

Galway Hurling Championship Proposal & Draws 2020



Introduction

The following document outlines Galway Hurling Committee's plans for our club championships in 2020. From the very outset we want to make it clear that the following is a proposal document that is subject to change. This is a best-case scenario outlook and we are extremely cognisant of the challenges that clubs, players, officials and volunteers are facing to achieve it. We are mindful that we remain in a health crisis and the current positive outlook may change quickly.

Given the unprecedented disruption to the original fixtures plan, we have restructured our competitions at Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor level. The U21 championship that commenced in February will continue in its current guise. We acknowledge that the amended formats laid out below are not flawless, but they align with the guidelines we set ourselves while formulating.

Our aims are:

- To provide every adult club hurler in Galway with a minimum of three championship matches in 2020
- To play competitions at Senior, Intermediate, Junior A, B and C, U21 and Minor level
- To maintain the integrity of the competitions so that we do not negatively impact structures for our 2021 championships
- To minimise the impact on dual clubs and dual players
- To allow sufficient time for our intercounty players and management to prepare for championship

Key Points to Note:

- To fit with the guidelines outlined above and to comply with the condensed time frames we have adopted the approach of groups of 4 across all restructured competitions. In certain instances, groups of 3 or 5 will be needed where we have an uneven number of teams
- Promotion and relegation to apply in line with our objective to maintain the integrity of the existing structures
- Our intention is to commence our Senior and Intermediate Championships on the weekend of July 31st. Minor will start on Wednesday August 5th with Junior competitions beginning in the month of August also. U21 will restart as soon as clubs have exited the other competitions
- Senior and Intermediate games will take place at neutral venues with Junior, U21 and Minor group games to be played on a home and away basis
- All knockout matches up to and **including** semi-finals will finish on the day. If a draw at the end of normal time, there will be extra time (two periods of 10 minutes). If a game is still level after that a penalty shootout will be held to determine the winner
- Regulations for all competitions will be finalised in the next couple of weeks
- Final sign off on the dates will be provided after we see the intercounty schedule issued by Croke Park
- Championship draws will be held on the week beginning June 29th

Desired Outcomes:

- 100% of club players to play a minimum of 3 games
- 66% to play a minimum of 4 games
- 40% to play a minimum of 5 games
- Avoid any club playing hurling matches more than three weekends in a row
- Complete all competitions in the calendar year
- Seek to provide our senior intercounty players with a minimum of 4 weeks lead in time to their first championship match

Galway Senior Hurling Championship 2020

Senior A - 12 Teams

- Three groups of 4 teams
- Not more than two of the 2019 semi-finalists can be drawn together in one group and 2019 county finalists are kept apart
- Top teams in each group plus one drawn 2nd placed team goes straight through to Quarter finals
- Remaining two 2nd placed teams go to the Preliminary Quarter finals
- Bottom team in each group is relegated to Senior B for 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1. Tynagh Abbey Duniry	1. Turloughmore	1. Sarsfields
2. Cappataggle	2. Liam Mellows	2. Portumna
3. Loughrea	3. Clarinbridge	3. Castlegar
4. Tommy Larkins	4. Oranmore Maree	4. St Thomas's

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Senior B – 12 teams

- 3 groups of 4 teams
- 2019 Senior A teams kept apart
- Top two teams in each group enter the Preliminary Quarter finals
- Group winners promoted to Senior A for 2021
- Bottom placed teams in each group enter relegation playoffs to Intermediate Championship for 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1. Kinvara	1. Killimordaly	1. Mullagh
2. Ballindereen	2. Ardrahan	2. Kilnadeema Leitrim
3. Craughwell	3. Athenry	3. Ahascragh Fohenagh
4. Gort	4. Beagh	4. Padraig Pearses

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Preliminary Quarter finals between two of the 2nd placed teams in Senior A and the six Senior B clubs that finished 1st and 2nd in their groups

Round 5: Quarter finals (Four Senior A teams straight through to the Quarter finals are seeded against the 4 teams that come through the Preliminary Quarter finals)

Round 6: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 7: Final

Galway Intermediate Hurling Championship 2020

Intermediate: 15 Teams

- Four Groups: Three groups of 4 teams and one group of 3 teams
- Last years beaten Intermediate finalists, two beaten semi-finalists and the team relegated from Senior in 2019 are seeded in each of the groups
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the Quarter finals
- Bottom placed teams in each group playoff with one team relegated to Junior A Championship for 2021
- Winner promoted to Senior B for 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1. Kiltormer	1. Carnmore	1. Killimor	1. Kilbeacanty
2. Abbeyknockmoy	2. An Spideál	2. Ragoon Newcastle	2. Meelick Eyrecourt
3. Castlegar	3. Kilconieron	3. Turloughmore	3. Moycullen
4. Sylane	4. Athenry	4. Annaghdown	-

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Group of 3:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v 2, Team 3 has a bye
- **Round 2:** Team 3 v 1, Team 2 has a bye
- **Round 3:** Team 2 v 3, Team 1 has a bye

Rounds 1-3: Group stages**Round 4:** Quarter finals (1st placed teams play 2nd placed teams in cross play)**Round 5:** Semi-finals Open Draw**Round 6:** Final**Galway Junior A Hurling Championship 2020****Junior A: 17 Teams**

- Four Groups: Three groups with 4 teams and one group with 5 teams
- Maximum of two Junior only clubs in groups of 4
- Teams in the group of 5 drawn from exclusive hurling clubs
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the Quarter finals
- Winner is promoted to Intermediate in 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1. Tynagh Abbey Duniry	1. Skehana Mountbellew Moylough	1. Barna Furbo	1. Salthill Knocknacarra
2. Tommy Larkins	2. Loughrea	2. Micheal Breathnach	2. Ballygar
3. Ballindereen	3. Craughwell	3. Clarinbridge	3. Gort
4. St Thomas'	4. Ardrahan	4. Liam Mellows	4. Sarsfields
5. Meelick Eyrecourt			

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Group of 5:

- **Round 1:** Team 2 v Team 1, Team 4 v Team 5, Team 3 bye
- **Round 2:** Team 1 v Team 4, Team 3 v Team 2, Team 5 bye
- **Round 3:** Team 4 v Team 3, Team 5 v Team 1, Team 2 bye
- **Round 4:** Team 2 v Team 4, Team 3 v Team 5, Team 1 bye
- **Round 4:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 5 v Team 2, Team 4 bye

Rounds 1-4: Group stages

Round 5: Quarter finals (1st placed teams play 2nd placed teams in cross play)

Round 6: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 7: Final

Galway Junior B Hurling Championship 2020

Junior B: 20 Teams

- Five groups of 4 teams
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the knockout stages
- Top team in each group plus one of the five 2nd placed teams drawn to go straight to Quarter finals
- The remaining four 2nd placed teams play Preliminary Quarter finals
- The two winners of the Preliminary Quarter finals join the group winners and the one drawn 2nd placed team in the Quarter finals
- Winner promoted to Junior A in 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
1. Killimor	1. Killimordaly	1. Kilnadeema Leitrim	1. Ballinasloe	1. Oranmore Maree
2. Ahascragh Fohenagh	2. Ragoon Newcastle	2. Portumna	2. Sarsfields	2. Carnmore
3. Annaghdown	3. Beagh	3. Moycullen	3. Kilconieron	3. Turloughmore
4. Padraig Pearses	4. Cappataggle	4. Kinvara	4. Castlegar	4. Mullagh

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Preliminary Quarter finals

Round 5: Quarter finals Open Draw (Repeat of group games avoided where possible)

Round 6: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 7: Final

Galway Junior C Hurling Championship 2020

Junior C: 14 Teams

- Four Groups: Two groups of 4 teams and two groups of 3 teams
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the Quarter finals
- Winner is promoted to Junior B in 2021

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1. Mullagh	1. Carnmore	1. Meelick Eyrecourt	1. Kilbeacanty
2. Kiltormer	2. Ragoon Newcastle	2. Sylane	2. Clarinbridge
3. Liam Mellows	3. Killimordaly	3. Oranmore Maree	3. Craughwell
4. Abbeyknockmoy	4. Menlo Emmets		

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Group of 3:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v 2, Team 3 has a bye
- **Round 2:** Team 3 v 1, Team 2 has a bye
- **Round 3:** Team 2 v 3, Team 1 has a bye

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Quarter finals (1st placed teams play 2nd placed teams in cross play)

Round 5: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 6: Final

Galway Junior C1 Hurling Championship 2020

Junior C1: 19 Teams

- Groups of 4 divided regionally
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the Quarter finals
- Winner is promoted to Junior C in 2021

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Quarter finals (1st placed teams play 2nd placed teams in cross play)

Round 5: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 6: Final

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1. Tynagh Abbey Duniry	1. Tuam	1. Ballindereen	1. Moycullen
2. Cappataggle	2. Skehana Mountbellew Moylough	2. St Thomas'	2. An Spideál
3. Kilnadeema Leitrim	3. Ahascragh Fohenagh	3. Turloughmore	3. Salthill Knocknacarra
4. Killimor	4. Ballygar	4. Athenry	4. Barna Na Forbacha
5. Tommie Larkins	5. Annaghdown	5. Castlegar	

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Group of 5:

- **Round 1:** Team 2 v Team 1, Team 4 v Team 5, Team 3 bye
- **Round 2:** Team 1 v Team 4, Team 3 v Team 2, Team 5 bye
- **Round 3:** Team 4 v Team 3, Team 5 v Team 1, Team 2 bye
- **Round 4:** Team 2 v Team 4, Team 3 v Team 5, Team 1 bye
- **Round 4:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 5 v Team 2, Team 4 bye

Galway Minor A Hurling Championship 2020

Minor A: 12 Teams

- Three groups of 4 teams
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the knockout stages
- Two of the three 1st placed teams are drawn to go straight to Semi-finals
- Remaining 1st placed team and the three 2nd placed teams take in part in Quarter finals

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Quarter finals Open Draw

Round 5: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 6: Final

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1. Cappataggle	1. Carnmore	1. Clarinbridge
2. Gort	2. Moycullen	2. Kilmadeema Leitrim
3. Kilconieron	3. Athenry	3. Sarsfields
4. Turloughmore	4. Oranmore Maree	4. Loughrea

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Galway Minor B Hurling Championship 2020

Minor B: 12 Teams

- Three groups of 4 teams
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the Quarter finals

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Quarter finals (1st placed teams play 2nd placed teams in cross play)

Round 5: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 6: Final

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1. Tynagh Abbey Duniry	1. Ardrahan	1. Skehana Mountbellew Moylough
2. Killimordaly	2. Tommy Larkins	2. Killimor
3. Craughwell	3. Castlegar	3. Michael Cusacks
4. Mullagh Kiltormer	4. Kinvara	4. Ballygar

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Galway Minor B1 Hurling Championship 2020

Minor B1: 12 Teams

- Two groups of 4 teams and two groups of 3 teams
- Top 2 teams in each group qualify for the knockout stages
- Two of the three 1st placed teams are drawn to go straight to Semi-finals
- Remaining 1st placed team and the three 2nd placed teams take in part in Quarter finals

Rounds 1-3: Group stages

Round 4: Quarter finals Open Draw

Round 5: Semi-finals Open Draw

Round 6: Final

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1. Four Roads	1. Ahascragh Fohenagh	1. Annaghdown	1. Ballindereen
2. Abbeyknockmoy	2. Portumna	2. Ballinasloe	2. Meelick Eyrecourt
3. Liam Mellows	3. Salthill Knocknacarra / An Spideál	3. Sylane	3. Ragoon Newcastle /Barna Furbo
4. St Thomas'	4. Padraig Pearses		

Group of 4:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v Team 2, Team 3 v Team 4
- **Round 2:** Team 4 v Team 1, Team 2 v Team 3
- **Round 3:** Team 1 v Team 3, Team 4 v Team 2

Group of 3:

- **Round 1:** Team 1 v 2, Team 3 has a bye
- **Round 2:** Team 3 v 1, Team 2 has a bye
- **Round 3:** Team 2 v 3, Team 1 has a bye

Galway U21 Hurling Championships 2020

It is proposed that the U21 competitions that commenced in February at A, A1, B and B1 level be completed in their current format

U21 B has 4 rounds left to complete with the remaining competitions requiring 5 rounds to finish

The competition may resume as early as September depending on clubs as they are eliminated from Senior, Intermediate and Minor championships. The completion of school's competitions may impact this also. It is envisaged most of our U21 games will be played in October

Conclusion

- Firstly, we wish to reiterate the provisional nature of this document. Completing the programme of games outlined herein is dependent on circumstances outside of our control. The current club timeframe handed down from Croke Park has allowed us to run more expansive championships than we had anticipated. While this is an extremely positive development it will place a significant burden on players, club officers, stewards, those who prepare and maintain our grounds and administrators. We want everyone to be cognisant of this in the coming weeks.
- We appreciate that player numbers will come under pressure across all grades in the current circumstances. We will be reaching out to clubs this week to consider and confirm the grades they will enter teams at particularly at Junior and Minor level. The new dates for regrades is Friday July 17th.
- From a spectator point of view, we do not know the limitations on attendances at games at this point in time. Galway GAA plan to stream club games to alleviate the restrictions that may be in place so that our supporters can watch our games from home if required to do so. Further information will be made available when this is finalised.
- Finally, there has been a great deal of debate centred on club v county in recent weeks. We are pleased that our players across all codes will get a minimum of three games in 2020 and that 66% will play four games or more. There will be 50 games played in our Senior championship all going to plan. In addition, they will be well spaced with player welfare paramount in our considerations. A competitive, well run club championship that prioritises the club player and a timeline that optimises our Senior intercounty team's preparation are not mutually exclusive. We feel these proposals reflect this and would like to thank the clubs for their continued engagement and Shane O'Neill and his management team for their constructive and proactive approach to it.
- If you have any questions arising from the above, please contact any of the following Hurling Committee officers for further information:

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