

Dublin LGFA Competition Regulations (Playing Rules), 2026 Adult Championship

Adult PTSB Championship Competition Regulations 2026, ratified 30th June 2026

Winner of an adult championship will move up a grade automatically in the following season. For championships from Junior C downwards, promotion of teams other than the 2026 winners, who are automatically promoted, may be considered by the Gradings Committee for the 2027 championships.

2026 Adult Championship Senior to Junior D is 15 a side with 5 substitutions allowed. Adult Championship Divisions E, and lower divisions be played for 2026 as 13 a side. However, for Divisions E and lower Divisions maximum available up to 15 a side to be played with sides being equalised for injuries. In these circumstances the maximum number of players to be fielded by teams in Championship competitions is 20. Note, in competition where numbers are matched from 13 a side upwards then the number of substitutions is determined by subtracting the starting numbers from 20.

Unlimited substitutions be allowed in Championship matches from Junior E down subject to agreement from both teams. Such agreement to be given in writing to the referee before commencement of the game.

Current LGFA Official Guide Rules, Dublin LGFA Bye-Laws and Dublin 2026 Playing Rules & Regulations (including rules for separation of teams on equal points after round robin) apply to these Championship Competitions unless provided otherwise as set out below. CCC fulfils the role of fixtures Officer as provided for in the Bye-laws.

1. Games MUST go ahead as fixed unless changed by the CCC.
2. Teams must contact designated Match official minimum of 3 days before Championship games. If the assigned match official is unavailable contact Adult referee coordinator Stephen Harbron 087-9455119 by text to request that a new match official be appointed.
3. Clubs with more than one team entered must submit their panels to the office before the Competition commences as set out in the Bye Law 16.1.
4. Team sheets must be filled out in full and given to the Match Official along with expenses before game commences as set out in Dublin Playing Rules & Regulations and LGFA Official Guide.
5. All games to be played as fixed and clubs may only change if both clubs agree on an alternative date BEFORE seeking permission to change a game from the relevant Fixture Coordinator for the competition. No Games can be moved or changed without the permission of the relevant Coordinator or CCC.
No games can be moved or changed without the permission of the relevant Coordinator or CCC other than the facility to move the throw-in time as set out in the body of this document.

Any change of fixture which takes place without CCC approval may result in the fixture being declared null and void. Where two teams agree to change fixture details this is only permitted within a time which does not affect the next stage of the competition and only with permission as set out in the 2026 Dublin Playing Rules & Regulations.

Otherwise, all championship matches must be played on or before the date set for the fixture. Any match not played will be deemed conceded by the team that deferred the fixture, and if it cannot be determined who deferred the original fixture it shall be deemed void. In so far as possible last round of a round robin phase to be fixed on same date for teams (other than where there is a bye or other reason). In exceptional circumstances only, a match may be deferred but the game will be rescheduled by the fixture Coordinator for the earliest opportunity after the date of the original fixture and is to be set before the scheduled last playing date for the round robin phase. Failure to comply shall result in loss of points and or fine of €200.

6. All knock-out games will be decided on the night except for Double headers in Parnell Park. In the event of a drawn game in semi-finals or final, extra time shall be played [10mins each half] . If the teams are still drawn after extra time, there shall be a point shoot-out from 25 metres. See Rule 355 (LGFA Official Guide 2026) reproduced below:

“355. In exceptional circumstances, the Organising Committee, Board or Council may instruct teams to play One Period of Extra Time followed by a point shoot-out from 25-metres. The kicks must be taken between the two posts and from where indicated by the referee. In the case of Under 14 competitions and below, the point shoot-out shall be from the 20-metreline.

Only players who are remaining on the field of play at the end of Extra Time are eligible to take the kicks. Each team shall take 5 kicks at point scoring. If the scores are still tied after each team has taken their 5 kicks, sudden death procedure shall follow, using different players, until such time as there is a winner.

The ball must go directly over the crossbar, off the crossbar and over, or, off the uprights and over the crossbar, to be counted as a point.

A ball that hops in front of the goal and goes over the bar shall not be counted as a point.

Any player that crosses the 20/25m mark while kicking for a point shall have her score disallowed.”

7. Should any club’s pitch be unplayable, the match MUST be switched to the opponent’s pitch as set out in the Dublin LGFA Bye-Laws or in exceptional circumstances be played in a suitable ground fixed by the CCC.

8. In the event of a clash of colours in an Inter-Club game, the away team must wear jerseys of a different colour. Should the game be played at a neutral venue, both teams must change or come to a mutual arrangement (LGFA Official Guide 2026, Rule 124).

In all games a goalkeeper must wear distinctive attire. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of €15.

CHAMPIONSHIPS STRUCTURE 2026

With preparation for 2027 and 2028 as applies to Relegation and promotion, unless an alternative championship structure is ratified for the 2027/2028 season.

If the season is not completed due to exceptional circumstances, decisions on promotion and relegation in preparation for 2027 season shall be decided by the County Board.

For Senior to Junior E, the Semi-finals to be played under lights. Should the home team be unable to supply a pitch then CCC will appoint a suitable alternative.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Senior Championship will be made up of 11 teams and draw 1x6 and 1x5 team groups, Group A and Group B. Senior Championship is seeded for 2026.

The two finalists in last year's Championship are seeded 1 and go into opposite sides of the draw. The remaining two semi-finalists from last year are seeded 2 and are drawn to see which side they go into (they go into different sides than each other). The remaining teams are unseeded and are drawn to complete the two sides of the draw.

Groups to play round robin, then proceed to knockout stages.

For knockout stages the first placed team in Group A to play the second placed team in group B, and the first placed team in Group B to play the second placed team in Group A in championship Semi-final, neutral venues for Senior semi-finals if possible, otherwise highest placed team in group having home advantage. Winners play final.

2026

The remaining **seven** teams play competition continuation in Senior B Championship. To avoid quarter finals between teams from the same round-robin group, the third placed team in the 6 team round robin group will have a bye into the Senior B semi-final. Thereafter the third team in the 5 team round robin group plays the fourth team in the 6 team round robin group (Q/F 1), the fourth team in the 5 team round robin group plays the fifth team in the 6 team round robin group (Q/F 2) and the fifth team in the 5 team round robin group plays the sixth team in the 6 team round robin group (Q/F 3).

Senior B Semi-finals : Bye V QF 2 and Q/F 1 V Q/F 3 with the Semi-final winners to contest Senior B Final, draw for venue.

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Intermediate Championship will be made up of 10 teams and draw 2x5 team groups, Group A and Group B. Groups to play round robin, then proceed to knockout stages.

For knockout stages the first placed team in Group A to play the second placed team in group B, and the first placed team in Group B to play the second placed team in Group A in championship Semi-final, with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Winners play final.

The third placed team in Group A to play the fourth placed team in group B, and the third placed team in Group B to play the fourth placed team in Group A in shield Semi-final with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Draw for venue for shield final. Fifth placed teams in round robin do not participate further than round robin.

Winner of Intermediate championship 2026 promoted to Senior Championship 2027. Note – No relegation for 2026 as set out above.

JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Junior A Championship will be made up of 10 teams and draw 2x5 team groups Group A and Group B.

Groups to play round robin, then proceed to knockout stages.

For knockout stages the first placed team in Group A to play the second placed team in group B, and the first placed team in Group B to play the second placed team in Group A in championship Semi-final, with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Winners play final.

The third placed team in Group A to play the fourth placed team in group B, and the third placed team in Group B to play the fourth placed team in Group A in shield Semi-final with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Draw for venue for shield final. Fifth placed teams in round robin do not participate further than round robin.

Winner of Junior A championship 2026 promoted to Intermediate Championship 2026

Note – No relegation for 2026, as set out above.

Junior B and lower Division Championships

8 team Divisions to be in place where possible, Divisions will be drawn in 2 x groups of 4 teams Group A and Group B.

Groups to play round robin, then proceed to knockout stages.

For knockout stages the first placed team in Group A to play the second placed team in group B, and the first placed team in Group B to play the second placed team in Group A in championship Semi-final, with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Winners play final.

The third placed team in Group A to play the fourth placed team in group B, and the third placed team in Group B to play the fourth placed team in Group A in shield Semi-final with highest placed team in group having home advantage. Draw for venue for shield final.

Winner of championship Division 2026 promoted to next highest Division for Championship 2027.

There will be no automatic relegation from Junior B and lower Championships but all finishing positions across Championship and Shield competitions may be taken into consideration by the Gradings Committee for the 2027 championship season.

Where total number of teams from Junior B down is not divisible by 8 and whether for this or for some other reason a Division is ratified with a different number of teams, the Championship Competition format for this Division/Divisions to be ratified prior to Competition start, ideally in conjunction with the Division ratification.

Implementation of Rule 395 official Guide 2026

When playing reduced numbers (e.g. 14,13, 12 or 11 a side fixtures, etc.), the 4 v 3 rule will be as follows:

15 v 15 – 4 defenders and 3 forwards in the half,

14 v 14 – 3 defenders and 2 forwards in the half,

13 v 13 - 2 defenders and 1 forward in the half,

12 a side and below not in use.

These numbers must be retained even if playing numbers are reduced due to red / black cards or player injury and no substitute available.