

## Derry GAA Adult Return to Play

On behalf of Derry GAA, we thank and congratulate all our clubs for the excellent work they have performed within their communities during this global pandemic.

It is often said that the GAA is the heartbeat of our community, but this period has provided a timely reminder. In this time of adversity, the clubs have provided real leadership through service to others. The efforts of many GAA volunteers in providing direct and indirect assistance to the most vulnerable, supporting public agencies and fundraising for charitable causes has reinforced the community role of our association.

Ultimately we are a games based association and given the recent societal changes and guidelines from the relevant authorities, we have been asked to provide a schedule of games for our membership for the remainder of the 2020 season.

We would like to stress from the outset that any club not wishing to participate at either underage or adult level is entirely free to do so. There will be no penalty of any kind for wishing not to return to play at this time.

Participation in the proposed scheduled outlined below is on an **opt-in** basis. We ask that clubs consider the games programme and provide CCC with a formal indication of your willingness to take part in the adult competitions on or before Friday 18th June and underage competitions on or before Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, allowing draws to be made shortly after these dates.

In putting together a fixtures schedule to maximise the 11 weeks available for club games we have examined and trialled several models.

When exploring each model we took into consideration the following:

- Potential pressures on Covid-19 officers
- Potential pressures on volunteers
- Player Welfare issues on returning from a long layoff and managing training and professional workloads.
- Dual players who play in both codes for one club and players who play in both codes for two clubs.
- Pressures on pitches – training and games for underage and adult fixtures in both hurling and football, as well as availability to our sister organisations of Ladies Football and Camogie.
- Availability of match officials.
- Financial pressures on clubs.

### **Revised Senior and Senior Reserve Football Championship**

- 16 teams drawn randomly into 4 groups each containing 4 teams. Each team will have 3 games – 1 Home venue, 1 Away venue and 1 Neutral venue with the Reserve games played before the Senior game.
- All 16 teams will qualify for the knock-out stages and the draw will see teams seeded from the group stages. An open draw with 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 with no repeat pairings from the group stages.
- Quarter Finals – Open draw (avoiding repeat pairings if possible)
- Semi Finals – Open Draw
- Final

### **Revised Intermediate and Intermediate Reserve Football Championship**

- 12 teams drawn randomly into 3 groups each containing 4 teams. Each team will have 3 games – 1 Home venue, 1 Away venue and 1 Neutral venue with the Reserve games played before the Senior game.
- The top 3 teams and the best placed runner up will qualify directly to the Quarter finals. The remaining 8 teams will play off for the last 4 Quarter final spots. This will be done in two pots next top 4 placed teams in one pot and remaining 4 in the other pot in an open draw with no repeat pairings
- Quarter Finals – Open draw (avoiding repeat pairings if possible)
- Semi Finals – Open Draw
- Final

### **Revised Junior Championship**

- 9 teams drawn randomly into 2 groups. Teams will play 3 or 4 games depending on which group they are in. Each team will have at least 3 games – 1 Home venue, 1 Away venue and 1 Neutral venue with 2 Neutral games in the group of 5.
- The top 4 teams in each group will advance to the quarter finals
- Quarter finals – 1 v 4 and 2 v 3
- Semi Finals – Open Draw
- Final

### **Revised Hurling Championship**

- 8 teams in 2 groups of 4. These groups will be based on last season's league standings because the league was linked to the championship in this season also. Each team will have 3 games – 1 Home venue, 1 Away venue and 1 Neutral venue.
- Semi Finals and Final
- The top 2 in each group will play-off (1v2) with the two winners advancing to the Senior Hurling Final and the two beaten teams advancing to the Intermediate Championship Final
- The bottom two teams in each group will play off (3v4) with the two winners advancing to the Junior Hurling Final.

### **Recreational Reserve Championship**

- All teams will be in one group and will play each other once with the top 4 teams advancing to the semi finals
- Semi Finals – 1 v 4 and 2 v 3
- Final

### **Competition Regulations**

- Regulations will be circulated prior to play recommencing, and we will always be bound by the GAA Return to Play Roadmap.
- All dates are included in the calendar on the final pages of this document.
- All knock-out games will be played to a finish on the day.

### **Thank You**

We would once again like to thank clubs for all of the work in the community during this global pandemic and say thank you in advance for all the work that is required within the return to play roadmap. We appreciate the financial implications that this time has caused to both county and club finances. With this in mind, clubs will retain all gate receipts collected from home championship games in 2020.

### **Underage Competitions**

Potential dates for each code and age grade are listed below, some, or all, of the dates listed may be used depending on the number of entries received.

The aim is to provide activity for players, with the emphasis on participation NOT competition during the return to play period. The format of these championship competitions will be league based with a knock-out element in the latter stages including semi-finals and finals. In some instances, quarter-finals may be required.

We would strongly encourage clubs to ensure players play at their own age grade first and give as many of our players game time. This will be reflected in our regulations which will include the use of unlimited substitutions in every game.

Where possible, fixtures will be regionalised for the convenience of parents who will have to transport their child to and from all games. Games will be on a home and away basis with any knockout games being played at neutral venues.

	<b>U14 Football</b>	<b>U16 Football</b>	<b>U18 Football</b>
Round 1	4 <sup>th</sup> August	6 <sup>th</sup> August	3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Round 2	11 <sup>th</sup> August	13 <sup>th</sup> August	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Round 3	18 <sup>th</sup> August	20 <sup>th</sup> August	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Round 4	25 <sup>th</sup> August	27 <sup>th</sup> August	31 <sup>st</sup> August
Round 5	8 <sup>th</sup> September	10 <sup>th</sup> September	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Round 6	15 <sup>th</sup> September	24 <sup>th</sup> September	21 <sup>st</sup> September
Round 7	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	9 <sup>th</sup> October	5 <sup>th</sup> October
Round 8	29 <sup>th</sup> September		
	<b>U14 Hurling</b>	<b>U16 Hurling</b>	<b>U18 Hurling</b>
Round 1	7 <sup>th</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> August	5 <sup>th</sup> August
Round 2	14 <sup>th</sup> August	9 <sup>th</sup> August	19 <sup>th</sup> August
Round 3	21 <sup>st</sup> August	16 <sup>th</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> September
Round 4	4 <sup>th</sup> September	30 <sup>th</sup> August	9 <sup>th</sup> September
Round 5	11 <sup>th</sup> September	6 <sup>th</sup> September	30 <sup>th</sup> September

July/August 2020						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Full Team Training						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Full Team Training						U16H 1
					SHC 1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
U18F 1	U14F 1	U18H 1	U16F 1	Rec Res 1 U14H 1		U16H 2
					SFC/IFC/JFC /Res- 1	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
U18F 2	U14F 2	SHC 2	U16F 2	Rec Res 2 U14H 2		U16H 3
					SFC/IFC/JFC/Res - 2	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	U14F 3	U18H 2	U16F 3	U14H 3		
					SHC 3	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
U18F 3	U14F 4		U16F 4	Rec Res 3		U16H 4
					SFC/IFC/JFC/Res - 3	
31						
U18F 4						
September 2020						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		U18H 3		U14H 4		U16H 5
					SHC S/F	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	U14F 5	U18H 4	U16F 5	Rec Res 4 U14H 5		
					SFC/IFC /Res 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd KO JFC - 4	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
U18F 5	U14F 6			Rec Res 5		
					SHC FINALS	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
U18F 6	U14F 7		U16F 6			
					SFC/IFC Qtr Final JFC - 5	
28	29	30				
	U14F 8	U18H 5				

October 2020						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
					SFC/IFC Semi JFC & Res Qtr Finals	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
U18F 7				U16F 7	SFC/IFC Finals JFC/RES & Rec Res Semi	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					JFC/RES & Rec Res Finals	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	