



Membership & Registration

Last revised – January 2023



WHERE WE
ALL BELONG

INVESTING IN LEADERS, INVESTING IN YOU.

All Club Officers should be familiar with the rules governing Club membership and the rules governing registration of members and players. Membership is an extremely important consideration for Clubs and every effort should be made to comply with all of the rules governing this important topic.

Membership of the Association, membership of the Club, registration of players and members amongst other topics will now be discussed in more detail.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Membership of the Association can only be granted to a person through a GAA Club. Therefore, to become a member of the GAA, a person must become a member of a Club firstly.

There are three types of membership of the Association outlined in rule 2.1 (a) of the Official Guide as follows:

2.1 (a) There shall be three types of Membership of the Association:

- i. Full Membership, for persons over 18 years (i.e. shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year.*
- ii. Youth Membership, for persons Under 18 and over 9 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 18th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 9th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year).*
- iii. Child Membership, for children Under 9 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 9th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date). On expiration of a Child Membership of the Association, a person may apply for Youth Membership of the Association through a Club for which he is eligible to play.*

Full membership, once granted continues for life unless the person resigns in writing or is expelled. Youth membership continues until the persons 18th birthday when they then apply to their Club for Full Membership. Child membership continues until the persons 9th birthday when they then apply for Youth membership. The rights of any member are conditional on the member complying with the rules and regulations of the Association and the Club, including the payment of Club fees and levies as decided by the Club Executive. The rules governing membership of the Association are outlined in full in rules 2.1 (a) to (f) of the Official Guide.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB

There are three types of Membership of the Club, as outlined in 5.1 to 5.1.3 of the Club Constitution. As previously mentioned, when Full or Youth Membership of a Club is granted, a person also becomes a Full or Youth Member of the Association.

The category of Social Membership in the Club covers those who wish to be a part of the Club, but do not wish to have any involvement in administration, voting etc.

The three categories of Club membership are outlined as follows (rule 5.1.1 to 5.1.3 of the Club Constitution):

- 5.1.1 Full Membership may be granted to persons Over 18 years (i.e. shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the GAA.*
- 5.1.2 Youth Membership may be granted to persons Under 18 and Over 9 years (i.e. shall celebrate their 18th birthday on January 1st of the Membership Year or on a later date and shall have celebrated their 9th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the GAA.*
- 5.1.3 Social Membership may be granted to persons Over 18 years, as defined above, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the GAA, but who do not seek full voting rights and rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the GAA.*

As with membership of the Association, once granted, Full Membership of the Club continues for life unless the member resigns or is expelled (rule 5.3 of the Club Constitution). However, the rights of any member of the Club are conditional upon the member complying with the provisions of the Club Constitution and the Official Guide, including payment of any annual membership fees (rule 5.4 of the Club Constitution). Therefore only Full members, who have paid their fees as laid down by the Club on a date prior to March 31st as specified by the Club and are registered, receive the benefits of membership, including the right to vote at meetings, including the Annual General Meeting (rule 9.1 of the Club Constitution).

THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The GAA membership year runs from January 1st to the 31st December. Persons must have their Club fees paid on a date prior to March 31st as set out by the Club and be registered in order to have a vote at any Club meeting in the upcoming membership year.

Rule 2.1 (f): Official Guide

The Membership of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall run from 1st January to the 31st December each year.

Rule 6.2: Club Constitution

The determined Annual Subscription shall be payable on election and thereafter annually, in advance of the date and in the manner decided by the Executive Committee. The date set shall be a date prior to March 31st each year.

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP OF A CLUB

There are procedures laid down in the Club Constitution for persons who wish to seek membership of a GAA Club. It is very important that the rules on this matter are adhered to and that the membership application forms are completed correctly and kept on record. This process is specified in rules 5.6 to 5.10 of the Club Constitution.

When the application for membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the new member's particulars are registered with the GAA, he/she is allocated a personal membership number. The official membership application forms are available on the GAA website, www.gaa.ie.

RATES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Club Executive has the authority to set the rates of membership in the Club (rule 6.1 of the Club Constitution). A Club can also decide on any special discounts that may be offered on the membership rates, E.G. A Club may offer a student rate and an OAP rate of Full membership.

It is extremely important that the Club clarifies what exactly is meant by each rate of membership. For example, a Club may specify that the family membership rate covers both parent / guardians as Full members and all the children under 18 as Youth members. The Club must still register the parents / guardians as Full members and the children under 18 as Youth members. As already outlined, both parents / guardians then have the right to vote at Club meetings including the AGM. In the case of students, the student rate could cover all those in the Club who are over 18 and in full time education. As they are over 18, they are registered as Full members.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND MEMBERS

Each year, all Clubs must complete a registration of their members that should be submitted to Central Council (rule 2.2 of the Official Guide). A register of their adult and juvenile players should also be submitted the same way (rule 2.3 of the Official Guide). This is catered for on the online GAA Registration System called Foireann (formally known as Servasport) and this is now the only acceptable method of registration in the GAA.

Clubs must register those who have paid their Full, Youth and Child Membership fees on the online system on a date before the 1st April each year (rule 2.2 (a) and (b) of the Official Guide). Players are required to have paid their Club fees for registration purposes and are required to be registered as Full or Youth members (rule 6.2 of the Official Guide).

Players must be registered at least three days before a game (rule 2.3 (c) of the Official Guide), the penalty for not complying with this rule are as per rule 2.3 of the Official Guide.

Clubs must forward a fee of €2 to Croke Park through the County Secretary for each Full member registered.

In the case of two adult Clubs who join at juvenile level to form an “independent unit”, each adult Club is required to carry out the player registration and the Youth member registration of the juvenile players associated with the Club. There is no requirement for a separate “independent unit” registration.