**Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1)**

**Games played from Under 7 to Under 13 Age Groups**

**Supporting Policy Document**

This document has been drafted by the Games Development Committee for consideration by Central Council. It is proposed that this will form the basis of national policy, as an extension of Rule 6.26, and will take effect from January 1st, 2014.

1. ***Games in the Under 11 and younger age groups shall be organised on the basis of the ‘Go Games’ model, as approved by Central Council.***
2. ***Games in the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups shall be organised on a League basis, as approved by Central Council.***

**1. GAA Go Games**

**Defining GAA Go Games**

Go Games are small-sided versions of Hurling and Gaelic Football which have been devised for children up to and including 11 years of age. The following are the key underpinning principles of Go Games:

* All participants play in the full game.
* Participant needs are catered fore, where possible, on the basis of two year age cohorts U.7, U.9 & U.11 in a manner consistent with the ethos of Go Games.
* Go Games should be played up to and including to 4th class (P5) in all primary schools.
* Activities are structured in a manner which optimises the level of fun, friendship, fair play and achievement derived by participants.
* Participants train and play in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment where they are encouraged to risk error, to learn and to derive maximum enjoyment from their involvement.
* Players master the basic skills of Hurling and Gaelic Football and experience the sense of accomplishment, which derives from acquiring playing proficiency on the left and right hand side of the body.
* Everybody involved in Go Games, whether as players, parents/guardians, spectators, mentors, teachers, officials etc., should adhere to the key underpinning principles and give expression to the GAA ‘Give Respect, Get Respect’ initiative.

**Organising Go Games**

Go Games may be organised on a blitz basis. Go Games may be organised by a Club, Primary School or at an Approved GAA Centre on an internal (i.e. single unit) or external (i.e. multiple unit) basis.

**Go Games Playing Rules**

* The recommended Playing Rules for Go Games Hurling and Gaelic Football are provided in Appendices 1 and 2. These are provided by way of best practice recommendations and can be adapted to meet localised needs.
* Where units from different counties play a game, these Playing Rules will be used.

**Go Games Regulations**

The following Go Games Regulations shall apply:

* Go Games are subject to general rules of the Association.
* Teams shall be a maximum of 7-a-side at U.6 & 7, 9-a-side at U. 8 & 9 and 11-a-side at U.10 & 11 age levels.
* Participants may play up one age grade i.e. U.7 may play at U.9 level; U.9 may play at U.11 level; U.11 may play at U.12 & U.13 age levels.
* No provision is made to publish scores, to play on a knock-out basis nor to include semi-finals, finals etc.
* No provision is made to present trophies, cups etc. Where certificates/medals are presented in lieu of participation, the same certificate/medal must be presented to every participant.

**Sanctions**

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit within a County may result in the subsequent reduction of Games Development funding for the County concerned.

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit may result exclusion of that unit from Games Development Activity Days (county, provincial or national), Exhibition Games and the U.14 Féile na nGael competitions.

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| **ITEM**  Go_Games.jpg **RECOMMENDED HURLING RULES** | **UNDER 6 & 7** | **UNDER 8 & 9** | **UNDER 10 & 11** |
| **1. Team sizes/**  **Participation** | Maximum 7-a-side.  A club/school/community team with 10 or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where a club/school/community team with 9 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. | Maximum 9-a-side.  A club/school/community team with 14 players or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where club/school/community team has 13 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. | Maximum 11-a-side.  A club /school/community team with 16 or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where a club/school/community team has 17 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. |
| **2. Pitch Dimensions** | 45m x 30m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. | 65m x 40m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. | 90m x 40-50m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. |
| **3. Zones** | 2 Zones - Pitch split with cones across at halfway. | None | None |
| **4. Duration** | Minimum 6min to maximum 12min per half. | Minimum 8min to maximum 15min per half. | Minimum 10min to maximum 20min per half. |
| **5. Goalposts** | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft.  Training Poles or cones are optional. | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft.  Training Poles are optional. | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft. |
| **6. Sliotar** | Size 1 | Size 2 | Size 3 |
| **7. Commence** | With Puck Out from hand or ground.  All other players must stand 10m away from player taking. | With puck out from the hand or ground.  All other players must stand 10m away from player taking. | With thrown in at halfway mark.  All other players must stand 10m away from player taking. |
| **8. Outfield Play** | All on the ground.  No kicking the ball. | **Full rules except:**  One hop of ball on hurley is permitted.  No kicking the ball. | **Full rules except:**  Solo run up to 10m permitted. |
| **9. Goalkeeper** | Catch, Lift into the hand and strike or Ground Strike at all times.  No kicking the ball.  May use leg to block/save.  No hop/solo. | Catch, Lift into the hand and strike or ground strike at all times.  No kicking the ball.  May use leg to block/save.  One hop of ball on hurley is permitted. | Catch, Lift into the hand and strike or ground strike at all times.  May use leg to block/save.  Ball may be kicked once, but not in succession. |
| **10. Frees / ‘65’s /**  **Sideline – ‘Nearest Player’** | All taken off the ground.  All opposing players should be at least 8m from player taking.  Free pucks should be no closer than 10m from opposing end line.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees:** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line, in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. | Strike from the hand or lift and strike (Frees & ‘65’s’).  Sideline puck taken off the ground.  All opposing players should be at least 8m from player taking.  Free pucks should be no closer than 20m from opposing end line.  All opposing players should be at least 10m from player taking.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees;** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line, in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. | Strike from the hand or lift and strike (Frees & ‘65’s’).  Sideline puck taken off the ground.  All opposing players should be at least 10m from player taking.  Free pucks should be no closer than 20m from opposing end line.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees;** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. |
| **11. Scoring** | 1point for over crossbar and 1point for goal. | 1point for over crossbar and 1point for goal. | 2 points for over crossbar and 3points for goal as standard. |
| **12. Other** | Shoulder charge is not permitted but incidental contact is permitted. | Shoulder charge is not permitted but incidental contact is permitted.  No rectangle rules apply | Shoulder charge is permitted as standard.  No rectangle rules apply. |

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| **ITEM**  Go_Games.jpg **RECOMMENDED FOOTBALL RULES** | **UNDER 6 & 7** | **UNDER 8 & 9** | **UNDER 10 & 11** |
| **1. Team sizes/**  **Participation** | Maximum 7-a-side.  A club/school/community team with 10 or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where a club/school/community team with 9 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. | Maximum 9-a-side.  A club/school/community team with 14 players or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where club/school/community team has 13 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. | Maximum 11-a-side.  A club /school/community team with 16 or more players should make two or more teams to play in games, where possible.  Where a club/school/community team has 17 players or less, then each sub should play a minimum of a full half in each game.  Coach/mentor encouraged to rotate positions at half-time. |
| **2. Pitch Dimensions** | 45m x 30m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. | 65m x 40m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. | 90m x 40-50m  Make pitch smaller, if appropriate. |
| **3. Zones** | 2 Zones - Pitch split with cones across at halfway. | None | None |
| **4. Duration** | Minimum 6min to maximum 12min per half. | Minimum 8min to maximum 15min per half. | Minimum 10min to maximum 20min per half. |
| **5. Goalposts** | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft.  Training Poles or cones are optional. | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft.  Training Poles are optional. | Well secured goalposts; Minimum 8ft x 6ft to maximum 15ft x 7 ft. |
| **6. Football** | Size 1 | Size 2 | Size 3 |
| **7. Commence** | With kick out from the hands or ground.  The player may advance 10m for kick out  All other players must stand 10m away every-side when taken. | With kick out from the hands or ground.  The player may advance 10m for kick out  All other players must stand 10m away every-side when taken. | With thrown in at halfway mark. |
| **8. Outfield Play** | **Full rules except;**  No solo (hop or toe-tap) allowed  No fist/hand pass  Pick up and crouch lift allowed | **Full rules except:**  Restricted Solo; one hop & one toe-tap  No fist/hand pass  Pick up and crouch lift allowed | **Full rules except:**  Restricted Solo; one hop & one toe-tap  Fist/hand pass allowed  Pick up and crouch lift allowed |
| **9. Goalkeeper** | Restart play with kick out from Hands or on Ground from 10m line | Restart play with kick out from Hands or on Ground from 20m line | Restart play with kick out from Hands or on Ground from 20m line |
| **10. Frees / ‘45’s /**  **Sideline – ‘Nearest Player’** | All taken from the hand.  All opposing players should be at least 8m from player taking.  Free pucks should be no closer than 10m from opposing end line.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees:** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line, in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. | All taken from the hand.  Sideline puck taken off the ground.  All opposing players should be at least 8m from player taking.  Free kicks should be no closer than 20m from opposing end line.  All opposing players should be at least 10m from player taking.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees;** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line, in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. | All taken from the hand.  All opposing players should be at least 10m from player taking.  Free kicks should be no closer than 20m from opposing end line.  **Nearest Player**  **Frees;** Player who is fouled or nearest fouled ball takes.  **Sideline;** Player nearest ball when crosses line takes.  **‘65’s’;** Player who last strikes the ball on attacking team takes from halfway line in line where ball crosses end line.  Referee chooses player nearest/last struck to take free. |
| **11. Scoring** | 1point for over crossbar and 1point for goal. | 1point for over crossbar and 1point for goal. | 2points for over crossbar and 3points for goal as standard. |
| **12. Other** | Shoulder charge is not permitted but incidental contact is permitted. | Shoulder charge is not permitted but incidental contact is permitted.  No rectangle rules apply | Shoulder charge is permitted as standard.  No rectangle rules apply. |

**2. Under 12 & 13 Age Groups**

**and**

**Senior Primary School Classes**

**Organising Leagues at U.12 and U.13**

- Leagues at U.12 and U.13 age grades may be organised on a match or a blitz basis. Games may be organised involving Clubs and Primary School on an internal (i.e. single unit) or external (i.e. multiple unit) basis.

- Competitions at senior Primary Schools level (5th & 6th / P.6 & P7 Classes)will be organised in conjunction with the U.12 and U.13 Regulations.

- Teams should be a maximum of 13-a-side. The National Games Development Committee will have the authority to ratify 15-a-side leagues at the U.13 age grade. Should any unit of the Association seek to organise 15-a-side leagues, an application form should be submitted to the National Games Development Committee for consideration. Completed applications will only be considered on an annual basis, prior to the end of January of that calendar year. No 15-a-side applications will be considered for the U.12 age grade or for Tournaments or Chellenge game at the U.13 age grade.

- Should any unit of Cumann na mBunscol seek to organise 15-a-side leagues, an application should be made to the the National body of Cumann na mBunscol for consideration. Completed applications will only be considered on an annual basis, prior to the end of July for oncoming school year. Cumann na mBunscol Náisiunta will liaise with National Games Development Committee apropos the decisions made on each application.

- The inclusion of fourth class children (P5) in games is permitted only on the basis that it is not to the exclusion of a child in 5th or 6th class or P6 and P7.

- Everybody involved in games at the in U.12 and U.13 age levels, whether as players, parents/guardians, spectators, mentors, teachers, officials etc., should adhere to the key underpinning principles and give expression to the GAA ‘Give Respect, Get Respect’ initiative.

**Playing Rules**

- The recommended Playing Rules for Leagues at U.12 and U.13 are attached. These are provided by way of best practice recommendations and can be adapted to meet localised needs.

- Where units from different counties play a game, these Playing Rules will be used.

**Regulations**

* U.12 and U.13 Leagues are subject to general rules of the Association.
* Provision may be made for semi-final and finals to take place, provided that participating teams have played a minimum of 4 league/qualifier games.
* Provision may be made for the presentation of medals, trophies/cups.
* The length of the playing field will be no longer than 105m long (20m line - 20m line).
* Unlimited substitutions may be made during a game to optimise participation.

**Sanctions**

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit within a County may result in the subsequent reduction of Games Development funding for the County concerned.

- Non-compliance with Rule 6.26 (T.O. 2013: Part 1) and Association policy by a unit may result in exclusion from Games Development Activity Days (county, provincial or national), Exhibition Games and the U.14 Féile na nGael competition.

**U12/13 RECOMMENDED PLAYING RULES**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **Hurling** | **Football** |
| **1. Team sizes/**  **Participation** | * 13-a-side * Unlimited substitutions may be made. * Every player to play a minimum of 10min per game. | * 13-a-side * Unlimited substitutions may be made. * Every player to play a minimum of 10min per game. |
| **2. Pitch Dimensions** | * Length; Minimum 90m to maximum 105m (20m line to 20m line). * Width; Minimum 80m to maximum 90m. | * Length; Minimum 90m to maximum 105m (20m line to 20m line). * Width; Minimum 80m to maximum 90m. |
| **3. Duration** | * 20-25min per half * 10min per half for Blitz | * 20-25min per half * 10min per half for Blitz |
| **4. Goalposts** | * 15ft x 7 ft | * 15ft x 7 ft |
| **5. Equipment** | * 3/4 sliotar | * Size 4 football |
| **7. Outfield Play** | * Limit solo run to 10m is optional. * ‘65’s to be taken from halfway line. * No rectangle rules apply. | * Kick outs can be taken from the hand or off the ground * One bounce & one toe-tap is optional. * ‘45’s to be taken from 30m from endline from the hand or off the ground. * No rectangle rules apply. |

**TOURNAMENT APPLICATION / IARRTAS ILCHOMÓRTAS**

**Under 13 and Younger Age Groups**

This application form should be completed by all units who wish run a hurling and/or Gaelic football tournament involving Clubs or Primary Schools up to and including the Under U13 age level. It should be completed and submitted in compliance with Rule 6.26 Official Guide/ Treoraí Oifigiúil (T.O.) 2013 & Policy and Rule 6.36 T.O 2013. Please refer to these for further information.

*(Please tick boxes Tick mark.jpg and use BLOCK CAPITALS where appropriate)*

**SECTION A: Iarrastas / Application to be completed by Club or Primary School**

1. Inter-club/Idir-club or Inter-primary school/Idir-bunscol
2. County Contae/ …………………………………………

or/nó

Club Primary School/Bunscol ………………………………………………….

1. **Code**

Hurling Gaelic Football

1. **Age Grade**

|  |
| --- |
| Under 6/7 |
| Under 8/9 |
| Under 10/11 |

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| --- |
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| --- |
| Under 12/13 |

1. **Team Sizes**

|  |
| --- |
| Under 6/7 |
| Under 8/9 |
| Under 10/11 |

|  |
| --- |
| -a-side |
| -a-side |
| -a-side |



*(Please note the maximum number of players is 7-a-side (U.6/7), 9-a-side (U.8/9), 11-a-side (U.10/11) and 13-s-side (U.12/13 under Rule 6.26 policy.*

*15-a-side applications are for leagues only and should be completed on the appropriate application form.*

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| --- |
| Under 12/13 |

-a-side

1. **The maximum number of games each team will play is**………………………………
2. **Venue** ……………………………………………………………………………

*(If more than one, attach if necessary)*

1. **Start Date** ………………………… **End Date** …………………………….....
2. **Participating Units**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **List Clubs/Primary Schools and County** | **No. of teams per unit** |
| ………………………………….................................................. | …………………………… |
| …………………………………………………………………………………… | …………………………… |
| …………………………………………………………………………………… | …………………………… |
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| …………………………………………………………………………………... | …………………………… |

*(Please note that an Inter-club Tournament is allowed a maximum of 8 teams are permitted under Rule 6.38 T.O. 2013)*

1. **Tournament Structure & Fixtures**

Please provide full tournament structure and fixture list

*(Attach sheet/s if necessary)*

1. We, the undersigned, wish to make application to the following committee for permission to run a tournament, based on all details provided.

* County Committee (club teams are from within the one county)

* County Cumann na mBunscol Committee (club teams are from within the one county)
* Provincial Council (one or more teams are from different counties with the one province)

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| Ulster Council / Comhairle Uladh |
| Leinster Coucil / Comhairle Laighean |
| Munster GAA / Comhairle na Mumhan |
| Connacht Council / Comhairle Connacht |

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* Central Council (one or more teams are from different provinces)

Signature / Sínithe …………………………………………...………… (Chairperson / Cathaoirleach)

Signature / Sínithe ………………………………...……...................... (Secretary / Rúnaí)

Date / Dáta………………………………….

**SECTION B: County Committee Persimmsion / Cead an Choiste Chontae**

The above application has been approved by the County Committee / Co. Cumann na mBunscol

Committee…………………………………………………………………………………………(state county)

and I herewith enclose the €20 tournament fee to

Signature / Sínithe …………………………………………...………… (Chairperson / Cathaoirleach)

Signature / Sínithe ………………………………...……...................... (Secretary / Rúnaí)

Date / Dáta………………………………….

**SECTION C: Permission and Ratification / Cead agus Daingniú**

The above application has been approved by (County/Provine Coiste/Chúige)

……………………………………………………………………….

Signature / Sínithe (Secretary / Rúnaí)

…………………………………………...………………………………………………………….

Date / Dáta………………………………….

**15-A-SIDE LEAGUE APPLICATION**

**Under 13 (Club) and 5th & 6th / P.6 & P.7 Classes (Primary Schools)**

**Clubs Leagues:**

This application form should be completed by all Co. Games Development Committees on behalf of all units – except primary schools – who wish run a hurling and/or Gaelic football league using up to 15 players per team within that county at the Under 13 age grade only. It should be completed and submitted to the Secretary of the National Games Development Committee. Completed applications will only be considered on an annual basis, prior to the end of January of that calendar year, in compliance with Rule 6.26 Official Guide/ Treoraí Oifigiúil & Policy.

**Cumann na mBunscol / Primary Schools:**

This application form should be completed by all Co. Cumann na mBunscol Committees on behalf of all primary school units wish run a hurling and/or Gaelic football league using up to 15 players per team within that county at 5th & 6th or P.6 & P.7 Class level. It should be completed and submitted to the Secretary of the National Cumann na mBunscol Committee. Completed applications will only be considered on an annual basis, prior to the end of July of that calendar year, in compliance with Rule 6.26 Official Guide/ Treoraí Oifigiúil (T.O.) & Policy.

*(Please tick boxes Tick mark.jpg and use BLOCK CAPITALS where appropriate)*

**SECTION A: Application to be completed County Games Development Committee or County Cumann na mBunscol Committee**

1. **Inter-club** or **Inter-primary school**
2. **County** …………………………………………
3. **Code**

Hurling Gaelic Football

1. **Age Grade**

|  |
| --- |
| Under 13 (Club) |
| 5th & 6th / P.6 & P.7 Classes (Primary School) |

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| --- |
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1. **The minimum number of games each team will play is**………………………………
2. **Start Date** ………………………… **End Date** …………………………….....
3. **Participating Units**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **List Clubs/Primary Schools** | **No. of teams per unit** |
| ………………………………….................................................. | …………………………… |
| …………………………………………………………………………………… | …………………………… |
| …………………………………………………………………………………… | …………………………… |
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| …………………………………………………………………………………... | …………………………… |
| …………………………………………………………………………………... | …………………………… |

*(Attach sheet/s if necessary)*

1. **Please outline how the organisations of this league in line with the GAA RESPECT initiative.**

*(Attach sheet/s if necessary)*

1. **League Structure & Fixtures**

Please provide full league structure and fixture list

1. **Please state the reasons why this league should be run with teams up 15-a-side.**

*(Attach sheet/s if necessary)*

1. We, the undersigned, wish to make application to the following committee for permission to run a 15-a-side leage, based on all details provided.

Signature (Co. Chairperson - Games Development Committee or Cumann na mBunscol)

…………………………………………...…………………………..

Signature (Co. Secretary – Games Development Committee or Cumann na mBunscol)

………………………………...……...........................................

Date……………………………………………

**SECTION B: Permission and Ratification**

The above application has been approved / rejected by the National Cumann na mBunscol Committee

*(All Cumann na mBunscol / Primary School Applications must be signed by the secretary of each of the National Cumman na mBunscol Committee and the National Games Development Committee).*

Signature (Secretary National Cumann na mBunscol Committee) ……………………………………………

Date………………………………….

The above application has been approved / rejected by the National Games Development Committee

Signature (Secretary National Games Development Committee) ………………………………………………

Date………………………………….