

PROPOSAL ON  
A REVISED FORMAT OF  
THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



PROPOSAL ON A REVISED FORMAT OF  
THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(2018 AND BEYOND)

(2018 AND BEYOND)



**INDEX**

BACKGROUND TO PROPOSAL	4
PROPOSAL	6
ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL	8
MEETING THE NEEDS OF CLUB PLAYERS	9
APPENDIX 1 – RESPONDING TO CRITICAL COMMENTARY ON THE PROPOSAL	12
APPENDIX 2 – ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (NATIONAL)	16
APPENDIX 3 – ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (CONNACHT)	20
APPENDIX 4 – ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (LEINSTER)	24
APPENDIX 5 – ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (MUNSTER)	28
APPENDIX 6 – ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (ULSTER)	32
APPENDIX 7 – DURATION OF 2016 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR COUNTIES: ACTUAL Vs PROPOSED	36
APPENDIX 8 – DURATION OF 2016 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FOR COUNTIES: ACTUAL Vs PROPOSED	37
APPENDIX 9 – PROVINCIAL AND ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCES 2000-2016	38
APPENDIX 10 – AVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCES 2000-2016	39

“  
... it could well be more  
productive to seek to find  
agreement in the medium  
term on more modest  
reforms...”

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Context**

At Congress 2016 the Association addressed the issues of player overtraining and burnout, the structure of the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship and a fixtures calendar that does not provide club players with a fair schedule of games. Progress was made on improving the situation on overtraining and burnout, but the structure of the football championship and our calendar of games remain unresolved problems. We must, therefore, continue to seek solutions to these twin dilemmas. This may take some time to achieve, but these remain pressing matters; our championship structure is regularly called into question (although it has not yet been possible to find general agreement on a new structure), and our club players deserve a fairer schedule of games.

It may well be the case that there will not be a ‘magic-bullet’ solution to either problem, and that the necessary structural reforms will occur on an incremental basis. Indeed, given the democratic nature of the decision-making processes of the Association and the great variance in opinion about the best solutions to be adopted, it could well be more productive to seek to find agreement in the medium term on more modest reforms than to do nothing in the hope that agreement on comprehensive restructuring can ultimately be found. It is in this spirit that the present proposal to make adjustments to the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship is offered.

### **The All-Ireland Senior Football Championship: The Current Structure**

The current structure of provincial championships and All-Ireland qualifiers, in operation since 2001, is well embedded, respects tradition, and provides every county with a second-chance match and pathways for continuing progression. Yet it has obvious drawbacks, most obviously an unhealthy predictability about the outcome in two of the provincial championships: Dublin has won 11 of the last 12 Leinster titles, while either Kerry or Cork has won every Munster Senior Championship in the past 80 years, with the exception of Clare’s win in 1992.



It is often argued that the qualifier system has been to the benefit of the traditionally stronger counties, but it must not be forgotten that the strongest counties are, quite logically, more liable to qualify for the closing stages of the All-Ireland championship, as the best teams usually do in any sporting competition. And the argument about an in-built bias towards stronger counties does not adequately acknowledge the advantages of the qualifiers: they produce novel pairings, and they have allowed a number of traditionally less strong counties to reach an All-Ireland quarter-final.

For many counties, the qualifiers are the route to a big day in Croke Park that they would never otherwise experience. In 2016 Tipperary footballers offered us the most thrilling proof of how the qualifiers can favour less traditionally strong football counties.

In 2015 An Coiste Bainistíochta invited counties' submissions on a revised structure for the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship. It did so for three reasons:

- (i) a persistent criticism from some that the current championship format had grown lacklustre;
- (ii) the reality that there are some counties that cannot realistically aspire to winning either a provincial or an All-Ireland title;
- (iii) the incidence of one-sided games.

The debate on the An Coiste Bainistíochta initiative allowed a number of conclusions to be reached. These – along with the imperative to support our clubs – translate into the following constraints within which we must seek solutions to any reform of the championship structure:

- (i) the needs of clubs must be taken into account;
- (ii) there is no consensus on how the present championship model might be improved;
- (iii) counties want the provincial championships to be retained;

- (iv) counties demand a second-chance game;
- (v) the so-called less successful counties have no interest in taking part in a second-tier competition.

### **Medium-term reform of the All-Ireland Championship Structure**

In light of the An Coiste Bainistíochta initiative, it is clear that the options for immediate, radical and comprehensive change are quite limited. The proposal outlined in this document seeks to present a modest medium-term adjustment to the championship format that would produce a more exciting senior football championship within the current provincial championship structure and in a way that would have a positive effect on the playing of county club championships.

It will be seen that this proposal adds eight extra matches to the provincial and All-Ireland Senior Football Championship programme. However, when one allows for the abolition of the Allianz League semi-finals, the increase in the overall annual inter-county senior football programme is only six matches. And, as will be seen later in this document, tighter scheduling and a revised policy on replays would free up time for the scheduling of club fixtures and make inter-county players available to their clubs earlier in the summer.

“  
The proposal outlined in  
this document seeks to  
present a modest adjustment  
to the championship format  
that would produce a more  
exciting Senior Football  
Championship”

#### **PROPOSAL**

**Under this proposal, the format of the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship would be as follows:**

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:  
Knock-out format as at present.

#### ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIER SERIES

Round 1  
Sixteen teams that do not qualify for provincial semi-finals

Round 2  
Eight round 1 winners play eight defeated provincial semi-finalists

Round 3  
Eight round 2 winners play each other on an open-draw basis

Round 4  
Four round 3 winners play four provincial runners-up

#### **Proposal 1:**

- (i) A Division 3 or 4 team drawn against a Division 1 or 2 team in rounds one, two or three of the qualifiers will be granted an automatic home-venue advantage.
- (ii) The format of ‘A’ and ‘B’ sides to the qualifier draw will be ended.

#### QUARTER-FINAL STAGE

#### **Proposal 2:**

The current quarter-final stage of the championship to be replaced by a Group Stage, contested by the four provincial champions and the four round 4 qualifier winners.

The group stage will be organised on a league basis with two groups of four teams, with each team playing the other three teams once. (See next page for tie-breaking devices.)



**Year 1 groupings (succeeding years could be based on a rota system):**

Group 1	Group 2
Team 1: Munster provincial winner	Team 1: Ulster provincial winner
Team 2: Connacht provincial winner	Team 2: Leinster provincial winner
Team 3: Ulster runner-up, or team that defeats them in round 4	Team 3: Munster runner-up, or team that defeats them in round 4
Team 4: Leinster runner-up, or team that defeats them in round 4	Team 4: Connacht runner-up, or team that defeats them in round 4

**Order of fixtures in both groups**

**Round 1**

Team 1 v Team 2  
Croke Park

Team 3 v Team 4  
Croke Park

**Round 2**

Team 1 v Team 3 or 4  
Home advantage for provincial champions.

Team 2 v Team 3 or 4  
Home advantage for provincial champions.

**Round 3**

Team 1 v Team 3 or 4  
Home advantage for Team 3 or 4.

Team 2 v Team 3 or 4  
Home advantage for Team 3 or 4.

**Note:**

Home venues shall be subject to approval by the Central Competitions Control Committee (CCCC) and shall meet the criteria set down by the National Facilities/Health and Safety Committee. CCCC shall make the draws for Rounds 2 and 3.

The above fixtures format for the group stage means that each team will have one game in Croke Park, one home game and one away game.

Tie-breakers in the event of teams finishing level on points (in order of application):

- (i) Result of game between two tied teams (only where two teams are level on points)
- (ii) Score difference
- (iii) Highest score for
- (iv) Goals scored
- (v) Play-off match

**AII-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS:**

Group 1 winner v Group 2 runner-up

Group 2 winner v Group 1 runner-up  
(to be played over one weekend)

**AII-IRELAND FINAL**

“

our clubs, and therefore our club players, constitute the essence of the Association”

#### ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSAL

1. It will provide a valuable enhancement of the championship by way of eight additional competitive matches contested by the country's eight best teams. The group games will increase interest at the peak of the GAA season and provide a much wider opportunity for the country's best teams to display their skills and the qualities of Gaelic football in summer playing conditions.
2. The new structure will provide a more exacting pathway to the All-Ireland final: the finalists will have had to compete with three of the best teams in the country at the group stage, followed by a semi-final with a top-four team that came through the same test. This will have the effect of ensuring that the finalists will have been equally tested and that the two best teams in the country contest the All-Ireland final.
3. Playing All-Ireland semi-finals over one weekend will generate greater excitement. It will also give both finalists the same preparation time for the final.
4. The new structure will retain the provincial championships in their present form and confirm their importance in the context of the All-Ireland championship. It also underlines the importance of provincial championships in that provincial winners will go directly into the group stage while the runners-up will be one game away from qualifying for the group stage. It will also allow the provincial champions to lose one game yet still retain the possibility of going on to win the All-Ireland. At present, provincial champions are the only counties that, once defeated, are denied that second-chance opportunity.
5. All teams will continue to participate in the provincial championships and All-Ireland qualifiers.
6. The new structure will generate an increase in football championship attendances, which have been declining in recent years (see Appendices



9 and 10). (We recognise, of course, that the economic recession has been a factor here).

7. While income from the new group stage could be expected to exceed the gate receipts generated currently by the quarter-finals structure, it will be important to introduce a generous low-price ticket policy for supporters and families attending the group games.
8. The new structure will increase commercial and broadcast income from the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship. A significant proportion of this increase will be ring-fenced for development of our games in less successful counties.
9. The new structure will guarantee eight additional major games at venues within the provinces, which is particularly important in the context of the Association's investment in stadiums other than Croke Park. In addition, the playing of decisive matches of the championship in provincial venues will counter the Dublin-centred bias of the current structure. It will also bring top teams to provincial venues that they would never otherwise visit in the championship.
10. The traditionally less strong counties will be favoured by their being granted home-venue advantage in rounds one, two and three of the qualifiers. This will represent a significant benefit and encouragement to these counties and will provide them with attractive home fixtures.
11. It presents an opportunity to design a more condensed inter-county season that will create a more balanced ratio of inter-county training sessions to matches (i.e. fewer training sessions per match), and will also reduce the overall annual training costs incurred in the preparation of inter-county teams.

### Meeting the needs of club players

There is an obvious truth about the GAA and its games that needs constantly to be restated: our clubs, and therefore our club players, constitute the essence of the Association. An equally obvious and unacceptable truth is that the majority of our club players, specifically those not involved in inter-county teams, are not offered a fair, evenly distributed and planned schedule of club matches throughout the year.

This is so because of the scheduling of inter-county fixtures, which, due to the ascendancy of inter-county competitions over recent years, has enjoyed priority over the scheduling of club games.

The experience of many clubs is that they receive their county's master-fixtures plan which schedules one or more rounds of the club championship for late spring. Their players begin training in January/February and prepare intensely for a championship in which, however, the master-fixtures plan is regularly changed to accommodate the progression of the county team in the provincial championship or All-Ireland qualifiers. As long as the county team remains in the championship or the qualifiers, inter-county managers do not want to release players back to their clubs, and clubs do not want to play in their county championship without their best players. As a result, as long as the county is involved in the inter-county championship, few club championship games will be played. The club is then obliged to arrange challenge matches against teams in the same predicament, as they all await the exit of their county team from the championship. In this situation, clubs don't know when the next club championship game will take place, and their players thus undergo lengthy periods of training between championship games. The latter stages of club competitions in many counties end up being played off in a too-compressed period of time after these counties have been eliminated from the championship, and club players may find themselves in November/December playing out competitions for which they began training in January/February but which were held over due to the unavailability of inter-county players. An additional frustration for players is that they do not know which weekends to keep free for championship games, and they also find it extremely difficult to make holiday plans.

“

...it is important to consider the obvious and huge gains for clubs under the new proposal, in the recognition that a perfect solution probably does not exist.”

The consequences of this fixtures-scheduling structure for clubs are serious and unjust:

- the club that has nurtured and developed players over many years find that their best players, from a certain age onwards, are increasingly unavailable to them;
- non inter-county club players are deprived of regular summer football;
- non inter-county club players receive the message that they are not as valuable to the Association as inter-county players;
- club championships are devalued, run off, as they are, in a rushed manner before the club provincial championships begin.

This is wrong, and unfair to our clubs, and we must address this problem in an honest manner, which means developing a revised calendar of fixtures in which a fairer balance between inter-county and club fixtures is established and in which county championships get due recognition. Such a re-balancing of priorities between inter-county and club fixtures is a specific objective of the proposed new championship structure under discussion.

In essence, our current fixtures-scheduling problems are created by certain features of our inter-county competitions:

- the length of the senior championship, which lasts almost five months;
- the lengthy gaps between matches, notably in provincial championships;
- the need, in dual counties, to avoid clashes in the scheduling of matches involving the football and hurling teams;
- the allowance for replays rather than extra time in drawn games (in recent years, replays of the All-Ireland hurling and football finals have extended the championship by up to three weeks).



### How a more condensed inter-county programme can be achieved

The steps required to produce a more condensed inter-county season are relatively straightforward.

We need to:

- (i) reduce the intervals between matches;
- (ii) insist that extra time be played at the end of all drawn matches and that all replays be played on the following weekend.

Playing extra time, while not eliminating the need for replays, will certainly greatly reduce the number of replays. The argument that replays have a promotional value is true for certain replays only. The eight additional competitive matches contested by the country's eight best teams, suggested in this proposal, will have much greater promotional value. And insisting that replays take place purely for financial gain would constitute a betrayal of our club players; we must not extend the inter-county season unnecessarily through replays at the expense of club players - their needs must come before financial gain.

Applying the above criteria, I have prepared an alternative fixtures schedule which demonstrates how the closing stages of the 2016 Allianz Leagues and senior inter-county championships could, under the present proposal (including the Group Stage), have been played at national level (Appendix 2) and at provincial level (Appendices 3-6). This schedule establishes how, in the new proposed championship structure, the senior inter-county championships can be completed by the end of August, even with the eight additional games. This alternative fixtures schedule also records the dates on which counties completed their senior inter-county programme in 2016 and identifies, too, the date of this completion for each county that would apply under this alternative schedule (Appendices 7-8). The important and necessary gains for clubs are obvious. Under the schedule outlined here, counties will have a significant period of time when inter-county players will be available to their clubs. This, in turn, will allow club championships to be played off in summer conditions and over an extended period of time, thus according county championships the status and respect they

deserve. Specifically, under this proposal the months of August, September and October will be available for all counties to complete their championships, with the exception of the four counties involved in the football semi-finals and the two involved in the hurling final. The two counties involved in the football final will have an extra three weeks available to them to complete their championships compared to the current situation, while the two hurling finalists will also have an extra three weeks to do so. A more structured season will allow clubs and club players to plan accordingly, as counties will be able to schedule an uninterrupted championship programme.

It is clear that there are some problems that are almost impossible to overcome (for example, the scheduling of provincial finals on the basis of no more than two per Sunday to meet TV requirements leads to a continuation of the six-week gap for the Leinster hurling champions before they play in the All-Ireland semi-final). But it is important to consider the obvious and huge gains for clubs under the new proposal, in the recognition that a perfect solution probably does not exist.

If these changes are made, and if counties accept the responsibility to provide, throughout the year, an ongoing programme of county league or cross-county inter-club games that can be played with or without their inter-county players, the lot of the club player will be greatly improved. This is what we should all want to achieve.

I have acknowledged in this proposal that, given the complexities of our fixtures scheduling and the competing demands placed on it, an ideal solution is probably not within our reach. But we can improve on the current situation. I believe that this proposal will offer the followers of our games a more exciting and competitive football championship. What should be central in our reflections on this proposal is not calendars and dates but the improvements that this reform will bring to the football championship and the benefits that a condensed programme of inter-county fixtures will bring to our club players.

**As far as calendars and dates are concerned, those proposed here are not absolute;** there may well be a much better schedule of dates to be proposed, and discussion on this will certainly take place. What we must agree on first, however, is the need for a reform of our football championship.

“  
 The All-Ireland  
 championship should be  
 structured so that the best  
 teams in a particular year,  
 irrespective of whether they  
 are regarded as ‘strong’ or  
 ‘weak’, contest the closing  
 stages.”

### **Responding to critical commentary on the proposal**

‘MEANINGFUL CHANGE HAS TO CENTRE ON GETTING RID OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS’

The submissions received by An Coiste Bainistíochta in its 2015 review of the championship format confirmed that there is no significant support within the GAA for the abolition of the provincial championships. Until the Association decides otherwise, any proposal for change has to incorporate the provincial championships.

‘IT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR WEAKER COUNTIES TO REACH THE LAST FOUR’

In 2016, Tipperary, Westmeath and Clare from Division 3 reached the last twelve of the championship. Clare then qualified for the quarter-finals and Tipperary for the semi-finals.

There is no ceiling on what any team can achieve. Teams qualify for the last eight on merit, and our structure should ensure that the best teams will contest the semi-finals and final, which is what any championship structure should aspire to bring about. It should not be the function of a championship format to make it easy for teams to reach the semi-final stage.

‘STRONGEST TEAMS WON’T GET CAUGHT OUT’

The All-Ireland championship should be structured so that the best teams in a particular year, irrespective of whether they are regarded as ‘strong’ or ‘weak’, contest the closing stages.

The strongest teams mean the best teams, which will vary from year to year, and these are the teams that should contest the final stages of the championship. It is a strange logic that wishes that the weaker teams have easier access to the final stages and that it is somehow a measure of the value of the championship that this should happen. Competition in sport is about determining the best performer(s); the GAA’s primary competition has to be about merit and earned success.



‘CHANGE SHOULD HAPPEN AT THE BOTTOM AND NOT AT THE TOP WHERE BIG, POWERFUL SQUADS WILL THRIVE’

On this issue we must listen to the clearly expressed view of counties in lower divisions, who are adamant that they would prefer to play within the present qualifier system against higher-ranked opposition than playing in a second-tier championship competition against the teams they have already played in the Allianz League.

The Association is open to any proposals for changes in competition structure that might better serve these counties; this proposal does not preclude making provision for such change.

‘IT INCREASES THE GAP BETWEEN ‘HAVES’ AND ‘HAVE-NOTS’

Irrespective of the championship format, it will never be the case that all counties will compete on an absolutely equal basis. Critical commentary on the championship structure seems oddly preoccupied with achieving an ideal that ignores the unalterable reality of differences in population size, number of clubs, financial resources, etc., in other words the factors that determine to an important degree counties’ potential to achieve success. So, in the interests of the real (rather than the ideal), let us accept that it is thoroughly unrealistic to believe that every county has an equal chance to win the Sam Maguire Cup, or that all counties can be brought to the stage of absolute equality of potential.

That said, this proposal can help to close such a gap. The provincial championship winner does not always come from the so-called strong counties. Monaghan is an example of a county that won Ulster titles in 2013 and 2015, but it can reasonably be claimed that Monaghan was punished by the current championship format, as, in both years, they were then eliminated by losing their next game, the All-Ireland quarter-final. In the current championship format, provincial champions are the only teams that do not have the opportunity of a second chance when they lose their first match. This proposal gives provincial champions that are defeated in the current quarter-finals format

that second-chance opportunity through the three-game group stage.

It would surely have been invaluable, in developmental terms, for a county such as Clare, which came through the qualifiers to the All-Ireland quarter-final this year, to have had the opportunity to play three games rather than one at the last-eight stage, one of which would have been in Cusack Park in Ennis. Dublin or Donegal travelling to play Clare in front of 14,000 spectators packed into Cusack Park would have brought Clare on as a team and would have been a fantastic occasion for players and supporters alike.

‘IT COULD POTENTIALLY TAKE NINE GAMES FOR AN ULSTER TEAM TO WIN AN ALL-IRELAND’

There is an imbalance in both the number of counties and in the relative strength of counties within provinces. We must accept, therefore, that more games are required to win in some provinces than in others. This is an unchangeable fact, so let’s move on from it. In addition, the Association’s members have made it clear that they wish to continue with the provincial system.

This proposal, however, is fair in that each of the eight counties that qualify for the group stage will compete against three other of the best teams in the country.

‘A COUNTY COULD POTENTIALLY LOSE THREE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, ONE IN THE PROVINCE AND TWO IN THE GROUP, AND STILL WIN SAM MAGUIRE’

This is theoretically possible but very unlikely. And it is a scenario that many counties are happy to accept in their own club championships. But there is another reason to reject this argument. ‘Hard cases make bad law’ goes the legal saying.

Translated to this proposal, it means that one highly unlikely and extreme outcome would be a poor basis for constructing a championship format that needs to cover a vastly greater range of likely outcomes. Nor is an extreme and unlikely scenario a good enough reason to scuttle the merits of this proposal.

“  
 ...if this proposal had been made for reasons of financial gain, it would not seek to reduce the number of replays, nor propose that we play eight of the twelve group games outside Croke Park.”

‘THERE IS A RISK OF “DEAD RUBBER” GAMES IN ROUND THREE’

Again, critics seem to expect an ideal in the GAA that does not exist anywhere else – there is a risk of a ‘dead rubber’ game in every kind of round-robin format in every sport. Moreover, many of our counties are happy to play their club championships on this basis. In addition – and very importantly – the fact that the two provincial champions in each of the groups play each other in the first game reduces the likelihood of meaningless games in Round 3.

‘IT DILUTES THE SUDDEN-DEATH NATURE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND MAKES IT LESS EXCITING’

At present, none of the twenty-nine games played in the provincial championships are sudden-death games. In any case, it is not defeat-as-final-elimination that determines how exciting a match is, as many an enthralling Ulster final in the qualifier age testifies.

‘EXTRA MATCHES MEANS THERE WON’T BE TIME FOR CLUBS’

The need to devise a fixtures calendar that will allow counties to provide clubs with greater certainty around the scheduling of matches is crucial, as is the need to provide clubs with a fairer schedule of matches.

While this proposed format would increase the overall number of games in the football league and championship programme by six, it also proposes that the playing of the inter-county championships be condensed and that the gap between games be reduced, and it demonstrates how this could be achieved.

‘DUBLIN WOULD PLAY TWO OF THEIR GROUP GAMES AT CROKE PARK’

This proposal guarantees that Dublin must play one game in the All-Ireland series outside Croke Park. At present, this cannot happen as all of these games are played in Croke Park.



‘THE AIM IS PURELY TO MAKE THE GAMES ATTRACTIVE TO BROADCASTERS’

This is simply untrue. Our games are already attractive to broadcasters, as demonstrated by their interest in acquiring broadcast rights.

This proposal aims to:

- (i) make the championship more attractive to our members and supporters;
- (ii) promote the game;
- (iii) encourage more people to attend;
- (iv) ensure that the best teams play each other in the final stages of the competition

‘REDUCING THE LENGTH OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL REDUCE THE MEDIA PROFILE AND “SHOP WINDOW” EFFECT FOR OUR GAMES’.

There is no direct link between the length of a championship and the amount of media coverage it receives. It can be argued that shortening the competition period through a more intense level of activity may even increase levels of media coverage. For example, Rugby’s Six Nations tournament takes place over seven weekends and generates significant media activity. Generally, it is the quality and importance of a competition that generate media coverage, not its length.

‘WHY WOULD A FOOTBALL DOCUMENT (i.e. OUTLINING REFORMS TO THE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP) CONDENSE THE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP?’

As the scheduling of hurling fixtures has major implications for clubs, even for those who play football only, you cannot possibly make changes to the format of the football championship without considering the implications for hurling fixtures. It is simply impossible to schedule the inter-county fixtures of one code independently of the fixtures of the other code.

‘THE NEW PROPOSAL WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR DUAL COUNTIES TO PLAY THEIR CHAMPIONSHIPS’

There is no doubt that dual counties, where many club players play both codes, face a much more difficult fixtures-scheduling task in trying to run off their football and hurling championships.

For dual counties, condensing the championship under the new proposal, along with the thirteen-day rule, could rule out most weekends for club championship fixtures as long as the county remains involved in one or both championships. However, the amount of guaranteed time available after elimination will increase, allowing all counties sufficient time to complete their club championships in August, September and October.

‘IT IS ALL ABOUT MAKING MORE MONEY’

This is a lazy and cynical view, to which there is an obvious rebuttal: if this proposal had been made for reasons of financial gain, *it would not seek to reduce the number of replays, nor propose that we play eight of the twelve group games outside Croke Park.*

It is important to stress that it is also proposed that a significant proportion of any additional revenue arising from the group matches be ring-fenced for the development of games in less successful counties.

‘THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER PROPOSAL THAN THIS TO MAKE THE CHAMPIONSHIP MORE ATTRACTIVE’.

The Association engaged in a lengthy and thorough process last year in which it considered nineteen different proposals on championship reform. None of them gained significant support. No one is claiming that this is the perfect solution, or that it is a panacea to address the perceived ills of the football championship structure, but it does have the potential to invigorate the championship and at the same time to restore a better balance between club and inter-county fixtures.



16

## ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (NATIONAL)

### AIBREÁN 2016

#### Week 14

**3 (Sun)**

Allianz Football League Round 7  
Allianz Hurling League Quarter-Finals

#### Week 15

**9 (Sat)**

Allianz Football League Div. 3 & 4 Finals

**10 (Sun)**

Allianz Football League Div. 1 & 2 Finals

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 1

Ciarraí v Ceatharlach

An Iarmhí v Uíbh Fhailí

#### Week 16

**17 (Sun)**

Allianz Hurling League Semi-Finals

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 2

Ciarraí v An Iarmhí

Uíbh Fhailí v Ceatharlach

#### Week 17

**23 (Sat)**

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 3

Ceatharlach v An Iarmhí

Uíbh Fhailí v Ciarraí

**24 (Sun)**

Allianz Hurling League Div. 1 Final

#### Week 18

**30 (Sat)**

Leinster Football Championship Rd. 1

Laois v Cill Mhantáin

An Lú v Ceatharlach

Uíbh Fhailí v Longfort



## BEALTAINE 2016

### Week 18

#### 1 (Sun)

Connacht Football Preliminary Round  
Ros Comáin v Nua Eabhrach  
Ulster Football Preliminary Round  
Fear Manach v Aontroim

Leinster Hurling Quarter-Final  
Áth Cliath v Loch Garman

---

### Week 19

#### 7 (Sat)/8 (Sun)

Ulster Football Quarter-Finals  
Doire v Tír Eoghain  
An Cabhán v Ard Mhacha

Connacht Football Quarter-Final  
Londain v Maigh Eo  
Leinster Hurling Quarter-Finals  
An Iarmhí v Gaillimh  
Uíbh Fhailí v Laois

Munster Football Quarter-Finals  
Port Láirge v Tiobraid Árann  
Luimneach v An Clár

---

### Week 20

#### 14 (Sat)/15 (Sun)

Leinster Football Quarter-Finals  
Loch Garman v Cill Dara  
Laois v Áth Cliath

Ulster Football Quarter-Finals  
Muineachán v An Dún  
Fear Manach v Dún na nGall

Munster Hurling Quarter-Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh

Leinster Hurling Semi-Final  
Áth Cliath v Cill Chainnigh

Connacht Football Quarter-Final  
Liatroim v Ros Comáin

### Week 21

#### 21 (Sat)/ 22 (Sun)

Munster Football Semi-Finals  
Ciarraí v An Clár  
Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh

Leinster Football Quarter-Finals  
An Lú v An Mhí  
An Iarmhí v Uíbh Fhailí  
Munster Hurling Semi-Final  
Port Láirge v An Clár

Connacht Football Semi-Final  
Maigh Eo v Gaillimh

Ulster Football Semi-Final  
Tír Eoghain v An Cabhán

Leinster Hurling Semi-Final  
Gaillimh v Uíbh Fhailí

---

### Week 22

#### 28 (Sat)

Football Qualifier Round 1  
(16 teams that did not qualify for  
Provincial Semi-Finals)

#### 29 (Sun)

Ulster Football Semi-Final  
Muineachán v Dun na nGall

Leinster Football Semi-Finals  
Áth Cliath v An Mhí  
An Iarmhí v Cill Dara

Connacht Football Semi-Final  
Ros Comáin v Sligeach

Munster Hurling Semi-Final  
Luimneach v Tiobraid Árann

“ This proposal gives provincial champions that are defeated in the current quarter-finals format that second-chance opportunity through the three-game group stage.”

## MEITHEAMH 2016

### Week 23

#### 5 (Sat)

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 1

#### 6 (Sun)

Munster Football Final

Tiobraid Árann v Ciarraí

Leinster Hurling Final

Cill Chainnigh v Gaillimh

---

### Week 24

#### 11 (Sat)

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2 (8 x Round 1 winners play 8 x defeated Provincial semi-finalists) – (4 games)

#### 12 (Sun)

Connacht Football Final

Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Munster Hurling Final

Tiobraid Árann v Port Láirge

---

### Week 25

#### 18 (Sat)

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 2

#### 19 (Sun)

Ulster Football Final

Dún na nGall v Tír Eoghain

Leinster Football Final

Áth Cliath v An Iarmhí

---

### Week 26

#### 26 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3 (8 x Round 2 winners play each other on an open draw basis) – (4 games)



## IÚIL 2016

### Week 27

#### 2 (Sat)

All-Ireland Qualifier Round 4 (4 x Round 3 winners play 4 Provincial runners-up) - (4 games)

#### 3 (Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Quarter-Finals

### Week 28

#### 9 (Sat)/10 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Winners)

Ciarraí	Gaillimh
Tír Eoghain	Áth Cliath

(2 games)

### Week 29

#### 16 (Sat)

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Runners-up or team that beats them)

Tiobraid Árann	Maigh Eo
Dún na nGall	An Clár

(2 games)

#### 17 (Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

### Week 30

#### 23 (Sat)

Group Stage Round 2 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

#### 24 (Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

## LÚNASA 2016

### Week 31

#### 30/31 (Sat/Sun)

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 3 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

### Week 32

#### 6 (Sat)

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

#### 7 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

### Week 33

#### 14 (Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Final

### Week 34

#### 21 (Sun)

### Week 35

#### 28 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Final



## ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (CONNACHT)

### AIBREÁN 2016

#### Week 14

**3 (Sun)**

Allianz Football League Round 7  
Allianz Hurling League Quarter-Finals

---

#### Week 15

**9 (Sat)**

Allianz Football League Div. 3 & 4 Finals

10 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Div. 1 & 2 Finals

---

#### Week 16

**17 (Sun)**

Allianz Hurling League Semi-Finals

---

#### Week 17

**24 (Sun)**

Allianz Hurling League Div. 1 Final

---

### BEALTAINÉ 2016

#### Week 18

**1 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Preliminary Round  
Ros Comáin v Nua Eabhrach

---

#### Week 19

**7 (Sat)/8 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Quarter-Final  
Londain v Maigh Eo

---

#### Week 20

**14 (Sat)/15 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Quarter-Final  
Liatroim v Ros Comáin

**Week 21****21 (Sat)/ 22 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Semi-Final  
Maigh Eo v Gaillimh

**Week 22****28 (Sat)**

Football Qualifier Round 1 (16 teams that did not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals)

**29 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Semi-Final  
Ros Comáin v Sligeach

**MEITHEAMH 2016****Week 23****5 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 1

**6 (Sun)**

Munster Football Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Ciarraí

Leinster Hurling Final  
Cill Chainnigh v Gaillimh

**Week 24****11 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2 (8 x Round 1 winners play 8 x defeated Provincial semi-finalists) – (4 games)

**12 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Final  
Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Munster Hurling Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Port Láirge

**Week 25****18 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 2

**19 (Sun)**

Ulster Football Final  
Dún na nGall v Tír Eoghain

Leinster Football Final  
Áth Cliath v An Iarmhí

**Week 26****26 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3  
(8 x Round 2 winners play each other on an open draw basis) – (4 games)

**IÚIL 2016****Week 27****2 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Qualifier Round 4 (4 Round 3 winners play 4 Provincial runners-up) – (4 games)

**3 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Quarter-Finals

**Week 28****9 (Sat)/10 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Winners)  
Ciarraí                      Gaillimh  
Tír Eoghain                Áth Cliath  
(2 games)

**Week 29****16 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Runners-up or team that beats them)  
Tiobraid Árann      Maigh Eo  
Dún na nGall      An Clár  
(2 games)

**17 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

“  
The provincial  
championship winner does  
not always come from the  
so-called strong counties.”

**Week 30****23 (Sat)**

Group Stage Round 2 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**24 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

**LÚNASA 2016****Week 31****30/31 (Sat/Sun)**All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
Round 3 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**Week 32****6 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

**7 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

**Week 33**

14(Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Final

**Week 34****21 (Sun)****Week 35****28 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Final





## ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (LEINSTER)

### AIBREÁN 2016

#### Week 14

##### 3 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Round 7  
Allianz Hurling League Quarter-Finals

#### Week 15

##### 9 (Sat)

Allianz Football League Div. 3 & 4 Finals

##### 10 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Div. 1 & 2 Finals

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 1

Ciarraí v Ceatharlach

An Iarmhí v Uíbh Fhailí

#### Week 16

##### 17 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Semi-Finals

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 2

Ciarraí v An Iarmhí

Uíbh Fhailí v Ceatharlach

#### Week 17

##### 23 (Sat)

Leinster Hurling Qualifier Group Rd. 3

Ceatharlach v An Iarmhí

Uíbh Fhailí v Ciarraí

##### 24 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Div. 1 Final

#### Week 18

##### 30 (Sat)

Leinster Football Championship Rd. 1

Laois v Cill Mhantáin

An Lú v Ceatharlach

Uíbh Fhailí v Longfort

### BEALTAINE 2016

#### Week 18

##### 1 (Sun)

Leinster Hurling Quarter-Final

Áth Cliath v Loch Garman



**Week 19**

**7 (Sat)/8 (Sun)**

Leinster Hurling Quarter-Finals  
 An Iarmhí v Gaillimh  
 Uíbh Fhailí v Laois

**Week 20**

**14 (Sat)/15 (Sun)**

Leinster Hurling Semi-Final  
 Áth Cliath v Cill Chainnigh

Leinster Football Quarter-Finals  
 Loch Garman v Cill Dara  
 Laois v Áth Cliath

**Week 21**

**21 (Sat)/ 22 (Sun)**

Leinster Hurling Semi-Final  
 Gaillimh v Uíbh Fhailí

Leinster Football Quarter-Finals  
 An Lú v An Mhí  
 An Iarmhí v Uíbh Fhailí

**Week 22**

**28 (Sat)**

Football Qualifier Round 1 (16 teams that did not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals)

**29 (Sun)**

Leinster Football Semi-Finals  
 Áth Cliath v An Mhí  
 An Iarmhí v Cill Dara

**MEITHEAMH 2016**

**Week 23**

**5 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 1

**6 (Sun)**

Munster Football Final  
 Tiobraid Árann v Ciarraí

Leinster Hurling Final  
 Cill Chainnigh v Gaillimh

**Week 24**

**11 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2 (8 x Round 1 winners play 8 x defeated Provincial semi-finalists) – (4 games)

**12 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Final  
 Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Munster Hurling Final  
 Tiobraid Árann v Port Láirge

**Week 25**

**18 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 2

**19 (Sun)**

Ulster Football Final  
 Dún na nGall v Tír Eoghain

Leinster Football Finals  
 Áth Cliath v Iarmhí

**Week 26**

**25 (Sat)**

**26 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3 (8 x Round 2 winners play each other on an open draw basis) – (4 games)

**IÚIL 2016**

**Week 27**

**2 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Qualifier Round 4 (4 x Round 3 winners play 4 Provincial runners-up) – (4 games)

**3 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Quarter-Finals

**Week 28**

**9 (Sat)/10 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Winners)  
 Ciarraí Gaillimh  
 Tír Eoghain Áth Cliath  
 (2 games)

“  
 ...under this proposal the  
 months of August, September  
 and October will be available  
 for all counties to complete  
 their championships”

**Week 29****16 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
 Round 1 (Provincial Runners-up or team that beats  
 them)

Tiobraid Árann	Maigh Eo
Dún na nGall	An Clár

(2 games)

**17 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

---

**Week 30****23 (Sat)**

Group Stage Round 2 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**24 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

---

**LÚNASA 2016****Week 31****30/31 (Sat/Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
 Round 3 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

---

**Week 32****6 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

**7 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

---

**Week 33****14 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Final

---

**Week 34****21 (Sun)****Week 35****28 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Final





## ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (MUNSTER)

### AIBREÁN 2016

#### Week 14

##### 3 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Round 7  
Allianz Hurling League Quarter-Finals

---

#### Week 15

##### 9 (Sat)

Allianz Football League Div. 3 & 4 Finals

#### 10 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Div. 1 & 2 Finals

---

#### Week 16

##### 17 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Semi-Finals

---

#### Week 17

##### 24 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Div. 1 Final

---

### BEALTAINE 2016

#### Week 18

##### 1 (Sun)

#### Week 19

##### 7 (Sat)/8 (Sun)

Munster Football Quarter-Finals  
Port Láirge v Tiobraid Árann  
Luimneach v An Clár

---

#### Week 20

##### 14 (Sat)/15 (Sun)

Munster Hurling Quarter-Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh

---

#### Week 21

##### 21 (Sat)/ 22 (Sun)

Munster Football Semi-Finals  
Ciarraí v An Clár  
Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh  
Munster Hurling Semi-Final  
Port Láirge v An Clár



**Week 22**

**28 (Sat)**

Football Qualifier Round 1 (16 teams that did not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals)

**29 (Sun)**

Munster Hurling Semi-Final  
Luimneach v Tiobraid Árann

**MEITHEAMH 2016**

**Week 23**

**5 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 1

**6 (Sun)**

Munster Football Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Ciarraí

Leinster Hurling Final  
Cill Chainnigh v Gaillimh

**Week 24**

**11 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2 (8 x Round 1 winners play 8 x defeated Provincial semi-finalists) – (4 games)

**12 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Final  
Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Munster Hurling Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Port Láirge

**Week 25**

**18 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 2

**19 (Sun)**

Ulster Football Final  
Dún na nGall v Tír Eoghain

Leinster Football Final  
Áth Cliath v An Iarmhí

**Week 26**

**26 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3  
(8 x Round 2 winners play each other on an open draw basis) – (4 games)

**IÚIL 2016**

**Week 27**

**2 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Qualifier Round 4 (4 x Round 3 winners play 4 Provincial runners-up) – (4 games)

**3 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Quarter-Finals

**Week 28**

**9 (Sat)/10 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Winners)

Ciarraí	Gaillimh
Tír Eoghain	Áth Cliath

(2 games)

**Week 29**

**16 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 1 (Provincial Runners-up or team that beats them)

Tiobraid Árann	Maigh Eo
Dún na nGall	An Clár

(2 games)

**17 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

**Week 30**

**23 (Sat)**

Group Stage Round 2 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**24 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

“  
 There is no ceiling on what any team can achieve. Teams qualify for the last eight on merit, and our structure should ensure that the best teams will contest the semi-finals and final, which is what any championship structure should aspire to bring about.”

## LÚNASA 2016

### Week 31

#### 30/31 (Sat/Sun)

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
 Round 3 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí                      Tiobraid Árann

Gaillimh                    Dún na nGall

Tír Eoghain                Maigh Eo

Áth Cliath                 An Clár

(4 games)

---

### Week 32

#### 6 (Sat)

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

#### 7 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

---

### Week 33

#### 14(Sun)

All-Ireland Hurling Final

---

### Week 34

#### 21 (Sun)

### Week 35

#### 28 (Sun)

All-Ireland Football Final





## ALTERNATIVE 2016 FIXTURES SCHEDULE (ULSTER)

### AIBREÁN 2016

#### Week 14

##### 3 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Round 7  
Allianz Hurling League Quarter-Finals

---

#### Week 15

##### 9 (Sat)

Allianz Football League Div. 3 & 4 Finals

##### 10 (Sun)

Allianz Football League Div. 1 & 2 Finals

---

#### Week 16

##### 17 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Semi-Finals

##### 24 (Sun)

Allianz Hurling League Div. 1 Final

---

### BEALTAINE 2016

#### Week 18

##### 1 (Sun)

Ulster Football Preliminary Round  
Fear Manach v Aontroim

---

#### Week 19

##### 7 (Sat)/8 (Sun)

Ulster Football Quarter-Finals  
Doire v Tír Eoghain  
An Cabhán v Ard Mhacha

---

#### Week 20

##### 14 (Sat)/15 (Sun)

Ulster Football Quarter-Finals  
Muineachán v An Dún  
Fear Manach v Dún na nGall

---

#### Week 21

##### 21 (Sat)/22 (Sun)

Ulster Football Semi-Final  
Tír Eoghain v An Cabhán

**Week 22****28 (Sat)**

Football Qualifier Round 1 (16 teams that did not qualify for Provincial Semi-Finals)

**29 (Sun)**

Ulster Football Semi-Final  
Muineachán v Dun na nGall

**MEITHEAMH 2016****Week 23****5 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 1

**6 (Sun)**

Munster Football Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Ciarraí

Leinster Hurling Final  
Cill Chainnigh v Gaillimh

**Week 24****11 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 2 (8 x Round 1 winners play 8 x defeated Provincial semi-finalists) – (4 games)

**12 (Sun)**

Connacht Football Final  
Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Munster Hurling Final  
Tiobraid Árann v Port Láirge

**Week 25****18 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier Rd 2

**19 (Sun)**

Ulster Football Final  
Dún na nGall v Tír Eoghain

Leinster Football Final  
Áth Cliath v An Iarmhí

**Week 26****26 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Qualifier Round 3  
(8 x Round 2 winners play each other on an open draw basis) – (4 games)

**IÚIL 2016****Week 27****2 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Qualifier Round 4 (4 x Round 3 winners play 4 Provincial runners-up) – (4 games)

**3 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Quarter-Finals

**Week 28****9 (Sat)/10 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
Round 1 (Provincial Winners)  
Ciarraí                      Gaillimh  
Tír Eoghain              Áth Cliath  
(2 games)

**Week 29****16 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage  
Round 1 (Provincial Runners-up or  
team that beats them)  
Tiobraid Árann      Maigh Eo  
Dún na nGall      An Clár  
(2 games)

**17 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

“ This proposal, however, is fair in that each of the eight counties that qualify for the group stage will compete against three other of the best teams in the country. ”

**Week 30****23 (Sat)**

Group Stage Round 2 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**24 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final

**LÚNASA 2016****Week 31****30/31 (Sat/Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Championship Group Stage Round 3 (all eight teams)

Ciarraí	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	Dún na nGall
Tír Eoghain	Maigh Eo
Áth Cliath	An Clár

(4 games)

**Week 32****6 (Sat)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

**7 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Semi-Final

**Week 33****14(Sun)**

All-Ireland Hurling Final

**Week 34****21 (Sun)****Week 35****28 (Sun)**

All-Ireland Football Final



## DURATION OF 2016 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR COUNTIES:

### ACTUAL Vs PROPOSED

County	First Game in Provincial Championship in 2016	Final Game in Championship in 2016	First Game as per proposal	Final Game as per proposal
Antrim	15/05/2016	25/06/2016	01/05/2016	28/05/2016
Armagh	29/05/2016	02/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	28/05/2016
Carlow	14/05/2016	09/07/2016	30/04/2016	11/06/2016
Cavan	29/05/2016	16/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	26/06/2016
Clare	29/05/2016	31/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	31/07/2016
Cork	12/06/2016	30/07/2016	21-22/05/2016	02/07/2016
Derry	22/05/2016	23/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	02/07/2016
Donegal	12/06/2016	06/08/2016	14-15/05/2016	31/07/2016
Down	05/06/2016	25/06/2016	14-15/05/2016	28/05/2016
Dublin	04/06/2016	01/10/2016	14-15/05/2016	28/08/2016
Fermanagh	15/05/2016	09/07/2016	01/05/2016	11/06/2016
Galway	18/06/2016	31/07/2016	21-22/05/2016	31/07/2016
Kerry	12/06/2016	28/08/2016	21-22/05/2016	06-07/08/2016
Kildare	21/05/2016	16/07/2016	14-15/05/2016	26/06/2016
Laois	14/05/2016	10/07/2016	30/04/2015	11/06/2016
Leitrim	22/05/2016	02/07/2016	14-15/05/2016	11/06/2016
Limerick	29/05/2016	09/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	11.06.2016
London	29/05/2016	25/06/2016	07-08/05/2016	28/05/2016
Longford	15/05/2016	16/07/2016	30/04/2016	26/06/2016
Louth	14/05/2016	18/06/2016	30/04/2016	28/05/2016
Mayo	29/05/2016	01/10/2016	21-22/05/2016	28/08/2016
Meath	12/06/2016	09/07/2016	21-22/05/2016	11/06/2016
Monaghan	05/06/2016	09/07/2016	14-15/05/2016	11/06/2016
New York	01/05/2016	01/05/2016	01/05/2016	01/05/2016
Offaly	15/05/2016	09/07/2016	30/04/2016	11/06/2016
Roscommon	01/05/2016	23/07/2016	01/05/2016	02/07/2016
Sligo	12/06/2016	16/07/2016	29/05/2016	26/06/2016
Tipperary	29/05/2016	21/08/2016	07-08/05/2016	06-07/08/2016
Tyrone	22/05/2016	06/08/2016	21-22/05/2016	31/07/2016
Waterford	29/05/2016	19/06/2016	07-08/05/2016	28/05/2016
Westmeath	12/06/2016	30/07/2016	21-22/05/2016	02/07/2016
Wexford	21/05/2016	25/06/2016	14-15/05/2016	28/05/2016
Wicklow	14/05/2016	18/06/2016	30/04/2016	28/05/2016



## APPENDIX 8

**DURATION OF 2016 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP  
FOR COUNTIES:**
**ACTUAL Vs PROPOSED**

County	First Game in Provincial Championship in 2016	Final Game in Championship in 2016	First Game as per proposal	Final Game as per proposal
Carlow	01/05/2016	22/05/2016	10/04/2016	23/04/2016
Clare	05/06/2016	24/07/2016	21-22/05/2016	03/07/2016
Cork	22/05/2016	09/07/2016	14-15/05/2016	18/06/2016
Dublin	21/05/2016	02/07/2016	01/05/2016	05/06/2016
Galway	05/06/2016	14/08/2016	07-08/05/2016	17/07/2016
Kerry	01/05/2016	22/05/2016	10/04/2016	23/04/2016
Kilkenny	11/06/2016	04/09/2016	14-15/05/2016	14/08/2016
Laois	05/06/2016	02/07/2016	07-08/05/2016	05/06/2016
Limerick	19/06/2016	09/07/2016	29/05/2016	18/06/2016
Offaly	01/05/2016	02/07/2016	10/04/2016	05/06/2016
Tipperary	22/05/2016	04/09/2016	14-15/05/2016	14/08/2016
Waterford	05/06/2016	13/08/2016	21-22/05/2016	24/07/2016
Westmeath	01/05/2016	02/07/2016	10/04/2016	05/06/2016
Wexford	21/05/2016	24/07/2016	01/05/2016	03/07/2016

**PROVINCIAL AND ALL-IRELAND SENIOR  
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2000-2016**

**(WITHOUT REPLAYS)**

Year	Full Attendance	Number of Games	Average Attendance at each Match
2000	686,553	35	19,616
2001	1,082,876	58	18,670
2002	1,018,562	60	16,976
2003	1,166,608	60	19,443
2004	1,157,028	59	19,611
2005	1,153,338	59	19,548
2006	1,097,171	60	18,286
2007	1,048,967	52	20,172
2008	1,007,227	51	19,750
2009	1,055,327	61	17,300
2010	965,548	60	16,092
2011	939,891	60	15,665
2012	885,025	60	14,750
2013	868,292	60	14,472
2014	837,000	60	13,950
2015	889,048	60	14,817
2016	788,746	60	13,146
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,647,207</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>17,074</b>

**Note:**

**1. All-Ireland Football Qualifier was introduced in 2001.**

**2. In 2007 and 2008 some teams participated in the Tommy Murphy Cup rather than the All-Ireland Qualifier.**



APPENDIX 10

**AVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCES  
2000-2016**

**(WITHOUT REPLAYS)**

