  - (iv) Army Training Colleges / Aer Corps.
  - (v) Institutes of Further and Higher Education.
  - (vi) Training Colleges for Members of An Garda Síochána, the Police Services of Northern Ireland and Britain (Policing Studies)
  - (vii) Private Colleges of Higher Education.
  - (viii) Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Colleges



(ix) Any other institution(s) that Comhairle Ardoideachais considers as coming under the heading of 'Higher Education'.

(b) Comhairle Ardoideachais shall define and maintain a register of all recognised and eligible institutions.

**(31) Definition of Student Eligibility:**

(a) In order to play for a CA Club team of a Higher Education Institute, one must meet all of the following criteria:

(i) Be a bone fide, full-time student (defined as a person whose main preoccupation is the pursuit of higher education). Persons in full-time employment, who may satisfy all of the other below criteria, are not eligible to play for a Higher Education GAA Team.

Note: Placement/Work experience with a company as part of one's course programme, for which the person in question was not employed by the same employer at the time of pursuing the course, is not considered full-time employment for the purpose of (i) above.

(ii) Be registered on a recognised higher education full-time course of study, as prescribed in Rule 31 (d);

(iii) Be in attendance at a recognised Higher Education Institute prescribed in Rule 30 (b); and possess a current and valid Student Card, relevant to the Higher Education Institute where the student is in attendance.

(b) A Student's eligibility to participate in Comhairle Ardoideachais competition shall be subject to the following limits:

(i) a maximum number of six academic years while registered and studying on a recognised course(s), and

(ii) Participation in , whether completed or not, subject to provisions of sub-paragraph (iii) of this Rule, no more than two recognised courses of study. This limit applies to CA

Clubs competing in the Senior Division 1 Leagues, Sigerson Cup and Fitzgibbon Cup Competitions Only

- (iii) any year(s) in which a player has played in CA Competitions whilst ineligible, regardless of when that ineligibility is detected, shall be deemed to be an academic year for the purposes of sub-paragraph (i).

Where an Institute has been informed that a student has withdrawn from one course of study on or before 31st October of the first academic year of that course, that period of registration shall not be counted for (a) and (b) above. In order to comply with this requirement a student shall, if required by An Coiste Feidhmiuchain, request the Registrar or appropriate officer of the relevant Institute to provide An Coiste Feidhmiuchain with confirmation that:

- i. the Institute was informed that the student had withdrawn from the course
- ii. the withdrawal had taken place before 31st October of the year in question.

A player may not play until such time as the above information has been provided to the satisfaction of An Coiste Feidhmiuchain.

The exception does not apply in the case where a student plays for the Institute in the academic year that he withdraws from the course.

Where a student, having successfully completed an undergraduate course and having attained the award attached to the course at level six or seven of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in the Republic of Ireland, (levels four or five of the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) or levels eight and nine of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework(SCQF) ), progresses from that level to a cognate course at the next higher level, he shall be considered as studying the same course provided the higher level course shall be at a level not higher than Level 8NFQ ( level 6 FHEQ or level 10 SCQF).

In order for a course to be considered cognate it has to comply with the minimum entry requirements to the higher course as contained in the published prospectus.

Successful completion of any course can only be determined by the Institute delivering the course and can only be evidenced by the production of the certificate of the relevant award. (i.e. diploma or degree).

This section only applies to courses under the frameworks named and does not apply to any other courses such as those accredited by the Further Education and Training Council (FETAC) & National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (NQF).

(c)

(1)

- (i) A student participating in Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions while studying on an eligible course (as prescribed in Rule 31(d)) shall have gained entrance on to that course by attaining the minimum requirements for admission to the college, and
- (ii) attaining the specific course requirements as outlined by the college/institution.

(2)

Where a college/institute operates an elite entry scheme (or an equivalent scheme that offers concession points or is outside the traditional entry system), the following limits shall apply:

- (i) eligible students on such a scheme shall compete for up to a limit of four academic years. A maximum number of three eligible first-year (fresher) students on such a scheme may play in Comhairle Ardoideachais Freshers competitions;
- (ii) a maximum number of six eligible students on such a scheme may play in a senior Comhairle Ardoideachais competition game (no more than three from any academic year class).
- (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, eligible students on such a scheme shall compete for up to a limit of four academic years.

(d)

Eligible courses of study shall include the following:

- (i) a recognised full-time course which is worth at least 60 European Credit Transfer System per academic year, averaged over the duration of the course, as outlined in the educational establishments' (as defined in Rule 30) official prospectus and leading to an

- award of qualification at Level 6 or above of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- (ii) a recognised full-time course which is worth at least 120 Credit Accumulation Transfer Scheme (CATS) points per academic year, averaged over the specified period of that course, as outlined in the educational establishments' (as defined in Rule 30) official prospectus, and which leads to a qualification ranked at Level 5 or above of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), or at Level 8 or above of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
  - (iii) .a student pursuing a course for which 60 ECTS/120 CATS per academic year are counted over a period which straddles two or more academic years may apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúchain CA for permission to play, and not play until permission has been granted.
  - (iv) a recognised course leading to a Degree or Diploma in Policing Studies or a Degree or Diploma in Military Studies – a student pursuing such a course will be eligible to play only in Year 1 and Year 2 of that course.
  - (v) an apprenticeship block release through a Higher Education institution – a student pursuing an apprenticeship may only play during Block Release Phase 4 and Block Release Phase 6.
  - (vi) a full-time course leading to a Barrister-at-Law degree or a Diploma in Legal Studies, and one academic year as a Pupil Barrister ('Devilship'); and the Professional Practice Course of the Law Society of Ireland in the first year (PPC1) only.
  - (vii) Students attending full-time courses in Further Education Institutes and Colleges of Further Education at level five of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in the Republic of Ireland, level three of the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) or level seven of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework(SCQF) shall be eligible to play for clubs in the Further Education Institute or College of Further Education where the course is provided. If no club exists in the Further Education Institute or College of Further Education where the student is attending, he may apply for Permission to Play under Rule (32).

Note: Any student who wishes to verify the eligibility of his course under this Rule or who is unsure as to whether his course is eligible under parts (i-vii) above, shall apply in writing to

An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on the official CA Permission to Play form and shall not play without receiving permission.

(e)

A student who has spent an academic year on work experience or placement shall be deemed not to have attained academic progression if he embarks on such experience or placement for a second consecutive academic year, and consequently he shall be ineligible to play in the second year.

(f)

Where the academic content of a student's course for an academic year is modified from that contained in the current prospectus and / or course manual by the awarding of credit exemptions of any amount, or modified in any other way to such an extent that the academic contact hours requirement is reduced by 50% or more, he must apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on the official CA Permission to Play form and shall not play without receiving such permission. A student repeating part(s) of an academic year full-time shall not be deemed to be in this category.

(g)

(i) A student repeating all or part(s) of an academic year shall apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on the official CA Permission to Play form, with documentation from his college to verify his academic status, before 31 October of that academic year, and must receive permission in advance of playing.

(ii) Such permission shall not be granted to anyone spending a second academic year as a repeat student.

(iv) Examination-only students may not play.

(h) Persons employed as Full-time Student Union Officers are not eligible to play for a CA Club. All other Student Union Officers must meet all of the Eligibility criteria as per Rule (31) in order to be eligible to play for a CA Club

Personal Penalty for Breach of Rule:

Player – 12 Week's Suspension

Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnai of the CA Club, and/or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 week's suspension

Team Penalty for Breach of Rule:

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team

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

**(32) Eligibility for CA Club teams:**

- (a) A student shall be eligible to play only for the CA Club team(s) of the College or Institute where he is registered and studying, except where no CA Club exists in the relevant sporting code(s).
- (b) A student of a College / Institute which does not have a CA Club in the relevant sporting code(s) may apply for permission to play for a CA Club of another College / Institute, by submitting an official CA Permission to Play form to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin before 31 October of each academic year, and shall not play without receiving such permission.
- (c) Each applicant under this Rule shall submit, along with his completed official CA Permission to Play form, a copy of his college's prospectus and a letter from his college signed by the President / Registrar indicating that the applicant is registered and studying at that college.

(d)

- (i) An applicant under this rule shall not be allowed to play for a CA Club which has a team in Roinn 1 competitions, unless deemed appropriate by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin because there is no other CA Club in the relevant sporting code in proximity of the college where he is registered and studying.
- (ii) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin may otherwise exercise discretion on applications under this Rule, in the interests of the development of Gaelic games.

(e) In the case of a CA Club being allowed five or more students by this Rule, all of its teams shall play under and be recognised by the names of both or all colleges / institutes in question.

**Personal Penalty:-**

Player – 12 weeks' suspension;

Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnaí of the CA Club, and / or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 weeks' suspension.

**Team Penalty:-**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

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

**(33) Eligibility for First-Year ('Fresher') Competitions:**

- (a) A student shall be eligible to play in First-Year ('Fresher') competitions only in his first year as an eligible student on an eligible Higher Education course, in accordance with the terms of eligibility specified in Rule (31).

A student shall only be eligible to play in 'Fresher' competitions if he is aged under 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> September of that academic year.

The following shall not be eligible to play in First-Year competitions –

- (i) A first-year repeat student.
- (ii) A student who transfers to another first-year course in his second or subsequent year(s) in the same College / Institute;
- (iii) A student who has previously commenced a post-second level education course at another College / Institute, unless:
  - a. He transfers College / Institute as a result of a successful appeal against his final second-level examination results;  
or
  - b. He de-registered from his first college before 31 October of his first academic year without having played in any CA competition.

If he de-registers from his first college before 31 October without having played in any CA competitions, but registers at a second college within that first academic year, he may then be deemed eligible.

In either case he must apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on the official CA Permission to Play form and shall not play without receiving such permission.



NOTE: If a student de-registers from his first college before 31 October without having played in any CA competitions, but registers at a second college within that first academic year, he may then be eligible to play in First-Year competitions.

- (b) A first-year student shall be eligible for his CA Club First-Year second team unless he plays in two or more games for his CA Club First-Year first team.
- (c) Where a CA Club wishes to re-grade players to its First-Year second team it shall apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin before 31 January of the academic year.
- (d) A student who has previously participated in any CA competitions – regardless of their previous course's status NFQ or NQF – may not be eligible to play in First-Year ('Fresher') competitions.
- (e) Freshers at college clubs competing in Division 1 senior leagues, Sigerson Cup or Fitzgibbon Cup competitions shall play only Freshers Football/Hurling.

An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin may exercise discretion on individual applications under this byelaw, in the interests of the development of Gaelic games.

**Personal Penalty:-**

Player – 12 weeks' suspension;

Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnaí of the CA Club, and / or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 weeks' suspension.

**Team Penalty:-**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

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

**(34) Eligibility for Intermediate and Junior Teams:**

- (a) For the purpose of this Constitution, the following definitions shall apply:
- (i) “Senior team” shall be the first team of the CA Club (i.e. where a CA Club fields two or more teams, the team participating in the higher CA division).
  - (ii) “Intermediate team” shall be the second team of the CA Club (excluding First-Year teams).
  - (iii) “Junior team” shall be the third team of the CA Club (excluding First-Year teams).
- (b) All students shall be eligible to play for CA Intermediate and Junior teams, except:
- (i) Anyone who has played for a CA Club Senior team in a CA Championship of the previous academic year, unless re-graded by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin before 31 October of the current academic year.
  - (ii) Anyone of the 15 or more players of the current CA Club Senior team listed as per Rule (37) (b).
  - (iii) Anyone who has played in three or more league games for his CA Club Senior team in the current academic year.
  - (iv) Anyone who has played for his CA Club Senior team in a CA Championship of the current academic year.

(c) Eligibility to play for CA Club Junior teams shall further except:

(i) Anyone of the 15 or more players of the current CA Club Intermediate team listed as per Rule (37) (b).

(ii) Anyone who has played in two or more league games for his CA Club Intermediate team in the current academic year.

(d) Where a CA Club wishes to re-grade players from Senior to Intermediate teams, or from Intermediate to Junior teams, it shall apply to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin before 31 January of the academic year and must receive permission prior to fielding said players in the latter competition.

**Personal Penalty:-**

Player – 12 weeks’ suspension;

Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnaí of the CA Club, and / or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 weeks’ suspension.

**Team Penalty:-**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

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

**(35) One CA Club per Code per Player:**

(a) A student shall not play for more than one CA Club in CA competitions in the same code in an academic year, subject to Rule (33) (a) of this Constitution and Rule 6.8 T.O 2019.

- (b) A student playing for a CA Club in CA competitions shall not play for any college / institute or educational establishment which is not affiliated to CA.

**Personal Penalty:-**

Player – 12 weeks' suspension;

Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnaí of the CA Club, and / or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 weeks' suspension.

**Team Penalty:-**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

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

**(36) Permission to Play:**

(a) Each applicant for permission to play, under Rules (30), (31), (32) and (33), shall submit the following details on the official CA Permission to Play form, to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin before 31 October of the academic year: his

- i. name,
- ii. date of birth,
- iii. home club and county,
- iv. academic history
- v. student / apprentice registration number,
- vi. course,
- vii. year,
- viii. number of academic credits for that year

ix. proof of registration verifying the details of his course for the current academic year

(b) An applicant shall not play in the relevant CA competition(s) or for the relevant college team(s) without receiving permission from An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin.

(c) Incomplete applications shall not be considered. To be complete, an application must be submitted before 31 October of the academic year and must include all the information required as listed in (a) above.

### **(37) Registration**

#### **Submission of Team Registrations:**

(a) Each CA Club shall submit a list of players for each of its teams to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin on a standard “on-line” CA Team Registration Form, ***no later than 3 days*** prior to each team playing its first match and in any event before ***30 November*** of the academic year. This list must be verified by An Rúnaí of the CA Club.

(b) A list of players must contain a minimum of 15 players per team and the following information for each one: Name; Date of Birth; Home Club and County; Student / Apprentice Registration Number; Course, Year and the number of academic credits per year; and Specified Division.

(c) Additional players, with the above details, may be submitted to each list up to 31 January of the academic year.

(d) A register of players shall be available for inspection to the secretaries of all units upon demand in writing.

#### **Team Penalty for Breach of Rule:**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team.

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

**(38) Verification of Registration & Eligibility:**

- (a) An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin reserves the right to seek verification of registration and eligibility details directly from the Registrar, President, Director, Principal or any other officer of the College / Institute, without prior notification to the CA Club.
- (b) Where requested by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin a CA Club or player shall provide sufficient information and / or documentation to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin to verify details of registration or player eligibility.
- (c)
  - (i) Upon receipt of one week's notice a player must produce his current and valid College / Institute student card to an officer of An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin or its nominee.
  - (ii) In the event of a satisfactory College / Institute student card not being produced by the player, he may not play in a CA competition until he produces his card.
  - (iii) In exceptional circumstances, written confirmation from an appropriate officer of the College / Institute, of all written and photographic details contained on the student card, shall be accepted.
- (d)
  - (i) In the event of the player failing to provide information relevant to eligibility requested by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin, then that player may not play in any CA competition.

**(39)** Any individual found to have given deliberately false or misleading information to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin may be dealt with under Rial 7.2(e) T.O. 2019

**(40) Sigerson / Fitzgibbon Panel Declaration**

(a) Each CA Club competing in the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Competitions shall complete in full a CA Panel Declaration Form declaring a Panel of 35 eligible players for the relevant competition before December 1st of the Academic Year.

The information to be included is as follows:

- (i) Name
- (ii) Home Club
- (iii) Home County
- (iv) Course Title
- (v) Course Code
- (vi) Year on Course
- (vii) Full Third Level Academic history signed by the player

An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall publish all of the Panels online by December 2nd of the Academic Year.

A CA Club shall notify An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin in writing of any queries it has in relation to the eligibility of any other CA Club's player(s) named on their declaration by December 8th of the Academic Year.

**Team Penalty for Breach of Rule (40) (a):**

The CA Club will not be included in the relevant Sigerson/Fitzgibbon Championship.

(b) A maximum of 10 changes may be made to the Panel by a CA Club before January 10th of the Academic Year. To make a change, a CA Club will notify to An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin the intention to nominate an eligible player to replace an eligible player declared in the original Panel before January 10th of the Academic Year. An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin will also publish these changes.

(c) Only players

(i) who comply with all other Eligibility Rules (Rules 30- 32 and Rules 36-39 (inclusive)

And

(ii) have been listed in their CA Club's Sigerson/Fitzgibbon Panel

may play in the Sigerson/Fitzgibbon Cup competition for that CA Club in the given Academic Year.

(d) A CA Club shall notify An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin in writing of any queries it has in relation to the eligibility of any other CA Club's 10 player(s) amendments by noon on January ~~7~~<sup>12</sup>th of the Academic Year preceding the commencement of the Sigerson/Fitzgibbon competitions. Only the queries received in relation to panel amendments will be accepted by An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin after December 8th.

(e) Arising from Squad declarations and communications queries received from CA Clubs, An Coiste Feidhmiúcháin shall verify registration and eligibility details of players about whom such communications/queries have been raised, in accordance with Rule (38)

(f) Failure to raise any queries re the eligibility of any player included in the respective lists, (either initial or amended), following their publication by An Coiste Feidmiúcháin, shall not preclude a CA Club from subsequently objecting to the composition of their opponents' team (following a Sigerson/Fitzgibbon match) in accordance with the Comhairle Ardoideachais Constitution and the provisions of An Treoir Oifigiúil.

(g) Each CA Club must ensure players listed on Panels for this purpose must also be registered correctly in accordance with Rule (37).

**Personal Penalty for Breach of Rule (40):**

Player – 12 Week's Suspension



Cathaoirleach and / or Rúnai of the CA Club, and/or the person(s) in charge of the team, depending on the circumstances – 12 week's suspension

**Team Penalty for Breach of Rule (40):**

On a Proven Objection – Award of Game to the Opposing Team

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