

U16 Football and Hurling Championship Regulations 2026

1. These rules cover both U16 Championship and Shield competitions, and the Shield competitions are a continuation of the Round Robin Championship.
2. To be eligible to play in the U16 Championship, a Player shall have a birthday on or after January 1st 2010.
3. Each Championship will be played on a Round Robin basis, with group size based on entries, with a maximum of 12 teams in any given competition and shall be drawn, where possible, into three groups of 4 by open draw. A maximum of one team per club shall be allowed in any grade.
4. The drawing order will define the home and away fixture schedule as follows (following defines schedule for a 4-team group)

1 st team drawn	A
2 nd team drawn	B
3 rd team drawn	C
4 th team drawn	D

1 st Game	2 nd Game	3 rd Game
A v B	D v A	A v C
C v D	B v C	B v D

5. The top two teams in each group shall qualify for quarter-final or semi-final (dependent on number of teams entered in specific championship), while the bottom two teams will qualify for quarter final or semi-final of a shield competition with teams finishing in 1st and 3rd having home advantage in the subsequent round of the Championship and Shield respectively.

Of the three Group Winners, two of them will proceed into the Championship Semi Finals, the two selected by drawing lots (They will also have Home advantage).

The three 2nd Placed Teams along with third Group Winner will take part in Championship Quarter Final draw (the third group winner can't be paired with 2nd place from original group and will have home advantage).

Of the three Group 3rd place teams, two of them will proceed into the Shield Semi Finals, the two selected by drawing lots (They will also have Home advantage).

The three 4th Placed Teams along with third 3rd place will take part in Shield Quarter Final draw (the third 3rd place team can't be paired with 4th place from original group and will have home advantage).

6. The exception to regulation 5 will be the following competitions (U16 Football F & G Championships and U16 Hurling E & F Championships) please refer to the fixtures issued for these competitions which explain how the competitions proceed after group games complete.
7. When teams finish on equal league points for qualification for the concluding stages, the tie/s shall be decided by the following means and in the order specified;
 - (i) Where two teams only are involved –
 - a) Outcome of the previous meeting of the two teams involved
 - b) Scoring Difference (subtracting the total Scores Against from total Scores For);
 - c) Highest Total Score For
 - d) A Play-off
 - (ii) Where more than two teams are involved –
 - a) Scoring difference (subtracting the total scores against from the total scores for) of the games where the teams tied on points played each other only.
 - b) Highest Total score for, in which only the teams involved, have played each other and finished equal in a)
 - c) A Play-off

In the event that a team involved in a tie consisting of two or more teams had their finishing points total affected by a loss of points against that team on a proven objection, forfeiture of points for breach of rule / regulation, or by loss of points for failing to fulfil a fixture, that team shall not be included in any play-off and shall be deemed to have finished in last place in whatever means is used to decide the tie. The procedures outlined in 7 (i) and 7(ii) shall then be used to separate the remaining teams in the tie depending on number of teams still tied.
8. All games are play or concede with the following exception - the Chairperson or An Rúnaí of CCC2 may officially call off or postpone a fixture if he feels that the circumstances are exceptional.
9. If the home pitch is unplayable and the away team has a playable pitch, then the venue must be reversed. The home team will concede the game and may be removed from the competition if they refuse to travel to the playable pitch.
10. In the case of a club that has control of its own pitches contact must be made by 6 p.m. on Friday for a Saturday game and by 12 p.m. on Saturday for a Sunday game or before 6 p.m. on the day before a midweek game by the home team declaring that their pitch is playable/unplayable.
11. If the home pitch is declared playable in these circumstances only the referee may subsequently deem it unplayable as per T.O. 2026. If the home team declares their pitches unplayable then Regulation 9 applies.
12. Should the home team declare their pitch unplayable after the times outlined in Regulation 10 without the referee's consent when the away team has a playable pitch the home team will forfeit the match if they do not travel to their opponent's venue.
13. Under the regulations above where a home team has no playable pitch and the away team offers a pitch up to two hours before or after the official starting time of the fixture (but not earlier than 10 a.m. for a Sunday fixture) this shall become the official time of the fixture, and the game must be played or conceded.

14. In the event of bereavements, cancellations will be at the discretion of the Chairperson or An Rúnaí of CCC2 only. A game will be given off only where the bereavement has a direct bearing on a particular team.
15. A player who plays in any U16 Championship / Shield match may not subsequently play in a lower status U16 Championship / Shield game in the same championship year. Breach of this regulations will result in the following sanctions under the relevant Codes and Rules as per TO 2026.* On an objection by an opposing team and follow on proven investigation by CCC2, forfeiture of the game and awarding of the game to the opposition, a minimum 4-week suspension for players involved and a €500 fine for the offending club** On an investigation [proven] by CCC2, forfeiture of the game, a minimum 4-week suspension for the players involved and a €500 fine for the offending club
16. All Weather/Artificial pitches are officially sanctioned by the Dublin County Board and clubs in possession of same or prepared to rent same are entitled to use them for any games including championship - Mentors are advised to check with their opposition (should they have an all-weather pitch) as to the surface they intend to use, to ensure that adequate footwear is taken/used.
17. The venue as listed in official CCC2 fixtures as circulated by An Rúnaí and on www.dublingaa.ie is the official venue for the fixture. Any change of venue must be notified to the opposition club, referee AND An Rúnaí CCC2, at least 24 hours in advance of the fixture. Failure to adhere to this regulation may result in the game being re-fixed or awarded against the offending club, should they win, if CCC2 deems said club was attempting to gain an unfair advantage.
18. A neutral referee must be present. The home team is responsible for contacting the referee to ensure their availability. If a referee fails to show the game will automatically be re-fixed by CCC2. If the appointed referee reports that he was not contacted by the home club then the re-fixture shall be played at their opponent's home venue i.e. they lose home advantage.
19. All competitions are 15 a-side, but where necessary a minimum of 13 aside can be played. This regulation applies to all grades of Championship and Shield Competitions.
20. Both teams must play equal numbers and the MAXIMUM number available to both teams must be played e.g. if both sides have 14 then NO players are to be held back as substitutes. If a game has commenced with reduced numbers and additional player or players arrive, both teams must play the maximum number available i.e. 14 or 15.
21. Where teams are playing with reduced numbers i.e. 13 to 14 aside and a team (that has no substitutes available) loses a player through injury or a red card, the other team is NOT obliged to take off a player.
22. Under these reduced numbers regulations, teams that play more players than their opposition have available to them (exception – reduced number as per 21 above) forfeit the game.
23. A team that fails to fulfil any Championship or Shield fixture without the agreement of CCC 2 shall be fined €100.
24. There will be extra time in all knockout games (any playoffs, quarter-finals, and semi-finals (as per T.O. 2026). Extra time will be two periods of ten minutes as per rule. If still no winner, Winner on the Day regulations will apply – please refer to Winner on the Day regulations. Failure to field for extra time within five minutes of the end of normal time and/or upon being summoned by the referee shall result in a team being removed from the competition. Note, Winner on the Day will not apply to Finals if sides still level after Extra Time.

25. Bibs must be worn by all mentors, to a maximum of 4 mentors per team. Any person who is wearing a bib on the side-line is deemed to be a mentor. CCC2 will sanction as such, any person reported by a referee for misconduct.
26. Teams failing to wear bibs will be fined €25
27. Team sheets including substitution slips must be issued to the referee for all games. Team sheets must include players name in both Irish and English along with their GAA registration number. All team mentors' names must also be listed.
28. Failure to issue team sheet will see teams fined €10
29. Equipment

Football Sizes:

- U16 – Size 5

Sliotar Sizes:

- U16 – Size 5

30. CCC2 will issue additional match day regulations for any potential Finals in Parnell Park and Other Venues.
31. In all other matters the rules of T.O. 2026 apply. As these regulations apply to our U16 Championships/ Shield competitions please note the following:

- The maximum number of substitutes permitted during the playing of Normal Time shall be five (Up to 20 players may be used by the team with the greater number of players present).
- A maximum of three Substitutions shall be allowed during the playing of Extra Time.
- There is no maximum score difference in place as is applicable to other CCC2 run competitions