

- [This week's edition of Extra Time can be viewed online by Clicking here](#)
- [This week's edition of Extra Time can be download in PDF Format by Clicking here](#)

Welcome to our latest edition of Extra Time.

We are getting Close! In a few days' time our pitches will open again and we in Down GAA will be back on the playing fields in 2020. We will welcome to the members of East Belfast GAA who on Tuesday 16th June in the first ever online meeting of Down GAA County Board were affiliated as our 48th Club. Yes 2020 and Covid-19 has had a huge impact on our GAA World but the advent of a new Club in East Belfast is certainly something to lift the spirits.

Yes on Tuesday night last Down County Committee met through Microsoft Teams to give approval to the return to play Roadmap, to hear of the proposals re Fees for Clubs in 2020, to agree to the affiliation of East Belfast GAA, it was an interesting meeting we had nearly a full attendance of Clubs, probably our biggest turnout of Club representatives in a long time. One wonders what James Denvir of Ballynarry Kilclief would have made of all of this, as he gathered his men for the first County Committee meeting in Drumroe Hall Kilclief on the 26th April 1903, he could not have foreseen the direction Down GAA would take.



We will continue to keep our Clubs up to date with information as it reaches us, in truth everything is changing on an ongoing basis and thankfully the changes seem to be for the better, the GAA is leading the way in terms of communication and the Frequently Asked Questions which are being updated on our website are a great help to our Clubs.

We ask you to be mindful of the GAA Advice on all matters it is this advice that we are presently governed by we need to be aware of the Insurance implications involved once people are back on our grounds and premises as slips/trips and falls cost the association just over €1.2m annually with 1/3 from people attending any social event in clubs not just bars and a 1/3 from people attending games. We have a very poor record of maintaining our properties and keeping them hazard free.

From insurance perspective we're advising clubs outdoor fundraising is permissible (drive in cinema/bingo) from 20th July and anything involving access to grounds 10th August all are subject to the usual event plans etc. Event Plans are key to Insurance cover. The Safe return guide is very clear in regard to what we need to do.

FATHERS DAY

Today (Sunday 21st June) is Father's Day and we say thank you to the fathers, who in many many cases gave us the love of the GAA that we now have, they took us by the hand or carried us in their arms to watch Club and County, to give us a love that we too as fathers transfer to our own.

They lifted us over stiles and introduced us to legends of our games, they bought us our first footballs or Hurls and encouraged us to be the best that we could be.

They offered opinions and often we didn't agree, but they were always there too when we won and when we lost, when you didn't want to talk, they talked or they stayed silent, they were and are our fathers, the men who helped make us who we are and who gave us the GAA. Thank You to generations of fathers.

DOWN GAA COVID-19 ADVISORY GROUP



The Down GAA Covid Advisory Group also met online this week and it is chaired by John Devaney, we hope to be able to offer the best advice to our Clubs min regard to preparing for the Return to Play.

Information has been circulated in regard to possible suppliers for Signage and for Hygiene equipment and we also refer you to

<https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19faqs>.

We will update this also on the Down GAA website regularly.

COVID-19 FAQs / GAA DOES

Check out <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19faqs> for the latest GAA Covid-19 FAQs

Areas Covered include:

1. Should Clubs appoint Covid Officers or Covid Supervisors?
2. Should Clubs purchase thermometers?
3. Are hand gel dispensers needed if anti-bacterial soap and water is provided?
4. Will Clubs receive guidance for purchasing things like signage, sanitiser and PPE?
5. What are the ratios for Adult to Child supervision?
6. Can children leave their backpacks in Club dressing rooms prior to 10 August?
7. Who must complete the Health Questionnaire? When? How often?
8. How will personal information be stored?
9. What is the process for contact tracing?
10. Who will monitor completion of the eLearning module?
11. How can we train/play and maintain physical distancing?
12. How many teams can a Player train with? How many can a Mentor coach?
13. Can multiple groups train on the same pitch at the same time?
14. How much contact can Players have with equipment such as footballs and sliotars?
15. What is the advice for attending to injuries during training sessions/games?
16. What is the advice for a Team if someone involved is diagnosed with Covid-19?
17. What measures exist for members who do not comply with the Guidelines?
18. Who has ultimate responsibility?



This year the Official GAA Guides are not being printed in hard copy, they are though available online and Diarmuid has the links updated on our website for the Guides www.downgaa.net/resources

Any questions please give any of the Senior Officers a call.

To assist Clubs in preparation for the new Season we now have the 2020 Down Contacts book available as a resource on the Website.

It contains all the contact numbers and email addresses for Club Officers and for County Officers and can be accessed www.downgaa.net/down-gaa-club-contacts

MEMBERSHIP

We need to remind Clubs again that it is vital that you're Players and your Club Referees are all registered members of the Club for 2020 before any return to activity. In the case of players it is simple the GAA Player Injury Scheme is not applicable to non-members, so if you have the case of a player who gets injured after the 29th June if he is not registered as a member before that date any potential claim will be rejected.



In the case of the Club Referees the system will not allow us to appoint people who are not members of a Club, your Referee needs to be a member of your Club or he will be unable to officiate in 2020. Please spend some time in the next week ensuring that your registration of members is up to date for the Return to Play.

PR COMMITTEE

Our PR Committee will now be getting prepared too for our Club Championships and with the timeframe involved there will be a busy schedule for the Programme producers, deadlines will be tight and we will need the help and support of Clubs to ensure that Teams are ready in time for the production of programmes in the weeks of games. As always your cooperation is greatly appreciated by Paula, Fiona and the PR Team.



In preparation for the Return to Play, the PR Team are promoting the message that we are back - Ar Ais Arís and they would like Clubs to send in pictures of members preparing to be back, it might be ironing the Club Jersey, packing the training bag, filling the water bottle any image that tells the world that the GAA is back - Ar Ais Arís.

Please send your photos to itofficer.down@gaa.ie or pro.down@gaa.ie

ARCHIVE * * *

The ongoing work of cataloguing the many old Newspapers that have been generously given to us continues, we have now completed the years up to 1960 and these will prove to be a great asset when we develop our own Museum and Interpretive Centre at Ballykinlar. We are now starting on the materials from 1961 and today we share with you the front page of the Frontier Sentinel of 22nd July 1961 on the eve of the Ulster Final.



We hope you enjoy this piece of history and please remember that we will be delighted to receive any old newspapers, programmes etc, we will acknowledge their receipt and they will be part of our history for the next generation in what we hope will be our home in Ballykinlar. We thank Gay and George Glynn and her brother Dan McCartan for the many newspapers they have given us to date, it is really a treasure throve.

ULSTER GAA WEBINAR 5



Topic - Games & Activities to improve Handling & Decision Making

This webinar will consist of a number of video and animated games/activities in a football context which can be used to improve Handling and Decision Making with your squads. The content can be used for all our codes and is suitable for players from U-12--Senior.

Date: Wednesday 24th June

Time: 7.30pm (Irish Time)

To register please click on the below link:

[Ulster GAA Webinar 5- Games & Activities to improve Handling & Decision Making](#)

Presenter - Tony Scullion

Tony is the Football Development Officer for Ulster GAA.

He won the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship with his county in 1993 as well as winning three National League titles captaining the Team to success in 1995.

He represented Ulster for ten years and won six Railway Cup medals in a row, captaining the team in 1991.

He represented Ireland in two International Rules series against Australia in 1987 and 1990.

He also won four All-Star Awards during his career.

Registration will close at 5pm on the 24th of June.

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTMAKER AWARDS 2020



The Sport Northern Ireland SportMaker 2020 Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of coaches, officials, volunteers and projects over the previous 12 months and the role they play in encouraging people to benefit from the power of sport.

There are six award categories for coaches

1. Children's Coach of the Year
2. Community Coach of the Year
3. Young Coach of the Year
4. Disability Coach of the Year
5. Performance Pathway Coach of the Year
6. Club Performance Coach of the Year

Two Awards For Officials

1. Technical Official of the Year
2. Young Technical Official of the Year

Two Awards For Volunteers

1. Volunteer of the Year
2. Young Volunteer of the Year

Award For SportMaker Project

1. Project of the Year

A High Performance Coach of the Year award may also be presented in 2020.

Nominations are currently open and will close on Friday 10 July 2020.

How to nominate:

Nominations can be made by members of the public across six award categories for coaches, two award categories for officials, two award categories for volunteers and one category for SportMaker projects.

- [Click here to nominate](#)
- [SportMaker Awards 2020 Guidance and Support Document](#)

The SportMaker Awards 2020 is a project funded by Department for Communities.

LATEST UPDATE

The following changes to the return to activity guidelines are being made after recommendations from this morning's Covid-19 Advisory Committee. These changes were subsequently endorsed by the GAA, the Camogie Association and the LGFA.

This week:

- Open pitches for Adult training next Wednesday, June 24th.
- Open for Minor and below from Saturday, June 27th.
- Both of the above on a non-contact basis and on the understanding that players and all participants have completed the eLearning module and are following the control measures in place (health questionnaire etc).
- On the basis of a maximum of 15 players in a designated area of the field (26 Counties) and 10 players in a designated area of the field (6 Counties).
- Coaching numbers for underage teams to be consistent with Code of Behaviour.

From June 29th:

- Allow contact training and challenge games for all from Monday, June 29th (26 Counties).
- We await guidance from the NI Executive in relation to 6 Counties – non-contact training in the numbers outlined above in the interim.
- We also await clarification on what will constitute a close contact versus a casual contact.
- Restriction on participants-only attending training sessions to be relaxed from June 29th – subject to government specified maximum of 200 people in the ground.
- Allow Club Fixtures from Friday July 17th.
- No change to inter-county dates (Sept 14th for training; competitions to start on Oct 17th as planned).
- All control measures for players, coaches and other team personnel (completion of health questionnaire, eLearning education etc) is to remain in place until advised otherwise; dressing rooms to remain closed until July 20th
- The Advisory Committee is considering the position in relation to other GAA buildings (such as Club bars that are serving food, Gyms, Handball alleys etc). Guidance will be provided in this context before June 29th.

COVID-19 CLUB EDUCATION ELEARING MODULE

All clubs must ensure that everyone entering Club facilities completes the eLearning module, this is to ensure that clubs have done all to help safeguard the health and safety of all members and patrons. The eLearning module has been prepared for Covid Supervisors/Club Officers, Players/Team Personnel, and the Parents/Guardians of Underage Players. Anyone attending training sessions or games in Club facilities must also take the module to gain an understanding of the Safe Return Guidelines.

The module takes 20-minutes to complete and can be accessed anytime via any PC, mobile or tablet device. Those who pass a simple quiz will be able to gain a Certificate which they can print or take a screenshot of to show the Covid Supervisor for their team before their initial return to Club activity, e.g. a training session or game. A wide-range of staff and volunteers across the Gaelic Games contributed to and reviewed the content on behalf of the Covid-19 Advisory Group, and Education Team.

To access the module [click here](#).

COVID-19 REOPENING FACILITIES

The GAA, LGFA and Camogie association have produced an advisory document on reopening facilities. It is important to note that these are recommendations/advice rather than requirements/directives and it is by no means exhaustive as clubs may wish to put additional or site-specific measures in place.

Like all other Covid-19 guidance it is also subject to change at any time.

[Click here to download GAA reopening facilities document](#)

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MAIDIR LE: COVID-19 CLUB EDUCATION PROGRAMME

A chara,

We, Tom, Helen and Sinéad, would like to update you on the combined efforts of the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association to educate Club members and other volunteers on their responsibilities within the document entitled 'Covid-19: Safe Return to Gaelic Games Guidelines.'

We urge you to note the contents of this letter and share it with all Club members and volunteers.

Amendments to the Guidelines

This document - [available here](#) - was issued originally on 5 June and subsequently updated on 12 June with several significant amendments which we hope will lessen the workload on Clubs planning to return to activity in line with the Safe Return Roadmap for Gaelic Games.

These amendments include:

- The Health Questionnaire only needs to be completed once, before the initial return to activity, e.g. training or games.
- Each individual will be required to sign a declaration at each subsequent session to confirm their health status has not changed.
- An online system has been developed for administering the Health Questionnaire. While a paper option is available, we strongly urge all Clubs to use the official online solution to optimise the protection of personal data.
- Details on using the online system will be communicated to Clubs next week, but the latest paper version of the Questionnaire and Declaration are now available at <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources>
- Clubs are not responsible for recording temperatures. It is the responsibility of each individual to check their own temperature before each training session and game. Parents/Guardians are responsible for checking their children's temperatures.

Club Education Programme

On 12 June, we also announced details of our Covid-19 Club Education Programme. This includes three parts:

- 1) A series of live **Club Briefings** covering common questions – the recording and slides from the first webinar on 16 June are now available at <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19learning>
- 2) An **eLearning module** which Clubs should ensure everyone has completed before entering Club facilities for training or games – available at <https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd>
- 3) **Educational resources** such as advice documents, posters, videos and FAQs covering topics like equipment and supplies for Clubs, and facility checklists – available at <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources>

We wish to draw particular attention to the eLearning module which needs to be completed by anyone entering Club facilities for training sessions/games, especially all Covid Supervisors/Club Officers, Players/Parents or Guardians of Underage Players, and Team Personnel. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and can be accessed at any time via any PC, mobile or tablet device. Those who pass a simple quiz will be able to generate a Certificate of completion which they can print or take a screengrab of to show Covid Supervisors they are compliant for teams they are involved with before their initial return.

We hope you find this information beneficial and you can rest assured that additional information and resources will be distributed as soon as possible.

Sample Messaging for Club Digital Pages and Social Media Groups

A chara,

The Covid-19 Club Education eLearning module for Gaelic Games is now available. It takes 20 mins. to complete. It must be done before returning to training/games.

Access here: <https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd>

Go raibh maith agat.

Is Muidne,

Tomás Ó Riain
Ard-Stiúrthóir, Cumann
Lúthchleas Gael

Sinéad McNulty
Ard-Stiúrthóir, An Cumann
Camógaíochta

Helen O'Rourke
Ard-Stiúrthóir, Cumann Peile
Gael na mBan

DOWN



GAA

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRAW

TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2020 @ 9pm

Down GAA Club Championship Draws for 2020 will take place on Tuesday 23rd June at 9pm on Down GAA Facebook Page

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