



2014 BYLAWS

03.03.'14 : At its meeting on 22.02.'14 Coste Bainistí approved your Bye- Laws as follows:

1. The **NACB (North American County Board)** 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 & Hurling.

2. The **NACB** shall be elected at a Convention to be held in a city with an affiliated G.A.A. Club on the 2nd weekend before Thanksgiving each year. 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 TO 2012 the NACB is authorized by Co Convention to select the NACB 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.

3. COUNTY CONVENTION

(a) In accordance with R. 3.11 T.O. **2013** the Co. Convention shall elect the following officers whose term of office will last until the conclusion of the next year's Co. Convention: Honorary President, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, P. R. O., and Youth Officer. It shall also elect a Central Council Representative. All, with the exception of the Honorary President, shall be entitled to vote.

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

(c) A delegate to the NACB 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.

4. The Co. Committee shall consist of the Officers and the Central Council Representative.

5. In accordance with Rule 3.21 & 3.22 T.O. **2013** 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 Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of NACB.

(b) Competitions Control Committee (CCC): It shall consist of 5 members namely the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Registrar and PRO of the NACB

(c) Finance Committee: It shall consist of the NACB Treasurer, Vice Chairman, 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 NACB.

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

(f) Bye Laws Review Committee: It shall consist of an appointed NACB officer and all Divisional Chairmen. (It shall review the current Bye-Laws/Regulations and make any necessary recommendations to the Co. Convention. The clubs, under Rule 3.14 T O 2012, may also submit motions to enact amend or delete Bye Laws.

(g) Playoff Committee: It shall consist of all NACB 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 6 other members elected, by Youth Clubs at the Annual Youth meeting, from candidates nominated by the various Youth Committees throughout the NACB. Subject to the overall authority of the NACB this committee shall initiate and coordinate all youth activities within the NACB area.

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

BOSTON N.E: Boston and suburbs, All New England States including Connecticut with the exception of Stamford CT,

CHICAGO CENTRAL: Chicago and suburbs, Chicago Loyola, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, South Bend, St. Louis, Kirksville MO. Waukesha, WI

SAN FRANCISCO WESTERN: San Francisco suburbs, Burlingame, Oakland, San Jose.

PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia and suburbs, Allentown PA.

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

SOUTH EAST: Georgia-Atlanta, North Carolina – Charlotte , South Carolina, Florida – Fort Lauderdale,

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

NORTH WEST: Portland, Washington - Seattle, Spokane, Utah.

MID ATLANTIC: 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: Two delegates from each men’s Gaelic Football Club, Two delegates from each men’s Hurling Club, Two delegates from each separately registered Ladies Football Club and Two delegates from each separately registered Camogie Club.

(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

(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 NACB Bye Laws and Regulations, and any other Regulations drawn up by the Divisional Board and approved by the N.A.C.B. and Central Council. No Regulation shall be contrary to any Rule in the Official Guide other than where a deviation has been granted to the NACB 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 **NACB** 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 NACB 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 NACB Appeals Committee.

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

12. REGISTRATION

The NACB will adopt the Online Registration System, as per TO 2010, 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.

- Each club shall register with the NACB Registrar through its Divisional Registrar according to the NACB requirements set out in NACB Regulations. The NACB fee for registration for all clubs shall be \$400.00. 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 clarification of a newly formed Club in the NACB 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 NACB. We are well aware of situations regarding work transfers and movement of our members, and sometimes commitments are such that they move to an area with limited GAA influences. However all registrations submitted under Byelaw 13(a) will be reviewed by the Officers of the NACB, and it will be the Officers sole decision on whether or not a newly formed Club meets the criteria established to registered at a reduced rate under Byelaw 13(a).

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

(d) No member of an NACB club may play for any team under the jurisdiction of the **New York or Canadian Boards**. Penalty according to Rule 6.2 TO 2012 (48 weeks suspension).

13. TRANSFERS.

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

(a) A player on a sanction, who has remained permanently in the NACB area beyond his first playing season and is therefore eligible for a transfer, will require an Inter County Transfer from his *current club* if he wishes to play for a club in the NACB area in his second or subsequent year. An application for such a transfer is to be made before March 31st to Croke Park on an Inter-County Transfer Form. (Rule 6.11 (d), (i), T.O. 2013).

(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 NACB on or before April 30th in any year. Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the NACB for final decision (Rule 6.10, T.O. 2011)

(d) Inter-County Transfers from clubs in New York, Canadian Board or Overseas Units to clubs in the NACB 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 NACB must be made on an Official Transfer Form which has been prepared by NACB and can be obtained from the Co. Secretary or Divisional Secretary.

14. REGRADING:

(a) **Junior:** Subject to Rule 6.19, T.O. 2013, all Resident Senior and Intermediate players intending to play with a Junior Club shall re grade not later than April 30th

(b) **Intermediate:** A Resident Senior player, intending to play with an Intermediate Club, shall re grade not later than July 1st

(c) Notice shall be sent to all clubs listing all players who re grade from senior or intermediate grade and this notice shall be received by all clubs no later than July 31st of the year in which re grading will be effective.

15. EXTRA TIME:

In the event of a tie or a draw in NACB playoff games the teams involved shall play two periods of ten minutes per period until a decision is reached.

16. SUBSTITUTES: In NACB games (Minor excluded), 5 substitutes shall be allowed. 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:

A team that wins junior 'A', junior 'B', junior 'C', or 'D' competition at the NACB finals is required to compete at a higher grade the following year.

19. STATUS:

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.

20. DISCIPLINE:

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

- (a) Notice of intent to lodge an objection must be given to the NACB Competitions Control Committee Secretary or Chairman not later than 15 minutes after the finish of the game in question.
- (b) Such objection shall be lodged in accordance with the NACB Regulations (Time and Fee) and otherwise in accordance with the Official Guide. An objection must be lodged with the NACB CCC Secretary or Chair within 60 minutes of the end of the game in question.
- (c) Notice of intent to lodge a counter-objection must be given to the NACB CCC Secretary or Chair not later than 10 minutes after receipt of objection.
- (d) Such counter-objections must be lodged with the NACB CCC Secretary or Chair not later than 60 minutes after receipt of objection.
- (e) Objections arising from Quarter-finals, Semi-finals or a Final must be lodged within 30 minutes of the end of the game in question.
- (f) 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 NACB Competitions Control Committee.
- (g) All objections and counter-objections shall be submitted on an official Objection Form, to be found in registration packet supplied at the NACB 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.
- (h) Appeals against the decision(s) of the NACB Competitions Control Committee and/or the NACB Hearings Committee shall be heard by the NACB 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 HC'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 shall request orally, and receive orally, notice of time and place at which the hearing will take place.
- (i) 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. 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 NACB Hearings Committee as applicable
- (j) The decision(s) of the NACB CCC or HC in relation to meeting the time-limits set out for objections, counter-objections or hearings is/are final and binding on all units.

(k) NON-PARTICIPATION PENALTY:

(i) A club that qualifies, and refuses to play, at the NACB Playoffs, will be fined up to \$2500, and sanctioned at the discretion of the Committee in Charge. The club shall stand suspended until all fines are paid and other conditions fulfilled.

(ii) A club that enters the NACB playoffs and fails to attend will be fined up to \$2500 and sanctioned at the discretion of the Committee in charge.

21. GENERAL:

To participate in a game other than a game scheduled by the Divisional Board or the NACB a club must apply in writing and receive permission from the Divisional Board or the NACB 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 NACB and must be submitted for scrutiny by NACB before Jan 1st in the year to which they relate.

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

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

24. The NACB 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 American 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 NACB 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 NACB club, from any jurisdiction outside the NACB control, must complete the Official Transfer Form of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association and submit this form to LGFA by March 31st 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 Divisions must be lodged with the Secretary of the NACB on or before April 30th in any year. Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the NACB for final decision.

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

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

(a) Camogie in the NACB 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 NACB club, from any jurisdiction outside the NACB 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 Divisions must be lodged with the Secretary of the NACB on or before April 30th in any year. Recommendations of the relevant Divisional Committee with regard to Transfers must be sent to the NACB for final decision.

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

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

26. A club, which is entitled to 2 votes at Co. 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 Co Convention.

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

28. Officers of the Divisional Boards shall remove themselves from any disciplinary hearing involving their own club. NACB 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 Co. Convention, by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting. To be successful, at a Co. 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 NACB/Divisional Chair meetings be published on NACB 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

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.

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 NACB complies with the Civil Authorities with regard to Child Protection Regulations