



2021 Regulations of the US Gaelic Athletic Association USGAA

(As enacted by USGAA Convention, January 2021, Chicago, IL)



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2021 REGULATIONS

1. AFFILIATION AND REGISTRATIONS

(i) CLUB

(a) Each club shall affiliate with the USGAA, through the electronic registration system no later than 11:59p.m. PST April 30th. All affiliating and/or registering clubs shall be required to have 13 Playing Members registered at this time.

Clubs in the first 3 years of existence, to be classified as “Developmental Clubs”, may register with less than 13 players, but no less than 9 players in the respective code.

Each Club shall ensure that its players/members register with the USGAA Registrar through the electronic registration system, or else the player will be deemed ineligible to participate.

(b) Club or player registrations that are submitted past the appropriate deadline cannot be accepted.

(c) No club affiliation and/or registration shall be accepted by USGAA unless the proper fees accompany it.

(d) No registration of a player shall be accepted, unless the player is a resident of the Division in which he/she is registering.



(ii) PLAYER

(a) Player Classifications:

Homegrown:

A Homegrown Player is a player that was never eligible to participate in minor grade or adult grade with a club in Ireland or Britain.

Players who have played with a college team, but not a club team in either Ireland or Britain are exempt.

“Homegrown” will replace all usages of the terms American-born and Non-Irish born.

Resident Player:

A Resident Player is any player that is either:

- a) A Homegrown Player, or
- b) Has Registered on-or-before April 30th.

Non-Resident Player:

A Non-Resident Player is any player that registered after April 30th, with the exception of Homegrown Players who are always Resident Players.

(b) DOCUMENTATION:

Player\Individual Member Registrations submitted without proper documentation {*completed Sanctions and transfers, etc.*} or where the residence of the player is not known to the Divisional Committee, shall be struck off the registration system.

The club(s) and individual(s) involved shall be entitled to a hearing by the Divisional Committee before such action is taken and shall be notified in writing of the outcome.



(c) FIRST TIME REGISTRATION:

A player applying for registration for the first time in a Division, must present himself/herself to 2 neutral Divisional Committee Officers, at least 3 days prior to a game.

(d) PLAYER\MEMBER REGISTRATION:

All Players or Members registering in the online registration system shall list the player's name(s), email address, type of registration, country of birth, code and grade, and the last 4 digits of the player's US Driver's License # and/or Passport #.

Registrations shall be subject to rejection based on the accuracy of details provided (e.g. duplicate entries for multiple individuals).

All Sanction players must register with their Passport.

Homegrown players who have never previously registered with an adult GAA club may registrar with a USGAA club on or before August 1st.

Exception:

Homegrown Players may register after August 1st, but such players are not eligible to play in Divisional Championships or USGAA Championships.

These players must be entered in a USGAA Registration Database at least 24-hours in advance of participation in any sanctioned game or event.

Registration Fee for these players will be as outlined in Byelaw12(a).

(e) Any club in the USGAA area may request a copy of a club's official resident registration list



(f) New player registrations can be added at any time. The USGAA shall update the electronic copy of the team's registrations as described in 1(ii)(e)

(g) All divisions must maintain a digital division registration book that must be shared with the USGAA registrar.

The divisional registrar must enter the player's information into the divisional book within 7 days of receiving the forms.

(h) The verification of a player's identification and registration by the Committee in charge before a game will involve inspection of the Club Registration sheet signed by the USGAA Registrar plus the player's listed ID.

Only an ID that is listed on the club registration sheet is acceptable as proof of ID for any player.

(i) As soon as possible after the conclusion of each Registration period, each club's updated list of Registrations shall be made available upon request for inspection by all other USGAA clubs, by providing via email the full name and club of each player.

(j) **RESIDENCY**

By **May 7th**, the local Divisional Registrar will furnish all clubs within the Division with copies of all Divisional registrations as of **April 30th**.

Clubs will then have fourteen days to question in writing the residency or legality of any player on the list. Players questioned will have 48 hours to appear in front of the Divisional Committee. Should the player fail to appear, he/she will be ineligible to play until such time as the players' status is determined by the Divisional Committee.



(k) REGISTERED LESS THAN ONE YEAR:

A Club may 3 times a year question in writing the legality of any player who has been registered with another club for less than 1 year.

When a club has questioned the legality of a player, the player in question must appear in front of the Divisional Committee within 48 hours.

A player who fails to appear will be ineligible to play until such time they appear at a Divisional Committee hearing to determine their status. Notification for a player to appear may be given via telephone.

(1) REGISTRATION OF SANCTION PLAYERS:

No players on Sanctions (either USGAA or J1) can register after July 1st;

(m) NON-CLUB PLAYER STATUS:

The following may register with USGAA under Non-Club Player status, not requiring a Transfer, subject to Byelaw 13(b):

1. Male player who has not registered with a GAA club for the previous 24 months;
- 2a. Ladies Football player who has never before registered with LGFA; or
- 2b. Ladies Football player who has not played League or Championship for 3 years;
3. Camogie player who has not played a competitive game for the previous 24 months.



2. COMPETITION:

(a) NAME:

The name of the competition in areas under the jurisdiction of the USGAA shall be known as the USGAA Championships.

(b) DIVISIONS:

The USGAA, consisting of affiliated Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs from the various cities, shall be divided into Divisions with each Division governed by a Divisional Committee.

(c) MEDALS:

The USGAA shall provide a set of medals to the winner of each grade of competition in the USGAA Championships.

(d) TROPHY:

The trophy for the USGAA Championship winners shall be perpetual. The trophy shall be returned by a date determined by USGAA Board.

Any Trophy/Shield not returned on time will result in a \$500 fine.



3. SANCTIONED PLAYERS

(a) MENS CLUBS ONLY

Official USGAA or J1 Sanctions shall not be registered later than **July 1st**.

(b) LADIES FOOTBALL and CAMOGIE

LGFA Permits and Camogie Association Sanctions shall not be registered later than **July 1st**.

(c) RETURN TO IRELAND

A player on a sanction or permit, once he or she returns to Ireland cannot afterwards, in the same year, return to play in USGAA competitions with the following exceptions:

1. The death of an immediate family member of the player, (specifically, a parent, brother, sister or grandparent);
2. To repeat a Third-Level Examination;
3. To enroll/register for a Third-Level Course of Education;
4. To start a Third-Level Course of Education;

N.B. Any other “exceptional circumstance” must have the approval of USGAA CCC before it is allowed.

Additionally, any Sanction/Permit Player returning to Ireland within the guidelines listed above shall notify Divisional and USGAA CCC prior to departure or will not be deemed eligible to resume playing in USGAA-sanctioned Competition.

A player granted “exceptional circumstance” exception may not play Hurling, Football or Handball while in Ireland.



(d) SANCTION PLAYERS' PASSPORTS:

All Sanction players must provide their passports for inspection at the USGAA Playoffs and at Divisional level games, if requested to do so by a Committee member in charge of the fixture.

Passports, if requested, must be produced prior to the game and at any hearing thereafter as a result of an objection or counter-objection. Failure to provide a passport when requested will render the player ineligible to participate in that particular game until such time as the player's passport has been provided for inspection.

Note: The number on the passport must correspond with that on the Sanction form. If the numbers do not correspond then the player is ineligible to play and may also be liable to disciplinary action.

On Passport inspections, only Divisional Officers at Divisional games, or USGAA Officers at the Playoffs, are allowed to handle Passports.

(e) ID INSPECTION:

Official Registration Forms shall be made available at all games. Before all Playoff games, players will be required to produce for inspection by an USGAA Officer the government-issued picture ID listed on the Player Registration Form submitted by their club, e.g., Driver's License or Passport.

Failure to provide the listed ID will render the player ineligible to participate until such time as the listed ID has been provided for inspection by an USGAA Officer.

The referee shall note the requests and report any irregularities to the USGAA.



4. SANCTIONS

- (a) A Player on a sanction to an exclusively Football Club can be allowed play for an exclusively Hurling Club, and vice-versa, once the grade in the other code has been established through the USGAA and Croke Park, and their sanction form lists both Football and Hurling clubs.
- (b) **MENS FOOTBALL**
- (i) **SENIOR.** - Each team shall have no more than 7 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time.
 - (ii) **INTERMEDIATE** — Each team shall have no more than 5 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time
 - (iii) **JUNIOR 'A'**- Each team shall have no more than 3 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time
 - (iv) **JUNIOR 'B'** — Each team shall have no more than 3 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time
 - (v) **JUNIOR 'C'** — Each team will have no less than 10 Homegrown players on the field at all times.

No Sanctioned players are allowed to participate in any Junior “C” or lower level competitions; only Homegrown and resident Irish-born players are eligible to play.

Teams from Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia are restricted to playing only Homegrown players in competitions at these levels.

All Homegrown players from Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia, who have previously or are currently registered in the USGAA Youth and are eligible to play on a 100% American team may also play at a higher grade level with another club in that division.



- (vi) **JUNIOR 'D'** — Each team shall have no more than 2 RESIDENT IRISH BORN players at any one time.

NOTE: All requirements are to be maintained, inclusive of players being ordered off during the course of a game in all grades and in all codes.

(c) HURLING

- (i) **SENIOR** — Each team shall have no more than 7 NON-RESIDENT players on the field at any one time
- (ii) **INTERMEDIATE** — Each team shall have no more than 4 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time.
- (iii) **JUNIOR 'A'** — Each team shall have no more than 3 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time.
- (iv) **JUNIOR 'B'** — Each team will have no less than 8 Homegrown players on the field at all times.
Each team will have no more than 3 Non-resident Players.
- (v) **JUNIOR 'C'** — Each team will have no less than 10 Homegrown players on the field at all times.

No Sanctioned players are allowed to participate in any Junior "C" or lower level competitions; only Homegrown and resident Irish-born players are eligible to play.

All Homegrown players, from Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia, who have previously or are currently registered in the USGAA Youth and are eligible to play on a 100% American team may also play at a higher grade level with another club in that division.



- (vi) **Junior 'D'** — Each team will have no less than 10 Homegrown players on the field at all times.
No Sanctioned players are allowed to participate in any Junior “C” or lower level competitions; only Homegrown and resident Irish-born players are eligible to play.
- (vii) All Homegrown players, from Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia, playing at Junior Level hurling who have previously or are currently registered in the USGAA Youth may also play at a higher grade level with another club in that division and retain their Junior Status. Players who avail of this rule must play with their club of registration in the event of a conflict of games.

NOTE: All requirements are to be maintained, inclusive of players being ordered off during the course of a game in all grades and in all codes. All hurling players shall wear a helmet for all games.

(d) LADIES FOOTBALL:

- (i) SENIOR - Each team shall be limited to no more than 5 NON- RESIDENT players on the field at one time.
- (ii) INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR - Each team shall be limited to no more than 3 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at one time.
- (iii) JUNIOR B - Teams will have at least three Homegrown players on the field at all times

(in the event a Homegrown player is dismissed from the game for whatever reason that requirement has to be maintained).



- (iv) JUNIOR C — Each team will have no less than 10 Homegrown Players on the field at all times. No sanctioned players are allowed to participate in any Junior “C” or lower level competitions; only America-born and resident Irish-born players are eligible to play.
- (v) Sanctions shall not be registered later than July 1
- (vi) The minimum age for any player shall be 15 years old on January 1st of the playing year.

NOTE: All requirements are to be maintained, inclusive of players being ordered off during the course of a game in all grades and in all codes.

(e) CAMOGIE:

- (i) **SENIOR** - Each team will be limited to no more than 5 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at any one time
- (ii) **INTERMEDIATE** — Each team will be allowed to play 3 NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS on the field at one time.
- (iii) **JUNIOR** - Each team will have no fewer than 10 Homegrown Players on the field at all times. Only Homegrown and resident Irish-born players are eligible to play. No sanctioned players are allowed to participate in any Junior level competitions.
- (iv) Sanctions shall not be registered later than July 1st.
- (v) The minimum age for any player shall be 15 years old on January 1st of the playing year.

NOTES: All requirements are to be maintained, inclusive of players being ordered off during the course of a game in all grades and in all codes.

All camogie players shall wear a helmet for all games.



5. HOMEGROWN PLAYERS:

All Men's football teams at Junior, Intermediate and Senior must start with a minimum of 2 homegrown players and can never have more than 11 non-homegrown players on the field.

6. JUNIOR STATUS ELIGIBILITY:

All Players must be Junior Grade.

(a) **EXCLUSIVELY JUNIOR DIVISIONS:**

Senior players, *residing full time* in an exclusively Junior Division, must apply to the USGAA for re-grading no later than July 20th.

(b) To be eligible to compete at Junior B, C or D grade, the participation of teams from Boston, Chicago, San Francisco or Philadelphia must be recommended to the USGAA by the Divisional Committee, and must be approved by the USGAA.



7. USGAA PLAYOFF GAMES:

- (a) **CONTROL:** The USGAA Officers shall attend all Playoff games in an official capacity.
- (b) **DIVISIONAL WINNERS:** The Divisional Committee must forward to the USGAA Registrar a panel of 25 players for each grade of competition at least 3 weeks prior to the USGAA Playoffs; teams may edit their players list up to 1 week before the playoffs. Only those players listed on the panel will be eligible to play at the Playoffs.
Any division where the Division Championship is still underway will have until the Wednesday prior to the Playoffs to provide the player panel.
- (c) **TEAM LISTS:** After each game is played during the season and at least 5 days prior to the USGAA Playoffs, the Divisional Committee Secretary must forward to the USGAA CCC the substitution and team sheets for all teams whose club also has a lower grade affiliated team.

If the required team lists and other team documentation are not provided to the USGAA, the team will be eliminated from the Playoffs.

PENALTY: DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE \$1,000 FINE, CLUB FORFEIT OF GAME.

- (d) The USGAA CCC shall determine the format for competition at USGAA Finals.
- (e) At the Playoffs, any player who lines up or deliberately attempts to play while illegal, as determined by USGAA CCC, will be automatically debarred for the duration of the Playoffs pending an investigation.

If a team lines up a player or attempts to play a player in a game who is later determined to be an illegal player, the club shall be suspended for the remainder of the Playoffs and shall be fined \$2,000.000 per illegal player.



(f) **UMPIRES & LINESPERSON**

- (i) Neutral lines-people and umpires shall be used in all games.
- (ii) All participating clubs will be required to provide umpires and lines-people for Playoff games, and clubs will be fined \$100 if their assigned officials do not fulfil an officiating assignment.
- (iii) Neutral lines-people and Umpires' assignments will be designated on the playoff schedule by club name.

(g) Eliminated teams will have the option to participate in a Shield Competition. Teams must provide and arrange for their own lines-people, umpires and referee for these games as they are considered friendly matches and have no bearing on the outcome of the USGAA playoffs.

(h) **TEAM ADMISSION TO GAMES:** Playoffs Host Divisions must charge reasonable admission charges (to be approved by USGAA CCC) to the games for players and spectators.

(i) **TEAM OFFICIALS:** A total of three club officials will be allowed entry to the sideline. Team substitutes will be required to remain in the designated area during the game.

PENALTY: \$200 FINE

(j) **DRESS:**

- (i) Jerseys must be numbered in accordance with official team list, as submitted to the referee.
- (ii) All players shall comply with proper dress code, i.e. uniform color of Jerseys, socks and shorts.

PENALTY for (i) & (ii) \$200 FINE



- (k) **PUNCTUALITY:** Teams are instructed to take the field at least fifteen minutes prior to the starting time of their games for warm up and ID inspection.
PENALTY: \$200
- (l) **PARADE:** Where a parade is organized, players should be instructed to march properly, keeping in step with the band. Teams should march in numerical order after the captain. Track suits/training tops are not to be worn during the parade.
PENALTY: \$200 FINE
- (m) **CLASH OF COLORS:** Playoffs teams must inform the USGAA of their team colors a minimum one week prior to the finals. In the event of a clash of colors between opposing teams, both teams may be instructed to change colors.
PENALTY: \$200 FINE
- (n) **TROPHY PRESENTATION:** Clubs should instruct captains to have a short acceptance speech prepared, having regard for the dignity of the occasion.
- (o) All teams entered into the USGAA playoff draws must stay in the host city's designated hotels.



8. PLAYOFFS - GENERAL RULES.

(a) **RETURN GAME:**

A club that fails to travel for a return game as scheduled in Divisional competition shall pay the greater of (1) a \$2,500 FINE or (2) all verifiable expenses incurred by the opposing club for the first game.

PENALTY: 48 WEEKS SUSPENSION OR UNTIL THE FINE HAS BEEN PAID.

- (b) Draws made by USGAA CCC shall stand. In the event of a club pulling out and another entering, there will be no re-draw of schedule and the USGAA CCC will re-align the bracket as necessary.
- (c) The USGAA CCC is permitted to introduce on a temporary basis any changes it deems necessary in connection with the running of the current years USGAA Championships. Those changes must also be ratified at the USGAA Convention the following November or the changes will no longer be valid.
- (d) In junior competitions with 4+ teams. All teams knocked out in their first game of competition at the USGAA playoffs may partake in a shield competition.



9. PLAYOFF ROTATION

The hosting of the USGAA playoffs will be on a rotational basis. Starting in 2011 the rotation shall be in the following manner:

2011 Western
2012 Philadelphia
2013 Midwest
2014 Northeast
2015 Central
2016 Northwest
2017 Western
2018 Philadelphia
2019 Mid-Atlantic
2020 Northeast
2021 Central
2022 Southwest
To be continued

The four major Divisions will be on a 6-year rotation while all others will bid for the playoffs every third year.

Bids can only be submitted by Divisions, not from a club within a Division.

In the event of a Division not meeting the playoff requirements, the rotation shall move to the next Division in line.



10. GENERAL:

- (a) A new grade be established in the USGAA at U21 level.
- (b) Within 4 weeks of USGAA Conventions, the USGAA will circulate to Divisions a copy of USGAA Regulations and ByeLaws, pending ratification by Central Council.
- (c) USGAA Officers/Divisional Board Officers will be responsible to maintain the tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code for the organization of American Gaelic Games. The USGAA Treasurer/Divisional Treasurer will oversee the timely completion of the annual tax compliance with Federal and State Authorities.
- (d) All USGAA divisions must provide 2 Certified referees to the CYC tournament each year.

Each division will be responsible for travel expenses.

Names of referees need to be sent to the CYC Committee one month in advance of the tournament.

Penalty for not complying will result in a \$1000.00 fine paid to the CYC Steering Committee.



11. CONVENTION:

A city hosting the annual USGAA Convention shall incur the costs of any meeting room expenses along with any food and refreshments provided during the Convention. The cost would not be the responsibility of the USGAA.

Penalty for non-compliance — Possible elimination following due process from all playoff competition

Commencing in 2016, the USGAA Convention be rotated on a regional basis as follows:

- Region 1: Clubs based in Pacific and Mountain Time Zones
- Region 2: Clubs based in Eastern Time Zone
- Region 3: Clubs based in Central Time Zone

Host city to be selected at the preceding USGAA Convention.

- 2016 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 1
- 2017 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 2
- 2018 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 3
- 2019 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 1
- 2020 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 2
- 2021 USGAA Convention hosted by clubs in Region 3
- Continuing as above rotation.