

Draft Fixtures 2020

Notes & Explanations.

Club Championship.

The view of the CCC was that it would be important for all Clubs to get some game time from the start and in the absence of league activity, having 3 round robin games to start off with would be welcomed by the Clubs.

Once the round robin section is completed, we would then switch to the SHC & SFC.

Points to consider re Club Championship

With no Provincial or All-Ireland Club Championship this year, the CCC there is an option of having 2 teams qualify from each group. This would entail having an extra rd (Qtr Finals) in the fixtures programme. Note this proposal would be for the Intermediate, Junior Premier & Junior championship **and not** for the Senior Club where teams compete in SFC as well as the Senior Club.

The positives of that would be:

It would undoubtedly be welcomed by some clubs who have long sought this change but up to now due to the pressure of completing everything in time for the Munster Provincial club championships, was not possible.

A concern with the current draft fixtures is that the first game the Clubs are playing (Rd 1 of the Club Championship) is also their most important as the present system of only one team qualifying from each group throws an extra importance on winning the first game. By going with 2 qualifying from each group, you address that pressure point.

For Clubs with dual players it may lessen the friction that may arise where hurling & football games need to be played on same weekend.

The negatives would be:

That extra Rd (Qtr Finals) could disrupt the progress of District Championship games which along with the Co Senior Championships (Hurling & Football), and the Club Championships are the three competitions the CCC has agreed to give priority status during this Club Window period.

The extra Rd would also ensure that the Club Championship (Intermediate, Junior Premier & Junior) would struggle to get finished before the intercounty scene would impact. Players welcome the idea of competitions starting and finishing in a block period and this would be affected.

The extra load on venues etc. at that time of year when weather may not be great could also be a problem.

Further consideration on this issue is required but our draft games programme for the present is assuming the status quo – ie One team from each group.

Senior Football Championship

A straight knock-out system for the SFC would be appropriate with result on the day. It would also be the case that venues, timings etc would be decided by the CCC and the assumption of home venues for teams 'drawn out first' in any draws **would not apply**. This would allow the CCC the flexibility to deal with any safety protocol issues that may arise.

Senior Hurling Championship

A straight knock-out system for the SHC would be appropriate with result on the day

The North Kerry Hurling Championship can be used to provide lead in games for the Clubs by playing a modified championship prior to the commencement of the SHC.

District Championships

It was agreed that the District Championships should be incorporated into the plan to (i) ensure a good spread of games for all the Clubs during the period & (ii) in recognition of the importance of these championships.

An important point to note would be that the Co. CCC would co-ordinate with the District Boards to ensure these games fit in with the County's overall plans to ensure an efficient and well-balanced games programme for all.

So the thinking with the District Championships would be from Week-end Sept 13 on, when the SFC is down to the last four teams, the District Boards would come in where the space exists and start commencing with their respective championships.

It wouldn't be envisaged that District Championships have to be finished within the Club window but that sufficient progress would be made to ensure their completion can be easily managed at a later time if that is required.

Intermediate Hurling Championship & Junior Cups

It would be important that these competitions are included to provide games for players not included in any of the above championships. The format for the IHC has always been knock-out so that wouldn't change. With regard to 'B' teams and the regrading of players we can if needs be use participation in the North Kerry Hurling Championship for dealing with this.

With regard to the Junior Cups in Football (Maybe Junior Leagues is a better name) we plan a reduced format of what has been there before.

Leagues.

The CCC are in no position yet to address the playing of a Senior Hurling or Football League, but we are keen to keep the option live for the moment. There is a possibility that during the period when the Inter-county scene is active that some form of a reduced league can be looked at.

Other points.

The knockout stages of the Club Finals may move up or down on the fixture schedule depending on other fixtures.

The inter-county fixtures will not be confirmed till later this month so we won't know for sure how they will pan out until then.

All dates (Inter-county & Club) are of course subject to government decisions concerning health & safety and if the present guidelines change, so too could our plans.

It is important to stress that participation by players/mentors/officers/etc. is on an opt in/opt out basis.

The issue of Under-age & Minor Fixtures needs further consultation and will need to be subject to the overall control of the Co. CCC to ensure an overloading of fixtures/competitions does not occur. The protocol requirements for juvenile games would be somewhat different from adult and the CCC would be anxious that activity at this level is appropriate and not overdone.

Next Steps:

- On-line Presentation to Clubs next Tuesday with participants invited to give views & feedback
- On-line Meeting of Co Committee the following week where the draft fixtures plan will be presented and feedback invited.
- Sign off by Co Management Committee
- CCC meet with District Board to co-ordinate their Championships
- CCC to progress with fixtures/draws etc.