



TÓR/TNÍR

21ú Eanáir 2025

Do: Rúnaí Coiste Contae
County Head of Games

A Chara,

As you may be aware, the GAA alongside the LGFA and Camogie Association recently relaunched the Go Games Policy. GAA Go Games are Camogie, Hurling and Gaelic Football for children up to and including 12 years of age, where every child gets to play (a Go) in every game, for the full game and has been responsible for significant growth in participation levels since its inception in 2010.

The policy outlines that there is no provision made to publish scores, to play on a knock-out basis nor to include finals, or to present trophies, cups, etc up to and including Under 11. The purpose of this part of the Go Games policy is to avoid incentivising mentors or clubs, to leave children behind, or not give game time to weaker children. Where there are trophies, scores are published, or there are knock out tournaments, mentor behaviour consistently deteriorates, evidenced by contact, to this office, by parents that have seen their children excluded by mentors focused on winning child age tournaments.

At Under 12 leagues are permitted only and finals for all with scope for the presentation of trophies, cups and medals for all. We're also taking this opportunity to remind units and fixture-makers that Under 13 is leagues only and a non-championship grade as per Code 11.7.

Through the relaunch/update of the policy, alongside the Camogie Association and the LGFA, we are working to ensure there is a greater understanding and compliance in relation to elements of the policy including the non-competitive nature of Go Games. Putting ALL children at the centre of what we do is paramount for the Associations.

More details on the policy are available here [Go Games](#)

We are aware that clubs hold competitive Go Games tournaments and understand that some of these may be memorial events which are sensitive in nature. We want to work with these clubs across the country to advise how to continue these events within the policy framework and indeed possibly look at increasing the age grade and in doing so this may help with curbing drop-off at the teenage stage of our pathway.

For children's games, coaches must reassess the balance between the need to win games and cups versus the need to develop players and recognise the importance of fair play, i.e., provide full participation within an environment where participants are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Go Games are a National Policy and therefore sits within code (Code 11.7) and any tournament organised is governed by (Code 14.1). The process to apply for run tournaments is clearly set out below. Sanctions apply for units who do not comply with these codes.



[Go Games Application Form](#)

The ultimate responsibility for unsanctioned tournaments to be played at any club grounds rests with the officers of the club and updated sanctions reflect that. Having to sanction clubs or club officers is not something that we believe is within the best interests of the Association and would rather work with clubs to ensure compliance to the Go Games Policy which puts the needs of the child first. Where clubs are operating outside of policy then we will enforce policy including issuing the available updated sanctions.

Hereunder are the updated sanctions for inclusion in the policy as approved by Ard Chomhairle on 19th January 2025:

Non-compliance with Codes 11.7 and Association policy by a unit, depending on the circumstances shall result in

- An 8-week suspension for the host Club Secretary. In the case of an independent team, each subsequent parent club Secretary shall be sanctioned.*
- Clubs who do not adhere to policy will not be permitted to participate in their next due appearance in the Go Games Activity Days in Croke Park.*

In the circumstances of a repeat offence(s) by a club or non-compliance from a County, Development CCC shall consider further sanctions.

As outlined, we are keen to work with clubs to understand and adopt the policy. Our Coaching and Games Department, Provincial Head of Games and your County Head of Games are on hand to work with you to ensure that the compliance with the policy, for the benefit of all children. We'd ask clubs, coaches and parents to engage in the following courses/resources:

- [Go Games Online Course](#)
- [Go Games Referee Online Course](#) *

Face to face workshops will also be rolled out in counties in the Spring.

*We recognise that some counties may require further training pursuant with policy to be undertaken in addition to the completion of this course for a person to be eligible to officially referee at Go Games level and in line with policy.



Tomás Ó Riain
Ard Stiúrthóir