

A PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SATURDAY GAMES AT THE PLAYOFFS

- Under today's arrangement, too many games are required to be scheduled on the Saturday. In 1998, there were 22 Saturday games requiring that three fields be available. We must reduce the number of Saturday games, and it is impractical to suggest we move some of those Saturday games to Friday.
- It is also impractical to insist that Host cities for the National Playoffs provide three fields.
- One of the NACB's goals is to promote Gaelic Games, but if new teams affiliate (e.g. Milwaukee, Dallas, Tulsa, Dayton, Phoenix, Orlando), we will have serious problems accommodating them. As it is, new teams are being scared off partly by the major travel costs involved to participate.
- The biggest problem is with the Junior Football competitions. In 1998, there were 8 Junior "A" teams competing, 7 Junior "B", and 9 Junior Women. We can expect similar numbers in 1999.
- The crowds do not come to see the Quarter-Final games on Friday. Usually only team supporters are there, and even the Junior Finals are played early on Sunday before any crowd has arrived to watch.

PROPOSED TRIAL: A MEN'S JUNIOR "B" AND WOMEN'S JUNIOR REGIONAL PLAYOFFS

- All Men's Junior "B" Football teams, and all Women's Junior Football teams will travel and compete in either an Eastern or Western Regional Playoff to be held after July 20 and no later than 21 days prior to the start of the National Playoffs. The Regional Playoffs will produce a Regional Champion in those two Junior grades, with that Regional winner qualifying for the Final of their competition at the National Playoffs on the Labor Day Weekend. Each losing team will also compete in a losers bracket, so that all competing teams can count on at least two games at the Regional Playoffs. Winning teams would then have at least three weeks to prepare for the Final at the Playoffs.
- The Host Division or Club which hosts the Regional Playoffs will save approx. \$2-4,000 per team on travel expenses (versus going to the Regional Playoffs), and will therefore be required to pay the NACB for the right to host the Regional Playoffs. The Host city fee will be \$500 per traveling team.
- There is also a real opportunity for the Host city to make a profit on the weekend, as similar rules will apply regarding team participation in Regional Playoffs Awards Functions, etc.
- The NACB will guarantee from \$2,000-4,500, depending on distance, to each Regional winner to assist with the cost of the team's second Playoff trip, this time to the National Playoffs. This money will come from the Regional Playoffs Host fee, from the National Playoff fee, and from additional sponsorship.
- The two Junior Finals, between the Regional Champions, will be held at the NACB National Playoffs on the Labor Day weekend on Sunday afternoon.
- There will be no significant effect on attendance at the NACB National Playoffs as there would still be at least 36 adult teams traveling (Football - 4 Senior Men's, 4 Senior Women's, 4 Intermediate Men's, 6 Junior "A" Men, 2 Junior "B" Men, 2 Junior Women, at least 2 U-21 teams, 4 Camogie, 4 Senior Hurling and 4 Junior Hurling). The Minor games would be in addition to the above. This is roughly the same number of adult teams as competed in San Francisco in 1997 and more than in Boston in 1996.
- In addition to U-21 & Minor games, there would now be 14 Saturday Semi-Finals and 9 Sunday Finals (including Men's Junior "B" and Women's Junior). There would still be 2 (or more) Junior "A" Quarter-Final games required on Friday.
- Overall, the NACB teams will realize big savings in airfares, and no players have to miss work on Friday (and/or Thursday) since all games are on a weekend and all teams can travel on Friday evening or Saturday. The financial burden on individual players and on clubs is lessened. If the numbers of team/Division entries increase, Friday qualifying games can still be scheduled at the Regional Playoffs.
- With GAA Playoffs in three different cities each year, Gaelic Games will get more exposure annually in more cities, and there's also the related potential for securing additional sponsorship. Start-up clubs in new cities are also more likely to participate in a Regional Playoffs.
- Junior "A" could also be included in this trial, thus reducing the number of Saturday games even more. In 1999, there will probably be 4 Eastern Junior "A" teams and only 2 Western Junior "A".
- Attached is a sample Draw for Regional Playoffs.