



2017 Bye Laws of the  
US Gaelic Athletic Association  
USGAA

As enacted by USGAA Convention, November 2016, San Diego, California.



<b>2017 BYE-LAWS</b>	<b>3</b>
JURISDICTION	3
BOARD ELECTIONS	3
CONVENTION	4
COMMITTEES	5
DIVISIONS	6
REGISTRATION	10
TRANSFERS, PLAYER & TEAM GRADING	11
USGAA SANCTIONED GAME BYELAWS	13
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES	14
CLUB GAMES, TOURNAMENTS & JURISDICTION	17
AFFILIATIONS & VOTING RIGHTS	18
ALL-IRELAND TICKETS	21
NCGAA	21



# 2017 BYE-LAWS

## JURISDICTION

1. The **USGAA** (*US Gaelic Athletic Association*) shall be the Governing Body of the Gaelic Athletic Association in North America excluding the areas under the jurisdiction of Canada Co. Committee and the New York Metropolitan area, New Jersey and Stamford CT that are under the jurisdiction of the New York Board.

It shall be the governing body for Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie, as well as Gaelic Football and Hurling.

## BOARD ELECTIONS

2. The **USGAA** Board shall be elected at a Convention to be held in a city with an affiliated G.A.A. Club on the 2nd weekend of November.

Those entitled to attend are the outgoing Committee, two delegates from each men's football and hurling club, two delegates from each ladies football club, two delegates from each Camogie club, two delegates from each division where there is a recognized Youth Program, and the Chairperson, with a vote, of each Divisional Board.

Only clubs that have competed in the current year's Junior or higher level Competitions at divisional level are entitled to have delegates present.

In accordance with Rule 3.12 OG 2016 the USGAA is authorized by Co Convention to select the USGAA delegates to attend Congress.

Note: The Youth delegation from each Division shall consist of (a) the Divisional Youth Officer and (b) another person involved in the Divisional Youth Program.



## CONVENTION

### 3. COUNTY CONVENTION

- (a) In accordance with R. 3.11 T.O. 2016 the Co. Convention shall elect the following officers whose term of office will last until the conclusion of the following year's Co. Convention:

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, P.R.O., and Youth Officer.

It shall also elect a Central Council Representative.

All shall be entitled to vote.

Convention may also choose to select an Honorary President, if an appropriate candidate is proposed. The position, a non-Officer position, is in recognition of service to the USGAA, and as an honorary position may only be held for a single one-year term.

- (b) The Youth Officer must be involved in the Youth program in his/her divisional area.
- (c) A delegate to the USGAA Annual Convention must be a member of the Club he/she represents and must be duly authorized, in writing, to represent that club at Convention.



## COMMITTEES

4. The Co. Committee shall consist of the Officers and the Central Council Representative.
5. In accordance with Rule 3.20 & 3.21 T.O. 2016 the Co. Committee shall **appoint** the following additional subcommittees whose membership and functions shall be as set out in Bye-Laws:

**(a) Management Committee:** It shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary of the USGAA.

**(b) Competitions Control Committee (CCC):** It shall consist of 5 members namely the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Registrar and PRO of the USGAA.

**(c) Finance Committee:** It shall consist of the USGAA Treasurer, Vice Chairperson, Registrar, PRO & Youth Officer.

**(d) Hearings Committee:** It shall consist of 5 members, none of whom are members of C.C.C or Management Committee.

It shall adjudicate on all Disciplinary matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested, relating to the Enforcement of Rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the USGAA.

**(e) Appeals Committee:** It shall consist of the Central Council Delegate and all others drawn from Divisional Chairpersons. No one who has sat on a case at an earlier hearing may sit on a further hearing/appeal.

**(f) Motions, Regulations and Bye Laws Review Committee:** It shall consist of an appointed USGAA officer and all Divisional Chairpersons.

It shall review the current Bye-Laws/Regulations and make any necessary recommendations to the Co. Convention. The clubs, under Rule 3.14 OG 2016, may also submit motions to enact amend or delete Bye Laws.



**(g) Playoff Committee:** It shall consist of all USGAA officers and their function shall be to monitor and oversee all arrangements for the playoff weekend and afterwards to evaluate and report on all aspects of the playoffs.

**(h) Youth Committee:** It shall consist of the Youth Officer (*as its Chair*) and **8** other members elected by Youth Clubs at the Annual Youth meeting, from candidates nominated by the various Youth Committees throughout the USGAA. Subject to the overall authority of the USGAA this committee shall initiate and coordinate all youth activities within the USGAA area.

## DIVISIONS

6. Under the control of the **USGAA**, there shall be the following **Divisional Boards:-**

**NORTHEAST:** Boston and suburbs, All New England States including Connecticut with the exception of Stamford CT.

**CENTRAL:** Cu Chulainns Hurling, Erin's Rovers Ladies Football, Harry Bolands Hurling, John McBrides Men's Football, Limerick Hurling, Chicago Michael Cusack Hurling, Na Aisling Gaels Ladies Football, Pdraig Pearses Men's Football, Parnells Men's Football, Patriots Men's Football, St. Brendans Men's Football, St. Brigid's Ladies Football, St. Mary's Camogie, and Wolfe Tones Men's Football.

**HEARTLAND:** Fox River Hurling, Indianapolis GAA, Kansas City GAC, Hurling Club of Madison and Madison Gaelic Football, Milwaukee Hurling & Camogie, Naperville Hurling & Camogie, St. Louis GAC, Twin Cities Men's & Ladies Football, Twin Cities Robert Emmets Hurling & Camogie.



**WESTERN:** San Francisco suburbs, Burlingame, Oakland, San Jose.

**PHILADELPHIA:** Philadelphia and suburbs, Allentown PA.

**MIDWEST:** Albany, Akron, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Rochester.

**SOUTHEAST:** Georgia-Atlanta, North Carolina – Charlotte, South Carolina, Florida – Fort Lauderdale,

**SOUTHWEST:** New Mexico -Albuquerque, Texas-Austin, Colorado-Denver, Arizona – Phoenix, California South -Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, San Luis Obispo.

**NORTHWEST:** Oregon – Corvallis, Portland; Washington – Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma; Utah; Montana – Missoula;

**MIDATLANTIC:** Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC.

## **7. DIVISIONAL BOARDS:**

- (a) Each Divisional Board shall be administered by a Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting of the outgoing committee, including the Youth Officer, and delegates from Clubs which competed in the most recent Junior or higher grade competitions.

The club Delegates entitled to attend and vote are as follows:

- Two delegates from each Registered Club Unit, subject to any exclusions outlined by 2016 OG 3.9.

A Registered Club Unit is one that has paid Registration Fees in the season leading up to Convention. “Dual Clubs” that have paid one Registration fee may be considered as one Registered Club Unit.



**(b)** The AGM shall elect the following officers who shall hold office until the end of the next AGM:

Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Assistant secretary (if needed), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer (if needed), PRO, Registrar, and Youth officer.

The Youth Officer must be involved in the Youth program in his/her divisional area.

**(c)** Each **Divisional Board** shall consist of (i) the Officers, and (ii) two delegates from each affiliated adult club.

**(d)** Each **Divisional Board** shall be responsible for the organization, control, discipline and management of Hurling, Football, Ladies' Football and Camogie within its Division.

It shall conduct its business in accordance with the Current Official Guide, the Official Guides of Ladies Gaelic Football Association and Camogie Association, the USGAA Bye Laws and Regulations, and any other Regulations drawn up by the Divisional Board and approved annually by the USGAA.

No Regulation shall be contrary to any Rule in the Official Guide other than where a deviation has been granted to the USGAA by Central Council.

**8.** Each **Divisional Board** shall appoint a **Competitions Control Committee** consisting of at least 5 members, who are associated with different registered adult clubs within their division, who shall be responsible for the organization of all games under the jurisdiction of their Divisional Board and dealing with all matters arising from such games other than those functions reserved to the Divisional Hearings Committee.





It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules including hearing Objections and Counter-Objections. The names of the members of the Divisional CCC shall be submitted annually to the USGAA for approval.

9. Each **Divisional Board** *may* appoint a **Hearings Committee** which will consist of at least 5 members, none of whom may be members of the Divisional Competitions Control Committee or Management Committee. Its members shall be drawn from different clubs within the Division.

It shall adjudicate on all disciplinary matters where a hearing is prescribed and requested relating to the enforcement of rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the Divisional board.

The powers of the Hearings Committee shall be plenary and appeals against their decisions shall be to the USGAA Appeals Committee.

10. Each **Divisional Board** *may* appoint a **Management Committee** which will consist of at least 5 members, none of whom may be members of the Divisional Competitions Control Committee or Hearings Committee. Its members shall be drawn from different clubs within the division.

It shall adjudicate on all disciplinary matters relating to the enforcement or rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Board not relating to games.

The powers of the Management Committee shall be plenary and appeals against their decisions shall be to the USGAA Appeals Committee.

11. If any **Divisional Committee** fails to function the **USGAA** shall assume full control of that Division.



## REGISTRATION

### 12. REGISTRATION:

All Registration packets shall include a glossary of definitions of all player levels stated in By-laws, i.e. Senior, Junior A–D, Resident/Non-Resident, Sanctioned, or Inter-County transferred.

**(a)** Each club shall register with the USGAA Registrar through its Divisional Registrar according to the USGAA requirements set out in USGAA Regulations. The USGAA fee for registration for all clubs shall be \$600.00. The registration fee for a newly formed club shall be \$100.00 for the first three years, and it will revert to the current registration fee after that time

The definition of a newly formed Club in the USGAA is a Club which has started in an area where there is no GAA, or no other GAA Club in existence. It has Players and Officers who never have been registered with a Club in the USGAA.

All registrations submitted under Byelaw 13(a) will be reviewed by the Officers of the USGAA, and it will be USGAA's sole decision on whether or not a newly formed Club meets the criteria established to registered at a reduced rate under Byelaw 12(a).

**(b)** A Membership Fee of \$3 per member shall accompany each registration and this shall be forwarded to Central Council by USGAA to complete the registration and affiliation process.

**(c)** A member must be a permanent resident in the **Divisional** area in which he/she is registering. USGAA reserves the right to request proof of residency prior to Registration.



## **TRANSFERS, PLAYER & TEAM GRADING**

### **13. TRANSFERS:**

#### **Men's Clubs Only (Ladies Football- Bye-law 24, Camogie – Bye-law 25)**

- (a)** As outlined in 2016 OG 6.12(d)(i), the deadline submitting an Inter-County Transfers application into USGAA area is March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  
- (b)** An application for transfer between clubs under the jurisdiction of the same Divisional Board must be lodged with the Divisional Board Secretary on or before 30th April in any year.
  
- (c)** An application for transfer between clubs in different Divisions must be lodged with the Secretary of the USGAA on or before April 30th in any year.  
  
Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the USGAA for final decision.
  
- (d)** Inter-County Transfers from clubs outside the USGAA area may only be granted by Croke Park on an Inter-County Transfer Form.
  
- (e)** Application for all transfers between clubs under the jurisdiction of the USGAA must be made on an Official Transfer Form which has been prepared by USGAA and can be obtained from the Co. Secretary or Divisional Secretary.



## 14. REGRADING:

### Players:

- (a) **Junior:** Subject to Rule 6.20 T.O. 2016 all Resident Senior and Intermediate players intending to play with a Junior Club shall regrade not later than April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (b) **Intermediate:** A Resident Senior player, intending to play with an Intermediate Club, shall regrade not later than July 1st
- (c) Notice shall be sent to all clubs listing all players who regrade from senior or intermediate grade and this notice shall be received by all clubs no later than July 31st of the year in which regrading will be effective.

### Teams:

- (d) Subject to Rule 6.20 T.O. 2016 any club that wishes to regrade a team (or teams) to a lower grade, must request written approval of the USGAA prior to March 31st.



## USGAA SANCTIONED GAME BYELAWS

### **15. EXTRA TIME:**

In the event of a tie or a draw in USGAA playoff games the teams involved shall play an initial two periods of ten minutes per period, followed by two periods of five minutes per period until a decision is reached.

### **16. SUBSTITUTES:**

In USGAA games, 5 substitutes shall be allowed in Hurling and 6 Substitutes in Football (as per 2016 OG 2.4(i)), with the exception of Ladies Intermediate and Junior (A & B) Football, where unlimited substitutions are allowed at the USGAA playoffs.

The number of substitutes allowed in Minor (*Youth*) Games will be determined by the relevant Youth Board.

In Divisional games substitutions may be in accordance with Divisional Committee Regulations.

### **17. NUMBERS ON TEAMS:**

All Men's teams, regardless of code or grade, shall consist of 13 players.

### **18. STATUS – USGAA Finals:**

A team that wins Junior 'A', Junior 'B', Junior 'C', or Junior 'D' competition at the USGAA finals is required to compete at a higher grade the following year, subject to ratification by the USGAA Board.

### **19. STATUS – Divisional Competition:**

Any team that wins the Junior 'A' Divisional Championship for two consecutive years must move to the next higher grade in that Division the following year.



## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 20. DISCIPLINE:

The following Disciplinary procedures will operate during the USGAA Playoff weekend and at Divisional Playoffs, if necessary:

- (a) Notice of intent to lodge an objection must be given to the USGAA Competitions Control Committee Secretary or Chairperson not later than 15 minutes after the finish of the game in question.
- (b) Such objection shall be lodged in accordance with the USGAA Regulations (Time and Fee) and otherwise in accordance with the Official Guide.

An objection must be lodged with the USGAA CCC Secretary or Chair within 60 minutes of the end of the game in question.

Objections arising from Quarter-finals, Semi-finals or a Final must be lodged within 30 minutes of the end of the game in question.

- (c) Notice of intent to lodge a counter-objection must be given to the USGAA CCC Secretary or Chair not later than 10 minutes after receipt of objection.

Such counter-objections must be lodged with the USGAA CCC Secretary or Chair not later than 60 minutes after receipt of objection

Any counter-objection arising from a Quarter-final, Semi-final or a Final must be lodged within 30 minutes of receipt of objection. All objections and counter-objections shall be heard by the members of the USGAA Competitions Control Committee.



- (d)** All objections and counter-objections shall be submitted on an official Objection Form, to be found in registration packet supplied at the USGAA playoffs, and accompanied by a fee of \$200.

Should form not be available, objection shall be submitted in writing and include the following information, Objector, Division, Club, game in question, i.e. teams, game, date, location, etc. and reason/s for objection, including the rules allegedly breached.

- (e)** Appeals against the decision(s) of the USGAA Competitions Control Committee and/or the USGAA Hearings Committee shall be heard by the USGAA Appeals Committee.

Such appeals shall be lodged with the Appeals Committee Secretary within 30 minutes of receipt, in writing, of the CCC's or the Hearing Committee's decision and accompanied by a fee of \$500 which shall only be returned if the appeal is upheld.

There shall be no appeal against the decision of the Appeals Committee.

Clubs involved in lodging an objection, counter-objection or appeal may request orally, and receive orally, notice of time and place at which the hearing will take place.

- (f)** The Bye-Laws governing objections, counter-objections, investigations and appeals will apply to any Divisional playoff games within 14 days of the start of the National playoffs.



**(f cont)** In these circumstances objections, counter-objections or investigations will be conducted by the Divisional CCC.

Appeals against their decision(s) will be heard by the HC of the Divisional Boards or of the USGAA Hearings Committee as applicable

**(g)** The decision(s) of the USGAA CCC or Hearings Committee in relation to meeting the time-limits set out for objections, counter-objections or hearings is/are final and binding on all units.

**(h) NON-PARTICIPATION PENALTY:**

(i) If a club who has entered the USGAA playoffs and withdraws thirty days or more before the first day of the USGAA playoffs, such club may be fined in an amount to be determined by the Hearings Committee, up to \$1,500.00.

The club shall stand suspended until all fines are paid and other conditions fulfilled.

(ii) If a club who has entered the USGAA playoffs and withdraws less than thirty days before the first day of the USGAA playoffs, such club may be fined in an amount to be determined by the Hearings Committee, up to \$2,500.00.

The club shall stand suspended until all fines are paid and other conditions fulfilled.

(iii) In the event a Hearings Committee imposes a fine upon a club for violation of this Bylaw 20(k), such fine shall be split evenly between the Host Committee and the club who had been scheduled to play the withdrawn club.





## CLUB GAMES, TOURNAMENTS & JURISDICTION

### 21. GENERAL:

To participate in a game other than a game scheduled by the Divisional Board or the USGAA, a club must apply in writing and receive permission from the Divisional Board or the USGAA as appropriate.

22. The territorial area of a club shall be up to the halfway point to the next city in which a club/clubs is/are registered.

23. Each Divisional Committee *may* draft regulations to govern its own operations subject to the following conditions:

(a) All such Regulations are subject to the approval of the USGAA and must be submitted for scrutiny by USGAA before Jan 1<sup>st</sup> in the year to which they relate.

(b) The USGAA shall forward a list of the approved Regulations to Central Council by Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for examination and approval by Management on behalf of Central Council.

(c) Regulations that have not received the necessary approval, have no standing.



## AFFILIATIONS & VOTING RIGHTS

**24.** The **USGAA** will affiliate annually with **Cumann Peil Gael na mBan** in Ireland and play the Ladies Gaelic Football competitions according to its rules.

Ladies Gaelic Football in North America shall be governed by the current/updated Playing Rules and the Official Guide of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association in Ireland.

This would apply to all fixtures, National, Divisional and Inter Divisional (*The USGAA will apply annually for a deviation to the rules regarding the “Sin Bin” and to reduce the number of players on a pitch to 13 a-side for Intermediate & Junior grades*).

- A player wishing to transfer to a USGAA club, from any jurisdiction outside the USGAA control, must complete the Official Transfer Form of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association and submit this form to LGFA by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- An application for transfer between clubs under the jurisdiction of the same Divisional Board must be lodged with the Divisional Board Secretary on or before 30th April in any year.
- An application for transfer between clubs in different USGAA Divisions must be lodged with the Secretary of the USGAA on or before April 30<sup>th</sup> in any year.

Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the USGAA for final decision.



- Application for all transfers between clubs under the jurisdiction of the USGAA must be made on an Official Transfer Form which has been prepared by USGAA and can be obtained from the Co. Secretary or Divisional Secretary.
- The USGAA will send a Representative to Ladies Congress each year.
- All teams playing at Junior and Intermediate grade will consist of 13 players.

**25.** The USGAA will affiliate annually with the Camogie Association in Ireland and adopt its playing rules for all Camogie competitions.

**(a)** Camogie in the USGAA will be governed by the current Official Guide of the Camogie Association in Ireland, which includes playing rules.

**(b)** All teams regardless of grade will consist of 13 players

**(c)** A player wishing to transfer to a USGAA club, from any jurisdiction outside the USGAA control, must fully complete Section A of the Camogie Association Transfer Form CC4 and submit to the Camogie Association by March 31st of the current year.

**(d)** An application for transfer between clubs under the jurisdiction of the same Divisional Board must be lodged with the Divisional Board Secretary on or before 30th April in any year.

**(e)** An application for transfer between clubs in different USGAA Divisions must be lodged with the Secretary of the USGAA on or before April 30th in any year.

Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the USGAA for final decision.



**(f)** Application for all transfers between clubs under the jurisdiction of the USGAA must be made on an Official Transfer Form which has been prepared by USGAA and can be obtained from the Co. Secretary or Divisional Secretary

**(g)** The USGAA will send a Representative to Camogie Congress each year

**26.** A club, which is entitled to 2 votes at USGAA Convention, may cast its two votes through one club delegate when it does not have its full quota of delegates at Co Convention.

This concession applies only at USGAA Convention.

**27.** A club's application for affiliation to the USGAA will not be accepted if there are any outstanding debts owed to the USGAA or to the Divisional Board.

**28.** Officers of the Divisional Boards shall remove themselves from any disciplinary hearing involving their own club. USGAA officers shall remove themselves from any disciplinary hearing involving a club from their own Division.

**29.** A new Bye-Law may be enacted, at a USGAA Convention, by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting. To be successful, at a USGAA Convention, a motion to delete or amend an existing Bye-Law requires a two-thirds majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

The Pre-playoff meeting cannot accept or propose bye-laws or regulations.



30. Minutes from USGAA/Divisional Chair meetings be published on USGAA website or distributed to Divisional Secretaries within seven days of the meeting or sooner if immediate action is required by clubs/divisions from matters discussed at the meeting

## **ALL-IRELAND TICKETS**

31. All Ireland hurling and football tickets shall be distributed to the Divisions on a percentage basis depending on the total registered clubs in the Division.

## **NCGAA**

32. The National Collegiate Gaelic Athletic Association (NCGAA) will elect its own Board, appoint its own subcommittees and govern its own affairs in accordance with its by-laws and regulations which will be ratified by the USGAA following the NCGAA convention each year.

**A Bye-Law must not be contrary to any rule in the Official Guide and requires the ratification of the Management Committee on behalf of Central Council before it becomes effective.**

**N.B. Please ensure that the USGAA complies with the Civil Authorities with regard to Child Protection Regulations.**