

**IRISH OLYMPIC
HANDBALL
ASSOCIATION**

**School
Competition
Regulation
2023-2024**



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INTRODUCTION

Over 27 million people in 180 countries take part in the game of (Olympic) Handball. The Irish Olympic Handball Association (“IOHA”) acts as the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of Olympic handball for the whole island of Ireland.

Established in 1975, the IOHA is recognized by Sport Ireland, the Federation of Irish Sport, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, the European Handball Federation, and the International Handball Federation as the sole governing body for the sport of Olympic handball in Ireland.

The IOHA is undergoing a period of transition from a fully amateur organization to a more professional-led approach with a focus on key hiring personnel and the establishment of partnerships that share the same passion and goals: the development of Olympic handball as a visible and vibrant national team sport played at all levels.

With those goals in mind, this specific regulation was elaborated to adhere to the rules that our partners in the EU have in place. With the appropriate considerations, given the reality in Ireland, it will be implemented all across our school competitions. Reviews and adjustments to this document will happen accordingly, with the objective to promote the sport to its higher level.

It's applicable to all age groups, with adaptations to the rules dependent on physical space conditions (hall sizes, indoor/outdoor), equipment (balls, goals), times retrain, and human resources (referees volunteers, IOHA representatives).

1. REGISTRATION

1.1 REGISTRATRATION PROCESS

The process for registration will happen through the "GameDay" platform. Schools will register ONLY the number of teams they wish to enter in the competition and the school will be automatically affiliated with the Irish Olympic Handball Association, having access to discounts on equipment, education and etc.

1.2 COSTS

The costs are as follows:

- 1 team - €50
- 2 teams - €90
- 3 teams - €120
- 4 teams - €140
- additional teams - €30 each

1.3 OPENING & CLOSING DATES

Registrations will open on the 4th of September and close on the 29th of September.

A complete table with provisional dates is in the appendix section.

1.4 MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAMS

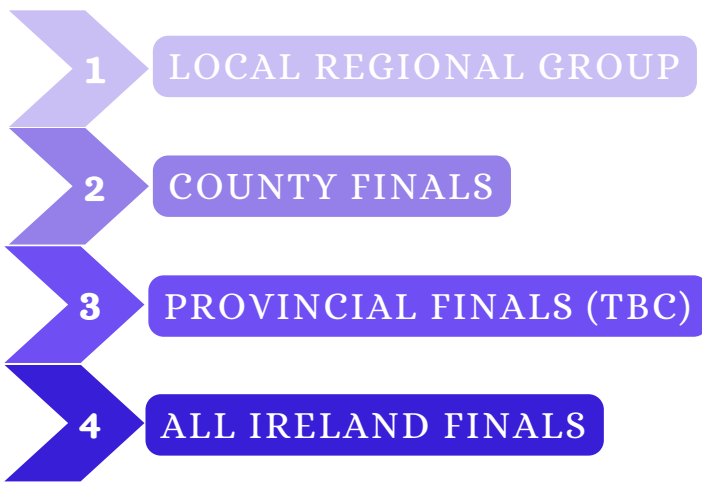
In order to the competition to happen in the county, a certain number of registered teams is required and is variable depending on each county.

1.5 REFUNDS

Refunds will only be provided in case the number of teams in the county is not met (see 1.4). Refunds will not be provided in any other circumstance.

2. COMPETITION FORMAT

The school competition format will be divided into 3 phases – local(1), regional(2), provincial(3), and national(4).



2.1. LOCAL REGIONAL GROUP PHASES

The local regional group will be the 1st phase of our competition, where teams from each county will be allocated to a group based on their location/proximity.

Each group will be formed by a number of schools that will compete for a top place to reach the regional county finals. The number of teams per group and how many teams will go through the next phase of the competition will be determined based on the number of teams registered in the competition.

This phase of the competition must be done in one of the following formats:

- Round-Robin: where teams in each group face each other once.
- Home and away: each team plays twice against each other.
- League system: where teams can play as many matches as they wish, taking into consideration that each team must have the same number of matches against each other.

This phase will be organized, managed, and refereed by teachers of the schools taking part in the competition, named Group Co-ordinators.

The IOHA will be responsible for the group setup, as well as the fixtures, and will work in collaboration with the group coordinators to establish dates, times, and possible locations for the matches.

Regulation and training will be provided by the Irish Olympic Handball Association to all teachers and school staff interested in taking part. Online training date to be confirmed after the registration closing date.

The Local Regional Group Phase deadline is the 22nd of December 2023. All results need to be submitted to IOHA GameDay Platform. Registered Schools will be provided access to it.

2.2. COUNTY FINALS

This 2nd phase of the competition will be organized by the Irish Olympic Handball Association and **will be played throughout January & February (2024)**. Volunteers (teachers) from schools not involved in the competition at this stage are welcome to join the event in the capacity they were trained in – refereeing, table official, or simply by helping to run the day.

The county finals will be played between the top teams of each group, decided by acquiring the greatest number of points at the end of the 1st phase of the competition (Local Regional Group Phase).

The number of teams qualifying for this 2nd phase of the competition will be determined by the number of registered teams.

Adjustments to the finalists, if needed, will be made on a needs basis, and considering the points obtained during the 1st phase of the competition.

The County Finals will be done on a Knockout System – winners of each category in each participant county will go to the next phase of the competition.

Matches draw will be done prior to the event, by GameDay Platform and schools will receive the schedule in advance.

2.3 PROVINCIAL FINALS (TBC)

The Provincial phase will be organized by the Irish Olympic Handball Association and **will happen in March (2024)**.

This 3rd phase is subject to the number of teams registered in the competition. All registered schools will be informed in due course if this phase of the competition will take place.

In case of this phase of the competition goes ahead, the county winners of each category (U11, U13, U15 & U18 boys and girls) in the provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster & Connaught will be represented.

The Provincial Finals will be done on a Knockout System.

Matches draw will be done prior to the event, by GameDay Platform and schools will receive the schedule in advance.

2.4 ALL-IRELAND FINALS

The All-Ireland finals will be organized by the Irish Olympic Handball Association and **will happen in March or April 2024** (depending on Provincial Finals).

The provincial winners of each category (U11, U13, U15 & U18 boys and girls) in the provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster & Connaught will be qualified for the All-Ireland (subject to the Provincial finals taking place) - otherwise, the County Winners of each participant county will classify to the All-Ireland.

The All-Ireland will be done on a Knockout System.

Matches draw will be done prior to the event, by GameDay Platform and schools will receive the schedule in advance.

3. AGE GROUPS, COURT SIZE, BALL, GAME TIME AND ALTERNATIVES OF THE SPORT

The students that participate on the school competitions will be distribute by the following age groups, accordingly to the table below:

AGE GROUP	BORN YEAR	CLASS/YEAR
UNDER 11 (11/10 YEARS OLD)	2012-2014	3rd & 4th classes
UNDER 13 (13/12 YEARS OLD)	2010-2011	5th & 6th classes
UNDER 15 (15/14 YEARS OLD)	2008-2009	1st, 2nd & 3rd years
UNDER 18 (18/17/16 YEARS OLD)	2005-2007	4th, 5th & 6th years

The alternatives for the different competitions and for the different age groups are as follow:

AGE GROUP	COURT SIZE (minimum)	BALL SIZE	GAME LENGTH/BREAK	NUMBER OF PLAYERS
U11	20m x 18m (a)	1	2 x 8 min (2)	5 x 5
U13	20m x 18m (a)	1	2 x 8 min (2)	5 x 5
U15	30m x 20m	2	2 x 10 min (4)	5 x 5 or 7 x 7
U18	30m x 20m	2 for girls, 3 for boys	2 x 10 min (4)	5 x 5 or 7 x 7

- See technical-pedagogic rules
- U15 & U18 competition – hall size will determine the team size (5 or 7 a side).
- Length of matches can be adapted depending on agreement between schools and/or the organizer.

4. TEAMS

4.1. U11 & U13 (Handball 5):

4.1.1. 6 players minimum and 10 maximum per team.

4.1.2. At least 1 teacher being responsible for the Group/Team.

4.1.3. Ideally each match should have 1 Student/Teacher referee and 1 table official.

4.2. U15 & U18 (Handball 5 or 7):

4.2.1. 8 players minimum and 12 maximum per team.

4.2.2. At least 1 teacher being responsible for the Team/Group.

4.2.3. Ideally each match should have 1 Student/Teacher referee and 1 table official.

NOTE:

- Outfield Players must have uniform colors across the team.
- Goalkeepers must be in a separate color from outfield players.

5. TECHNICAL - PEDAGOGIC REGULATION

5.1 Substitutions are permitted only when the team has possession of the ball.

5.2 Players in the court need to leave the court before the substitute player can go in.

5.3 Substitution needs to be made in the designated area – near the table official.

5.4 In the case of disciplinary sanction (1-minute exclusion), the team in question may carry out a PEDAGOGICAL SUBSTITUTION.

5.5 **PEDAGOGIC SUBSTITUTION** – in case of a disciplinary sanction to a player (1-minute exclusion), another player from his team can replace him during that period, meaning the team will never be in numerical inferiority.

6. GENERAL RULES

6.1. U11 & U13 (Handball 5):

On the U11 & U13 Team/Groups it is accepted that the Team/Groups are constituted by elements of the male and female gender. The Teams/Groups registered with mixed players will compete in the male group.

6.1.1 TEAM BUILDING - Per game, each team can have a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 10 players.

6.1.2 Ball reposition is done by the goalkeeper, on the 4-meter line, after the referee's whistle.

6.1.3 The goalkeeper (GK) must not cross the midfield line, except if GK is going to score a "7 meters" (penalty). In case of breach of this rule, the team will be sanctioned with a free throw marked at the place where the GK committed the offense.

6.1.4 IT IS MANDATORY to use an individual defense (1x1) for the 1st period of the game and any type of defense can be used in the 2nd period of the match - one-line defense ("wall-type" defenses) aren't allowed at any point.

6.1.5 Playing field – the recommended size of the playing field is a minimum of 20x18m, however, it can go up to 40x20m.

NEW: Matches can either be played in indoor halls or outdoors (concrete or astro). In the case of matches being played outdoors, the minimum measures must be respected.

6.1.6 Goal – It is suggested to use adapted goals (2.40x1.60m) or the regulatory measures (3.00x2.00m) if they are safely installed.

6.1.7 Goal Area – a semicircle of 5m radius with the center in the middle of the goal line is reduced for the age categories.

6.1.8 SANCTIONS:

6.1.8.1 The exclusion time is 1 (one) minute.

6.1.8.2 After the 3rd exclusion – inclusive - from any player in the team, it will not be possible to replace the excluded player, so the team will play in numerical inferiority during the time of exclusion.

6.1.8.3 The team that presents itself with fewer than 6 players will have to play the game if it has at least 5 players. The offending team will be awarded an Administrative Foul/Defeat (1 point), with the result to be considered 15-0.

6.2. U15 (Handball 5 or 7)

6.2.1. TEAM BUILDING - Per game, each team can use a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 12 players.

6.2.2. Ball repositioning is done in the middle line after the referee's whistle.

6.2.3. SUBSTITUTIONS:

6.2.3.1 Substitutions are permitted only when the team has possession of the ball.

6.2.3.2. Players in the court need to leave the court before the substitute player can go in.

6.2.3.3 Substitution needs to be made in the designated area – near the table official.

6.2.4. IT IS MANDATORY to use an individual defense (1x1) in half of the court (teams can opt for 1x1 in the entire court) in the 1st period and a defense in two lines (e.g. 4: 2, 3: 3, 5:1) in the 2nd period. Mixed defenses (any defense system and 1x1) and “wall-type” defenses (6: 0) aren't allowed.

6.2.5. SANCTIONS:

6.2.5.1. The exclusion time is 2 (two) minutes (pedagogical substitution is not allowed).

6.2.5.2. In the event of disqualification from the game (red card), the team in question, after the completion of the 2 minutes of exclusion, may replace the disqualified player.

6.2.6 The team that presents itself with fewer than 8 players will have to play the game if it has at least 6 players. The offending team will be awarded an Administrative Foul/Defeat (1 point), with the result to be considered 15-0.

6.3 U18 (Handball 5 or 7)

Regulated by the official rules of the sport, except for the "time-out", "length of the match" and "number of players".

It is allowed to request one (1) "time out" - of sixty seconds (60'') for each period of the game (when in possession of the ball).

5.3.1. TEAM BUILDING

Per game, each team can have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 12 players.

5.3.2. The team that presents itself with less than 8 players will have to play the game if it has at least 6 players. The offending team will be awarded an Administrative Foul/Defeat (1 point), with the result to be considered 15-0.

7. CLASSIFICATION, SCORING AND TIE DOWN

7.1. The classification of teams in the various phases of the Competitive Framework is determined by the sum of the score obtained in the total of games played, according to the following criteria:

- VICTORY ----- 3 POINTS
- TIE/DRAW ----- 2 POINTS
- ADMINISTRATIVE FOUL or DEFEAT ----1 POINT (see 7.4)
- NO SHOW ----- 0 POINTS

7.2. Final classification will be established in decreasing order of the points obtained; ranking 1st place the team with the highest number of points.

7.3. In the event of a no-show, a 15-0 loss is attributed to the team that did not attend the game.

7.4. In the event of an administrative foul (the team attended the game but did not comply with the competition rules - e.g. did not present the minimum number of players, but played the game) will be attributed 1 (one) point for the defeat with the result of 15-0.

7.5. In the event of a tie in points in any competition, the tiebreaker will be made as follows:

- a. By the number of points obtained in the games between them.
- b. The team that has the highest goal difference between goals scored and conceded in games between tied teams.
- c. Biggest difference between goals scored and conceded in total games carried out between all teams.
- d. For the highest number of goals scored in the respective phase of the competition.
- e. The lowest number of goals conceded in the respective phase of the competition.
- f. In the event that a tie still exists, it is up to the organization to determine the tiebreaker to be made.

NOTE:

- When a team, for whatever reason, is eliminated from the competition, all games played by/against them do not count towards the final ranking.

7.6 At all age groups, at the end of the regular time in the knockout games (County Finals, Provincial Finals & All-Ireland Finals), if any game ends in a draw, the rule of "penalties" will apply with the following conditions:

- Each team will nominate 5 field players and 1 goalkeeper who are not excluded or disqualified. Each player may only execute 1 shot.
- The referee and the team captains, by draw, determine which team starts the "penalties". The winning team chooses the field or possession of the ball.
- The winning team will be the one with the highest number of goals scored after the 5 shots. If the draw persists, it will continue until a team gains an advantage by the same number of attempts.
- In the execution of the action above, it will not be allowed, under any circumstances, repetitions of executing players, until all field players, registered in the score sheet have performed it (except for the excluded or disqualified players).

8. REFEREEING

8.1. Ideally the games should be directed by 2 referees and 2 table officials. In the case, the above could not happen, at least 1 referee and 1 table official must be present.

8.2. According to this regulation, it is upon the teacher responsible for the Group/Team the basic training of their most direct collaborators (referee, table official, and delegate/officer). Irish Olympic Handball Association will provide training to the group coordinators and all teachers responsible for a Group/Team (date to be scheduled).

9. OMITTED CASES

9.1. Omissions in this Specific Regulation are analyzed by the Irish Olympic Handball Association (by the Director of Operations and the Technical Coordinator). In the event of any omissions during an event where immediate action/decision needs to be made, the group coordinator in conjunction with the teachers involved on the day will take a decision based on fairness, fair play, and the well-being of all involved.

Where an IOHA representant is present, it will be in the last instances the final deliberate of a decision over the matter in question - not subject to appeal.

APPENDIX

1. TIMEFRAME

COMPETITION PHASE	START DATE	END DATE	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
GROUP STAGE	OCTOBER	DECEMBER	TEACHERS/LSP	REGIONAL
COUNTY FINALS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	IOHA	COUNTY
PROVINCIAL FINALS (TBC)	MARCH	MARCH	IOHA	TBC
ALL-IRELAND	MARCH or APRIL	MARCH/APRIL	IOHA	LIMERICK or MEATH

2. DATES AND LOCATION (PROVISIONAL)

COMPETITION PHASE	LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	ORGANIZER
COUNTY FINALS	CO. DUBLIN	NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA	23rd of JANUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO. CORK	MTU (tbc)	31st of JANUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO. SLIGO	TBC	8th of FEBRUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO. MEATH	GORMANSTON	9th of FEBRUARY	IOHA

COMPETITION PHASE	LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	ORGANIZER
COUNTY FINALS	CO. GALWAY	TBC	19th & 20th FEBRUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO. LIMERICK	UL (tbc)	27th of FEBRUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO. WESTMEATH (TBC)	TBC	25th of JANUARY	IOHA
COUNTY FINALS	CO LONGFORD	TBC	7th of FEBRUARY	IOHA
ALL-IRELAND FINALS	CO. LIMERICK or CO. MEATH	UL or Gormanston	19th of MARCH or 24th of APRIL	IOHA

For any other counties not stated in the table above, a confirmation of dates and locations for the county finals will be informed at a later date, after the registration phase is closed.

NOTE: the dates informed above are not final dates and can be rescheduled by the organizer due to hall availability.

ALL-IRELAND

The dates will depend on the provincial finals and will be confirmed at a later stage.