



Meath Competition Restructure Proposal (Draft)

Basic Aim



“As many as possible
As well as possible
As long as possible”

Our current games programme can't promote this
ethos

But with reform driven by progressive individuals, it
can

Issues to Resolve



With some consistency, the following problems with club competition have been highlighted by Meath GAA participants;

- To complete our competitions on time, we need our county teams to fail*
- Club competition schedule is unpredictable and impossible to plan around*
- Premier championships not of a high enough standard*
- The population of the county is dispersed differently to the way it was and our structures fail to account for the massive population changes*
- Quality players outside Senior clubs have little or no chance to play at a high level*
- Committed players at bigger clubs have an inadequate games programme*
- Leagues are generally weak, especially lower leagues, and too many games are meaningless*
- Clubs do not have enough access to their county players*
- County players are under constant pressure from club and county managers*
- Dual clubs/players have an impossible juggling act*

6 Broad Themes



1. Massive Fixture uncertainty
2. Club versus County
3. Lack of Competitiveness
4. Unfair Competition Structures
5. Dual Clubs/Players
6. Changing Demographics

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. **Fixed Calendar with ‘down’ periods**
2. **Split championships into first team and reserve championship**
 - 16 team senior championship
 - 20 team intermediate championship (first team only)
 - 16 team junior championship (first team only)
 - Reserve Championship
3. **District championship (Junior and Intermediate combinations)**
4. **Open the A leagues to second teams**
5. **Previous Championship used to seed championship groups**
6. **Starred League Games (County players available)**
7. **Cup competitions become Pre-Season Competitions**

ISSUES EACH RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSES



1 Fixed Calendar with down periods

Addresses - Chaotic Fixtures; Club versus County, Dual Clubs/Players

2 Split championships into first team and reserve championship

16 team senior championship

20 team intermediate championship (first team only)

16 team junior championship (first team only)

Reserve Championship

Addresses - Chaotic Fixtures, Lack of Competitiveness, Unfair Competition Structures

3 District championship (Junior and Intermediate combinations)

Addresses - Lack of Competitiveness; Unfair Competition Structures, Changing Demographics

4 Open the A leagues to second teams

Addresses - Lack of Competitiveness; Unfair Competition Structures, Changing Demographics

5 Previous championship used to seed championship groups

Addresses - Lack of Competitiveness, Unfair Competition Structures

6 Starred League Games (County players available)

Addresses - Club versus County, Lack of Competitiveness

7 Cup competitions become Pre-Season Competitions

Addresses - Chaotic Fixtures



- First teams playing first teams in championship
- Non- first team players have full access to games programme
- Every player in the county can play at a level that matches their ability & commitment levels

Fixed Calendar (Player Welfare)

- Family friendly - events can be planned around, Wedding/Christenings etc
- Summer league games on Monday - Weekends fixture free (balanced lifestyle)
- End of ad hoc championship games. Managers and players can plan & schedule year
- Personal holidays/breaks can be planned with certainty

Fairer Competitions

Rest Periods (Player Welfare)

- 8 Week Winter rest period
- June Bank Holiday-
- August Bank Holiday -
- Summer league games on Monday

Improve Standards

Football/Hurling Weekends (Dual Players)

- Premier championship higher standard
- Much more county availability club leagues- higher standard
- Regional Championship allows top players from non senior clubs to play at Senior standard competition

- Helps dual clubs to encourage both codes
- Alleviates tension between clubs with overlapping players (with certainty coaches can plan)

More Participation (Player Retention)

County Players - Minimum availability to Clubs

- Help chronic drop off rates in bigger clubs by providing meaningful and consistent game programme
- Reserve championship gives non- first team players uninterrupted chance to win trophies and make their first team

- 3 guaranteed games in April with county players
- 4 more if Meath do not reach league final and/or Super 8
- Summer League games on Monday to ensure more county non-starters available & support county panelist game needs
- County manager can use April club league to re-assess panel - County panel still train together

Under proposed Structures,



Fixture Calendar can be drafted in January with every football and hurling fixture allocated by week or weekend for the year, allowing coaches to plan and **addressing a key player demand** – A Fixed Calendar

(See Draft 2020 calendar on slide 8)

B League teams can be integrated seamlessly into appropriate A League division, by putting B League Division 1 between Division 3 and 4 and working in line with example.

(See work through on slide 9)

| 2020 | January | | | | February | | | | March | | | | | April | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Sat/Sun Week # | 4th 5th Week 1 | 11th 12th Week 2 | 18th 19th Week 3 | 25th 26th Week 4 | 1st 2nd Week 5 | 8th 9th Week 6 | 15th 16th Week 7 | 22nd 23rd Week 8 | 29th 1st Week 9 | 7th 8th Week 10 | 14th 15th Week 11 | 21st 22nd Week 12 | 28th 29th Week 13 | 4th 5th Week 14 | 11th 12th Week 15 | 18th 19th Week 16 | 25th 26th Week 17 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Senior Football | | | | Feis Cup 1 | Feis Cup 2 | | Feis Cup 3 | | Feis Cup SF | League 1 | | League 2 | | League 3 | *League 4,5 & 6 | |
| Inter & Jun (F) | | | | Tailt' & CnB 1 | Tailt' & CnB 2 | | Tailt' & CnB 3 | | Cup SF | League 1 | | League 2 | | League 3 | *League 4,5 & 7 | |
| Reserve | | | | | | | | | | B League | | B League | | B League | BLX 3 | |
| Club Hurling | | | | | | League 1 | | League 2 | | | League 3 | | League 4 | | League 5 | League 6 |
| IC Football | O'Byrne C | O'Byrne C | | | NFL R 1 | NFL R 2 | NFL R 3 | | NFL R 4 | NFL R 5 | NFL R 6 | NFL R 7 | | League F | | |
| IC Hurling | Walsh Cup | Walsh Cup | | | NHI R 1 | NHI R 2 | NHI R 3 | | NHL R 4 | NHL R 5 | NHL R 6 | NHL R 7 | | League F | | |

| | May | | | | June | | | | July | | | | August | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sat/Sun Week # | 2nd 3rd Week 18 | 9th 10th Week 19 | 16th 17th Week 20 | 23rd 24th Week 21 | 30th 31st Week 22 | 6th 7th Week 23 | 13th 14th Week 24 | 20th 21st Week 25 | 27th 28th Week 26 | 4th 5th Week 27 | 11th 12th Week 28 | 18th 19th Week 29 | 25th 26th Week 30 | 1st 2nd Week 31 | 8th 9th Week 32 | 15th 16th Week 33 | 22nd 23rd Week 34 | 29th 30th Week 35 |




| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--|-----|
| Senior Football | | League 7 (Mon) | League 8 (Mon) | League 9 (Mon) | League 10 (Mon) | League 11 (M) | League 12 (Mon) | League 13 | | SFC 1 | | SFC 2 | | | | |
| Inter & Jun (F) | | League 7 (Mon) | League 8 (Mon) | League 9 (Mon) | League 10 | Back Match | League 11 (M) | League 12 | Back Match | L' 13/Finals | | IFC/JFC 1 | IFC/JFC 2 | | | |
| Reserve | | RFC 1 (Fri) | RFC 2 (Fri)- BL (Wed) | RFC 3 (Fri) | | B League (Wed) | RFC 4 (Fri) | B League (Wed X 2) | | | RFC 5 (Fri) | | RFC 6 (Fri) | | | |
| Club Hurling | League 7 | | Davis Cup | Davis Cup (Wed after) | | HC 1 | | HC 2 | | HC 3 | | HC 4 | HC 5 | HC QF | | |
| IC Football | Mid May to End June LFC/AI Qualifiers | | | | U20 Round Robin Football June/July | | | | Super 8s end July | | | | AI SF | | | AIF |
| IC Hurling | Round Robin to the end of May | | | | | | | | | | | Special U 20 HC | | | | |

| | September | | | | October | | | | November | | | | December | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sat/Sun Week # | 5th 6th Week 36 | 12th 13th Week 37 | 19th 20th Week 38 | 26th 27th Week 39 | 3rd 4th Week 40 | 10th 11th Week 41 | 17th 18th Week 42 | 24th 25th Week 43 | 31st 1st Week 44 | 7th 8th Week 45 | 14th 15th Week 46 | 21st 22nd Week 47 | 28th 29th Week 48 | 5th 6th Week 49 | 12th 13th Week 50 | 19th 20th Week 51 | 26th 27th Week 52 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--|--|--|
| Senior Football | SFC 3 | | League F | QF/RPO | SFC SF | | SFC Final | | League Final | Feis Cup F | U21 QF | U21 SF | U21 Final | | | |
| Inter & Jun (F) | IFC/JFC 3 | IFC P/L | IFC/JFC QF | IFC/JFC SF | L' Finals | IFC/JFC F | Reg 1 (Sat) | Reg 2 (Sat) | Reg 1 (Sat) | Reg SF | Reg F | | | | | |
| Reserve | RFC 7 (Fri) | | | RFC SF/RPO | RFC Finals | RFC Finals(Sat) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Club Hurling | | HC SF | Davis Cup F | | HC F | HC F | League Final | | U21 QF | U21 SF | U21 Final | | | | | |

| Games | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | <i>(extra possible games in brackets)</i> | | | | |
| Max extra game in brackets | League | Cup | Championship | Total Min | Total Max |
| Senior Player | 13 (2) | 3 (2) | 4 (2) | 20 | 26 |
| Intermediate Player | 13 (2) | 3 (2) | 4 (3) | 20 | 27 |
| Junior Player | 13 (2) | 3 (2) | 4 (2) | 20 | 26 |
| Regional | 0 | 0 | 3 (2) | 3 | 5 |
| Reserve Player (A League) | 13 (2) | | 7 (3) | 20 | 25 |
| Reserve Player (B League) | 8 (1) | | 7 (3) | 15 | 19 |
| Hurler | 7 (1) | 1 (3) | 6 (3) | 13 | 17 |

| County Player Availability | | |
|---|--|--|
| Minimum County Player Availability <i>(extra possible games in brackets)</i> | Minimum if Meath don't Qualify Super 8 & League Final <i>(extra possible games in brackets)</i> | Super 8 & League Final <i>(Knock Out Games)</i> |
| 7 (5) | 12 | 11 (5) 15 |
| 6 (6) | 12 | 10 (6) 16 |
| 7 (7) | 14 | 10 (7) 17 |
| 5 | 5 | |
| N/A | | N/A |
| N/A | | N/A |

| | |
|--|--|
|  | Adult Down Period |
|  | County Players Available (football) |
|  | County Players Available if Meath Don't Make Super 8 or qualify League Final |

*All county players to be available - 3 games April
3 League games played Sat/Sun/Wed - May include 1 IFC or JFC game

Division 4

Clann na nGael
Cortown
St Brigid's
Moylagh
Kilbride GFC
Drumconrath
St Mary's
Clonard
Boardsmill
Kilmainhamwood
Slane
St Paul's

B League Division 1

Donaghmore/Ashbourne
Simonstown
Skryne
St Peter's, Dunboyne
Ratoath
Gaeil Colmcille
Seneschalstown GFC
Navan O'Mahonys
Wolfe Tones
Summerhill
Dunshaughlin GAA
St. Colmcille's

Division 3

Blackhall Gaels
Walterstown
Castletown
Drumbaragh
Dunsany
Ballinlough
Kilmainham
St Ultan's
Longwood
St Vincent's
Ballivor GFC
Moynalty

EXAMPLE ONLY



Division 4B

Drumconrath
St Mary's
Clonard
Boardsmill
Kilmainhamwood
Slane
St Paul's
Kilbride GFC

Top 4 go to new Div 4A

Clann na nGael
Cortown
St Brigid's
Moylagh

Bottom 4 go to 4B

Wolfe Tones
Summerhill
Dunshaughlin GAA
St. Colmcille's

Division 4A

Skryne
St Peter's, Dunboyne
Ratoath
Gaeil Colmcille
Seneschalstown GFC
Navan O'Mahonys

Top 2 go to Div 3

Donaghmore/Ashbourne
Simonstown

Bottom 2 to Division 4A

Ballivor GFC
Moynalty

Division 3

Blackhall Gaels
Walterstown
Castletown
Drumbaragh
Dunsany
Ballinlough
Kilmainham
St Ultan's
Longwood
St Vincent's

Division 4B

Kilbride GFC
Drumconrath
St Mary's
Clonard
Boardsmill
Kilmainhamwood
Slane
St Paul's
Wolfe Tones
Summerhill
Dunshaughlin GAA
St. Colmcille's

Division 4A

Clann na nGael
Cortown
Skryne
St Peter's, Dunboyne
Ratoath
Gaeil Colmcille
Seneschalstown GFC
Navan O'Mahonys
St Brigid's
Moylagh
Ballivor GFC
Moynalty

Division 3

Blackhall Gaels
Walterstown
Castletown
Drumbaragh
Dunsany
Ballinlough
Kilmainham
St Ultan's
Longwood
St Vincent's
Donaghmore/Ashbourne
Simonstown



Potential Eligibility

League Availability

Where a club has teams competing in more than one division of the A Leagues a panel of 15 currently registered players must be submitted to the CCC before the first team plays in the league on a deadline date as requested by the Competitions Control Committee. (If no panel is submitted the 15 starters of the first league game will be deemed to be named along with any county players on the current county football panel and any player that were named on the senior inter-county panel the previous year)

No player on such panel shall be eligible to play on another team in the same division or in a lower division. Penalty – Team – loss of match to opponents on objection. Player – 4 weeks suspension.

A player may not play in any lower league A league or B League division if he has played in more than six games for the club's highest league division team in the same season. – Team – Loss of match to opponents on objection. Player – 4 weeks suspension.

Where a club has one team in the A Leagues and a second team in the B Leagues, if the clubs' second team is in Division 1 or 2 or the B League, a panel of 15 currently registered players must be submitted to the CCC, 10 currently registered players for all other B League divisions.

Where a club has two teams competing in the A Leagues and a team or teams in the B Leagues, along with the panel of 15 currently registered players submitted under regulation above, the club must submit a further 15 currently registered players per A league and 15 further currently registered players per team in B league Division 1 or 2 and or 10 currently registered players for all other B League divisions.

Under exceptional circumstances, long term injury etc, the CCC will consider written requests for names players to be re-graded to a lower grade

Reserve Championship

Where a club has a second team competing in the reserve championship a panel of 18 currently registered players must be submitted to the CCC before the first reserve championship game on a deadline date as requested by the Competitions Control Committee. That list shall contain the names of at least ten players who played a part in their club's final first team championship game (to include relegation play offs.) of the previous year and should include all players that were named on senior inter-county football panel the previous year. (No player shall be permitted to drop two grades that their club plays without express written consent from the CCC. The CCC shall also entertain written requests about the ten championship players from the previous year if the club can prove enough players are permanently retired or injured)