

2026 Dublin LGFA Féile Charter and Playing and Participation Rules 2026



Dublin LGFA Féile Charter

This charter and the accompanying abridged version of the playing rules clearly outline the levels of good practice in terms of behaviour and participation that is required from all players, coaches and supporters at Féile events in 2026.

A core aim of Féile is to promote a philosophy whereby every player has the opportunity to participate and play in their respective Féile tournament at a level commensurate to their age, skills and strengths.

Participation Féile Peil na nÓg:

Participating teams shall be 15-a-side comprising of players who are over 11 and under 15 years of age on 1st January in the year of Féile. Tournament is an Under 15 Competition - i.e. for 2026 players born 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Code of Behaviour:

All participating players and those attending Feile Peil na nÓg are obliged to adhere to and implement the *Code of Behaviour* when working with underage players. Failure by Clubs to adhere to this Code may result in penalties and/or exclusion from Féile Peil na nÓg in accordance with the principles of the Code.

Panel of Players:

A playing panel for Féile Peil na nÓg for Gaelic Football and Ladies Gaelic Football shall be confined to a maximum of 26 players. Each team may have up to 4 team mentors, one of whom shall be the Female Liaison Officer (FLO).

Registration:

Panel Listing must be uploaded to Foireann by the notified closing date/time of 12 noon on Sunday 29th March. Any player listed who is unregistered with LGFA will be removed from the Panel and no replacement will be permitted.

On the day Feile commences 3 copies of the Foireann Team listing (all players must be from the Panel Listing already uploaded by 29th March) - with jersey numbers corresponding to player, must be provided to the Venue Feile Co-ordinator.

Give Respect – Get Respect:

All participating teams shall adhere to the Respect initiative, Give Respect – Get Respect. This Respect initiative seeks to ensure that at a very minimum our Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect and Get Respect from each other.

The following shall be implemented in promoting and supporting the Respect initiative:

- The host Club will welcome each team, officials, referees and spectators to their venue.
- All players shall as a condition of participation undertake to play by the rules and take responsibility for their own behaviour whilst always respecting their opponents, referees and officials.

Specific Féile Playing and Participation Rules

General Rules

Ladies Gaelic Football games shall be played in accordance with the Association's Official Guide.

Composition of Teams and Playing Time

All Games shall be played on a 15-a-side basis over 15 minutes per half on a full sized pitch except as stated below.

For 8-team divisions each Division shall be drawn as two groups of 4 (Group A and Group B). A round robin shall be played within the group (3 games x 30 minutes (2 halves of 15) =90 minutes playing time in group stage). Once round robin games are finished, the winner of Group A plays the second team in Group B and vice versa in a semi-final, with the two semi-final winners progressing to a final on Day 2 of the competition.

For 5-team Divisions the semi-finals shall be as follows: the winner of the round robin plays the fourth placed team and the second placed team in the round robin plays the third placed team.

For 6 team Divisions, two groups of 3 (Group A and Group B) with the winners and runnerups in each group playing the runner up and winner respectively in the semifinals – note that total playing times in round robin will be adjusted to equal the equivalent amount of playing times in the 8 team divisions.

Semi-finals and finals shall be 15 minutes a side.

Where Divisions of more or fewer than 8 teams are ratified the competition format shall be decided by the County Board, with a view to providing an equivalent amount of playing time as in the 8-team divisions.

Should a team drop out after ratification the playing times of the remaining teams shall be adjusted in a similar fashion.

Should two teams finish level on points, the winner of the original game between those two teams will progress. If that game ended in a draw, or if more than two teams ended level on points, qualification for the semi-final or quarter final will be decided **by score difference on the basis of the team with the overall aggregate lowest score against them**. If this score difference does not separate them then the winner of the original game between those two teams will progress (in the situation where more than two teams ended level on points). If this option does not separate them then a play-off, as described below for semi-final and final, shall be played. There is no requirement to make substitutions in the case of play offs where required.

Playing Panels:

A playing panel for Ladies Gaelic Football shall be confined to a maximum of 26 players per team.

Each team shall be accompanied by a maximum of 4 team mentors, one of whom should have first aid training so as to enable them administer basic first aid if so required. Where a panel of 26 players has been submitted by a Club their team must play 19 players, as a minimum, during each game, i.e. 15 players to commence the game and at least four substitutions on an interchange basis (See Substitutions below). THIS APPLIES IN ALL GAMES (ROUND ROBIN, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL), EXCEPT AS ABOVE FOR PLAY-OFFS.

Where a team, due to unavailability, injuries or suspensions may not have 20 players available to them they must submit their full list of available players to the local Féile Official before the game and play each of these players in that game in accordance with the interchange policy. I.e. if a Club has 19 players only available to them, they must play all 19 players during the game and may interchange players as they deem appropriate.

Any team participating in Féile Peil na nÓg that has been proven to have been illegally constituted may be debarred from participation in Féile na nGael/Féile Peil na nÓg in accordance with their Association rules.

Team list:

A full team list from Foireann (3 copies signed by the Lead Team Mentor), consisting of all players and substitutes with jersey numbers, must be furnished to the local Féile Official (Feile Venue Co-ordinator) on each day of competition.

Player identification:

Players must retain the number on her jersey as per the Foireann team sheet submitted to the Feile Venue Co-ordinator, i.e. if a player is No. 10 on the registration form, she may only wear the No. 10 jersey in **all** games.

Should the team goalkeeper play as an outfield player during any game she will continue to wear their numbered goalkeeper's jersey as per the registration of the player. If the goalkeeper jersey clashes with the colour of the opposing team the use of a bib may be permitted once it is of similar colour to their team colours. In such circumstances as above the substitute goalkeeper must wear a jersey/bib which is distinctive in colour from her own team's jerseys, her own team's goalkeeper's jerseys and the opposing team's colours.

Pitch size:

Games will be played on a full-size pitch in accordance with Association rules.

Semi Final or Final Draw

In the event of a draw at the semi-final ten minutes extra time (2 x 5 mins.) will be played. If a draw still results then five frees will be taken by five different players as follows:

Ladies Gaelic Football:

- Distance from goal line must be 25 metres.
- Frees to be taken for points, with no goalkeeper/defenders facing the free takers.
- The team with the most points scored, following five frees per team, will be deemed to have won the game.
- If still level after five frees per team then 'sudden death frees' are to be taken by different players until one team has scored a point and the other misses.
- Frees in Ladies Gaelic Football may be taken from the hand or from the ground, as per the player's choice. Frees shall be taken at a central point, identified by the referee, between the two goals posts, but the necessary distance from the goal line as per above.
- A score will be recorded should the ball bounce and then go over the cross-bar.

Team Colours:

All teams shall wear their official club colours. If there is a clash of colours, the host team will change. If both teams are visiting, both teams will change, unless an agreement is reached between teams.

Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed with additional requirements as follows

1. Two substitutes will be introduced 10 minutes into the first half and two further substitutes 5 minutes into the second half, (on the referee's signal). These players are to remain on the field for the remainder of the game (except in the case of injury).

**THE PLAYERS INTRODUCED DURING THESE INTERCHANGES SHALL EXCHANGE A BIB WITH THE PLAYER COMING OFF. NO SUB SLIPS ARE REQUIRED
THIS APPLIES IN ALL GAMES (ROUND ROBIN, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL), EXCEPT AS ABOVE FOR PLAY-OFFS.**

There is no requirement to make substitutions in the case of play offs where required.

Where a club fails to observe the Féile rules regarding the minimum number of substitutes to be made that club shall forfeit the match.

Where both clubs in the same match fail to observe the Féile rules regarding substitutes the match shall be deemed void.

2. All players should play a minimum of 30 minutes in the Féile weekend.
3. All clubs should be encouraged to promote an **equal playing time ethos where younger players are not playing above their grade unless absolutely necessary due to a lack of numbers within a catchment area.**

4. Substitution is by means of bib exchange (During stoppage in play, **on the referee's instruction** and at mid way line)

Yellow Cards

Rule 343 (2021 LGFA Official Guide) states and will be applied as follows:

Where games are 15 minutes or less per half, that the Sin Bin time will be 3 minutes playing time. Where a player commits a Yellow Card offence in games of less than 30 minutes a half, she shall be sent to the Sin Bin for 5 minutes Playing Time. Where Extra Time is played in such a game, the Sin Bin time shall be for 5 minutes, even though the game may have exceeded one hour.

Disciplinary Matters

See Appendix I.

General Rules in conjunction with Féile Charter 2026

1. Participation in the Dublin Féile Competition 2026 is in accordance with the Ladies Gaelic Football Association Official Guide and the Children First Legislation.
2. Dublin Féile will support and adopt the GAA Respect initiative, Give Respect - Get Respect. This programme seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees, "Give Respect - Get Respect" from each other.
Host Clubs: Referees to be welcomed to the GAA Club before the Game.
Players & Mentors: Play by the rules and take responsibility for their own behaviour whilst respecting opposition, Referees and Officials
Referees: Communicate decisions to players in an effective manner
Supporters: Remain in designated areas at the side of the pitch/in the stand for the full duration of each game. Always respect the match officials' officials and encourage children to do likewise.
3. All players must play as per their jersey numbers on the registration form for the entire time that the team remains in the competition. The captain of each team may / shall be stated on each team registration form.
4. No change to the named panel submitted on the Affiliation Form via Foireann is permitted after the notified closing date. No alterations will be accepted after that date. Any player listed who is unregistered will be removed from the panel and no replacement will be permitted, and the final panel shall then stand.
This final panel of up to 26 players shall be eligible to participate in Féile.
5. Where clubs have entered 2 or more teams for Féile, players are not permitted to transfer from one panel to another and this applies when they are no longer participating in the competition.
6. The organising Committee will appoint a coordinator for each Division who will act as Rúnaí for that Division. In the event of a dispute s/he will consult immediately with the designated Feile Officer who will consult with any available members of the organising committee. The decision of the Feile Officer with the consent of the County Board Chairperson is final. In the event of different venues, the organising Committee will appoint a coordinator for each venue.
7. In the event of a dispute relating to team illegality or as a result of a spot check, the Division coordinator shall have the power to request, and shall receive the Name and Date of Birth of the player concerned.
8. **Game Rules**
 - a. All competition games will be played on a 15-a-side basis (NOTE In rounds of fewer or more than four teams playing time shall be adjusted so that each team plays for approx. 90 minutes total during the round stage).
 - b. An interval [half-time] of 5 minutes will be allowed.
 - c. In the round robin stage, 2 points will be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw.
 - d. Team officials are not allowed encroach on to the field of play without the permission of the referee. All teams will be allowed 4 mentors on the side-line of the pitch at any given time.
 - e. All disciplinary issues will be dealt with as per the Official Guide and the Feile Charter.
 - f. A player leaving the pitch for a blood injury must report to the Division coordinator before returning to the pitch.

- g. The decisions of the organising Committee with the consent of the County Board Chairperson shall be final on both days.
- h. Players guesting with a club are subject to National and County Board permission to play in Féile.
- i. A panel list (3 copies) to include jersey number must be handed in as part of the validation.
- j. All co-ordinators will be identified wearing **bibs** and the Chairperson of the Féile Committee will be the overall co-ordinator on the day.
- k. The Official Photographer for the weekend will be designated.
- l. All other photographers must have express permission from the DLGFA (see separate application for such permission) and the club they are representing. Each club must abide by the regulations pertaining to photography permission.
- m. All referees will be members of the Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Association must wear official LGFA referee gear.
- n. Clubs must submit a contact number for at least 2 members of their management teams.

Reminder to ALL: Young Players Charter

- We are playing for enjoyment, to be with our friends, and to make new friends.
- We promise to try our best to improve our skill, to help our team mates, and to obey the rules of the game.
- We enjoy having older people watch us play.
- We ask that they applaud rather than criticise our efforts and the efforts of our opponents.
- Remember that we are learning to play a game that should give us a lifetime of enjoyment.
- We may have to risk making errors in order to learn. Please give us a chance.
- We thank the referees for giving time to take charge of our games.
- We promise to respect the referees' decisions.
- We ask the older people to do the same.
- We promise to respect our opponents.

Féile Disciplinary Matters

Féile CCC

The **Féile Competitions Control Committee** (“Féile CCC”) of DLGFA Féile shall comprise a minimum of five members who are appointed by the Executive of the Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Association (“Executive”) from time to time. The Féile CCC shall appoint one or more persons to be Féile Coordinator at the various venues. The Executive shall designate one member of Féile CCC to be Chair of Féile CCC. The members of Féile CCC shall designate one of their members to be the Secretary of Féile CCC. Féile CCC shall:

- be responsible for the scheduling, arrangements, and control of games (excluding the appointment of referees); and
- investigate and process matters relating to the enforcement of the Féile Charter and playing rules (including hearing objections and counter objections) and match regulations for competitions and games under the auspices of the Féile CCC.

Official Guide, CODA references, penalties and processes

The Official Guide of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association applies. Where a Rule in the Official Guide designates a matter to be within the jurisdiction of CODA, that Rule shall be read as referring to Féile CCC and its committees. Where a Rule prescribes penalties and processes, those penalties and processes shall apply to Féile, unless a different penalty or process is specified in this Féile Disciplinary Matters document.

Féile Disciplinary Committees

The Féile Hearings/Appeals Committee of DLGFA Féile Dublin shall comprise three of those individuals who are members of the Dublin CODA hearings and appeals panel. The Féile Hearings Committee shall adjudicate on all matters where a hearing is prescribed and requested relating to the enforcement of rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the Féile CCC during the Féile weekend

Referee’s Report

The match referee shall submit a referee’s report for each match to the Féile CCC.

Straight Red Cards: If the referee has issued a red card (other than as a result of issuing two yellow cards), the referee shall give the referee’s report to the Féile Coordinator as soon as possible after the game. The Féile Coordinator shall send a copy to the Féile CCC. The player given the straight red card shall be suspended for **one** Féile match. She shall serve this suspension whether or not a hearing or an appeal is pending.

Other reported incidents: If the referee includes in the referee’s report reference to any incidents, other than a straight red card, which amount to a breach of a Rule in the Official Guide or a breach of the Féile Charter or a breach of the Féile competition rules, the matter shall be reported to CODA.

Match terminated by the referee: If a referee decides to end a match because the ground is not suitable or because of darkness, the Féile CCC shall decide whether to refix the match or to deem the match to be a draw, with a scoreline of 0-1 to 0-1. If the decision of Féile CCC is to deem the match to be a draw, then either team may appeal to the Féile Appeals Committee.

If a referee decides to end a match early because of any other reason or because one team refuses to continue, the referee shall include in the referee’s report the referee’s determination as a fact of which team or teams was or were responsible. If one team is specified, that team shall be excluded from Féile and, if the match which ended early is in the group stages, the matches in which that team played shall be null and void. If both teams are specified, both teams shall be excluded from Féile and, if

the match which ended early was a group match, then the matches in which each team played shall be null and void. If the match is a semi final, then the other semi final shall be deemed to be the final. If the match is a final, then the two losing semi finalists shall play in the final.

Referee's report is conclusive: The referee's report shall be conclusive as to the facts set out in the report and as to matters of time. No Féile match may be videoed, and therefore no video evidence may be introduced to contradict the referee's report.

Process

Timings: The Féile CCC shall endeavour to process any disciplinary cases in a speedy manner, but all must bear in mind that, Féile CCC may be dealing with multiple matters arising in different locations at the same time, that Féile operates on a tight timeframe which means that matches cannot be delayed pending the outcome of hearings or appeals and that in the case of a straight red card the likelihood is that the player will have to serve the one Féile match suspension.

Fines and suspensions: The maximum fine which may be imposed for a Féile disciplinary matter is €500. Any Féile match suspension shall not extend to any match in any other competition or to Féile in any subsequent year.

Use of technology: Hearings and appeals may take place on Zoom or Microsoft Teams or any equivalent online platform. The relevant Committee shall decide the method **used**.

Hearing or Appeal: If a club requests a hearing or appeal, the club may not request the postponement of any Féile matches. The club will have to field without any mentor or player involved in such a hearing or appeal.

Time limits and Team contact for disciplinary matters: Each team shall designate one mentor to be the liaison for disciplinary matters. That person must notify the Féile Coordinator orally within 15 minutes of the conclusion of a game of any request for a hearing, confirmed in writing within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game. After a decision of the Féile Hearings Committee or the Féile CCC, the Féile Coordinator shall inform the designated mentor. That person (the mentor designated by the team) must notify the Féile Coordinator verbally of any proposal to appeal within 15 minutes of such notification, confirmed in writing within 30 minutes of such notification.