

## 2. Adult Games, 2026 Regulations for Adult Games

### ADULT COMPETITION REGULATIONS

**See also General Regulations Section 1 of this Document, these include the determination of placings in the event of a tie to qualify from the round, and/or to determine placing at the end of a competition consisting of a round robin.**

#### Adult League and Cup

A decision to concede a League or Cup game will not be a unilateral decision by one team, nor a joint decision by both teams involved. It is required that proof of effort made to have the fixture rearranged and played is provided.

Should a team consider that they are unable to play a fixture on the scheduled date, they must seek to re-fix with the opposing team. The **Club Secretary** of the team unable to field, shall inform the Fixtures Secretary at the earliest possible date with information on agreed re-fix arrangements and make sure the appointed referee has been notified of the details of a fixture not going ahead on the scheduled date.

Should the need to seek re-fix become evident at very short notice the Fixture coordinator shall re-fix **PROVISIONALLY** but only if the opponents agree to move the game.

This will give the inconvenienced team an opportunity to check player availability. Confirmation of agreed re-fix details are to be notified to the fixture Coordinator within one week of the original match date.

If the game is conceded on the day of the game the conceding team shall pay the full referees expenses of €40. The club of the conceding team will be invoiced and Rule 41 of LGFA Official Guide will apply.

Concession of a League fixture will result in possible relegation at the end of the season. Concession of more than one Cup match will be taken into account in planning for following season.

*Substitutions and No. of players*

2026 Cup has unlimited substitutions and is 13 a side (Cup Rules), to be played up to 15 a side if both clubs have available players, with sides being equalised for injuries.

2026 League is 15 a side from Divisions 1 to 5 with 5 substitutions allowed. Divisions 6 to 12 are 13 a side to be played up to 15 a side if both clubs have

available players\*, 5 substitutions allowed if played at 15 a side, otherwise number of substitutions allowed is determined by subtraction of the player numbers fielding from 20.

Unlimited substitutions be allowed from Division 6 down subject to agreement from both teams. Such agreement to be given in writing to the referee before commencement of the game.

*\* Maximum available means that the team present with the lowest number of players- provided that it meets the criteria for its division, determines the number of starting players on the pitch irrespective of how many players the other team has. If the determining team loses a player through injury or otherwise, but not including a red card offence, the other team must remove a player to equalise the sides, down to and including 13 a side only. The team with fewer than 13 players then plays v 13 players. As set out in Rule 328 the team may continue the match even if their numbers fall below 11.*

Adult League structure for 2026 See below

Note Rule 311 (2025 Official Guide)

Rule 310

310. Each team must have at least 11 players to commence a match, but a match may be continued or finished with less than 11 players. The full complement of players may be added during the course of the game, upon notifying the referee

2026 Adult Championship Rules to await ratification.

#### *Walkovers*

The following penalties shall be levied for Adult League games where walkovers are given

For Divisions 1 to 6 in the event of a team not fulfilling a League fixture there will be a €100 fine for the first walkover, an additional €150 fine for a second walkover and an additional €200 fine for the third match conceded by that team. The club of the conceding team will be invoiced and Rule 41 of LGFA Official Guide will apply.

For Divisions 7 and lower in the event of a team not fulfilling a League fixture for a second time there will be a €100 fine, there will be an additional €150 fine for a third walkover The club of the conceding team will be invoiced and Rule 41 of LGFA Official Guide will apply.

For playoff rounds, a team which has given a walkover (or the greater number of walkovers if relevant) loses home advantage for the next round of the competition when team has home venue.

A team that gives three walkovers in the League Competition will be deemed to have withdrawn from the relevant competition and their remaining fixtures will be deemed to have been conceded. The results of games played shall stand. Points from its remaining un-played fixtures shall be awarded to its nominated opponents in those matches.

	Such withdrawn teams to be placed at bottom of league for relegation purposes, other than in exceptional circumstances.
<i>2026 special circumstances (Adult League and Cup)</i>	<p>For Adult League and Cup competitions fixtures shall go ahead whether or not main Senior County panel player(s) are available. Exception: Clubs shall be entitled to a postponement, if requested, during Intercounty programme involving Dublin LGFA Senior team main panel, for the final round of the league and any league play-off game. This Exception does not apply to Cup Competitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In exceptional circumstances should CCC deem a ratified competition or group is not viable due to team drop then CCC can reconfigure so as to ensure games for the active teams.</li> </ul> <p>2026 League Competition format - see below</p> <p>See above for Substitutions and numbers of players for 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unlimited Substitutions allowed in Cup.</b> Cup has no promotion/relegation aspects. Player grading for cup is allied to league grading</li> </ul>
<i>Championship Rules</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2026 Adult Championship (structure to be determined at a later date)</li> </ul>

## Adult Go-Ahead League and Go-Ahead Cup 2026

### NOTE

1. The ratified calendar proposal for adult games is subject to change and is not a guarantee that games will be fixed for the dates listed. The Board will not change without good cause and if there is a requirement to change will give as much notice as possible. This includes Championship start dates and weeks for finals. LGFA Official Guide 2025 Rule 284. Clubs and Counties must receive at least 5 days advance notice for competitive games, except in an emergency situation or by mutual consent of the teams involved, where a shorter period shall suffice.

For Break week the board will not set fixtures (other than at end September) but clubs may wish to play fixtures by agreement subject to the usual procedure.

4. Championship start date for teams with Senior Intercounty panellists will need to be amended if there is a TG4 Senior All-Ireland final replay involving Dublin.

## **Go-Ahead Adult Leagues 2026**

Principle is 12 team leagues for 2026, (lowest divisions team numbers to be adjusted to give best competition structure available where total number of team entries not divisible by 12.)

League be played as single round with League final to determine league winner between first (home) and second (away) placed team after round robin series.

First and Second placed team in Division are promoted for 2027 league (other than for Division 1).

Last placed and second-last placed team in Division are relegated for 2027 league (other than for lowest Division).

Note that this "Two Up Two Down" is a general principle and is not absolute. For example when the next year's grading is underway adjustments will be needed as new team(s) teams may enter competition or existing team(s) drop out.

No relegation play-offs for League, except for relegation play offs between 2nd and 3rd last teams in a division only if a team with Senior County players is in 2<sup>nd</sup> last position. Teams with Senior County panelists only allowed to postpone their last match if in relegation or promotion contention. This means teams with Senior County players may postpone only their last league match plus they get a playoff with their County players available if they finish second last or are 3 points off promotion.

## **Go Ahead Adult CUP 2026**

2026 League divisions split to give Cup A and Cup B with grading based on 2025 results cup competition to be played as a single round with top ranked two teams in section A & B after round robin to progress to play cup final. Toss for venue for final. (lowest divisions team numbers to be adjusted to give best competition structure available where total number of team entries not divisible by 12).