

# Referee Pathway



**THE  
CAMOGIE  
ASSOCIATION**

An Cumann Camógaíochta

*Published:* March 2015

The Camogie Association  
Croke Park  
St Joseph's Avenue  
Dublin 3

Tel: 01 865 8651  
Email: [info@camogie.ie](mailto:info@camogie.ie)  
Web: [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie)

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Introduction</i> .....                       | 2  |
| <i>Overview of Referee Pathway</i> .....        | 4  |
| <i>1<sup>st</sup> Whistle Referee</i> .....     | 6  |
| <i>Level 1 Junior Referee</i> .....             | 8  |
| <i>Level 1 Senior Club Referee</i> .....        | 9  |
| <i>Level 2 Provincial Referee</i> .....         | 11 |
| <i>Level 3 National Referee</i> .....           | 13 |
| <i>County and Provincial Co-ordinator</i> ..... | 15 |
| <i>Note</i> .....                               | 16 |

# Introduction

THE AIM of this document is to outline a clear pathway for all members of the Camogie Association on refereeing.

Referees are a key component to ensure that our games are played in safe and enjoyable environment. A coherent system must be in place where recruitment, training and assessment are concerned. Referees must exercise their duties, one of which is “to control the game in accordance with the playing rules”.

For any individual who wishes to “take up the whistle” the Camogie Association now offers a clear pathway to a refereeing career.

As a referee develops, if s/he demonstrates the necessary potential and competencies, a referee can progress from club refereeing to be invited to the provincial panel and then to the national panel. Informational material, training aids and support mechanisms must filter down through all levels of the Pathway to support common refereeing standards.

The ultimate goal is to provide a pool of dedicated and proficient referees to administer games at all levels ensuring fair play so that all can gain enjoyment from Camogie.

Under the 2010-2015 National Development Plan *Our Game Our Passion*, the National Camogie Referee Committee was tasked with devising a clear and progressive Pathway for Referees at all levels of the Association. This document is the outcome of the Committee’s work.

The Camogie Association acknowledges and thanks the National Camogie Referee Committee 2012-2015 for its work: Peter Downey (Chairman), Rosemary Hughes Merry, Frank McDonald, John Dolan, Walter Cole, Karl O’Brien and Pat McGivern. The Camogie Association would also like to acknowledge the work carried out on this project by a former National Referee Committee under Chairperson Una Kearney.

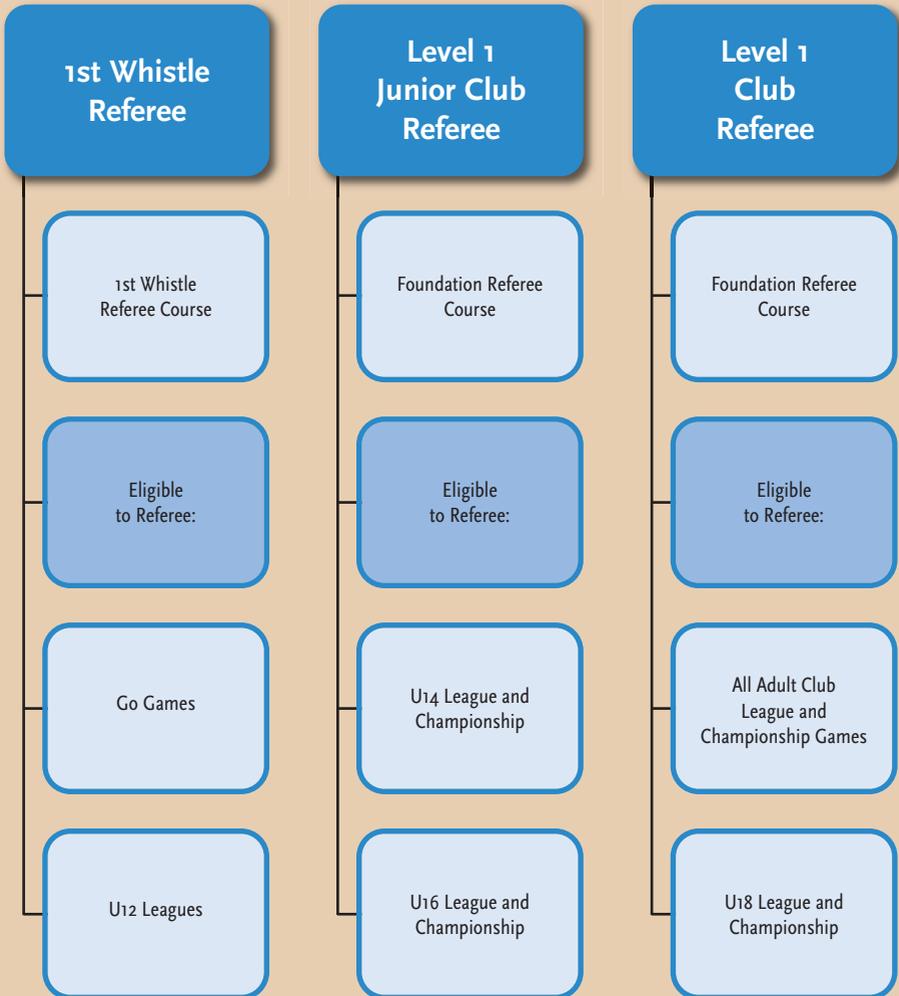
Clearly, elements of the the pathway as outlined in this document, are not yet in place. The Association will now work with this framework for referee development to put in place a stronger and more structured and developmental approach to recruitment, training and supporting referees. This model of development will be implemented over an agreed timeline with all key stakeholders over the next number of years.

*March 2015*



## The Referee's Pathway

The National Camogie Referee Committee will have overall responsibility for implementing Association policy through the channels outlined in the Pathway structure. All Training Programs, assessment procedures and monitoring of Referees progress through the Pathway will fall under its jurisdiction through cooperation and communication with all the parties involved.





### Level 2 Provincial Referee

Advanced Referee Course  
and potential to participate  
in National Referee  
Academy

Eligible  
to Referee:

All Provincial Adult  
and Juvenile games  
at Club and  
Intercounty level

Sideline Official for  
Provincial Championship  
games and all  
National League and  
Championship games

### Level 3 National Referee

Attend Annual Forum  
Annual Written Assessment  
Fitness Test  
Proof of Performance  
Referee Academy Training  
Modules

Eligible  
to Referee:

Intercounty Provincial and  
All-Ireland League and  
Championship games at  
Adult and Juvenile

Sideline Official

## *First Whistle Referee*

This is the entry point on the Pathway, The Camogie First Whistle referee is equipped to referee Go Games only. This is the individual's first engagement in Camogie as a qualified referee and it is an opportunity for the individual to learn and gain confidence as a referee in a safe and positive environment.<sup>1</sup>

Eligible to referee u8/u10 and u12 Go Games and u12 Go Games Leagues

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- ★ Must be a member of the Camogie Association or the GAA
- ★ Must be 15 years old to referee u8 and u10 Go Games
- ★ Must be 16 years old when they are refereeing u12 Go Games. Referees who reach their 16th birthday must be Garda vetted and have a recognised child protection course completed
- ★ Attend First Whistle Whistle Course (2½ hr)
- ★ Officiate in two Go Games Blitzes and two u12 League matches
- ★ Officiate in two u8/u10 Go Games Blitzes
- ★ Fill in referee report diary
- ★ Assessed by Club official and/or senior referee.

---

<sup>1</sup> First Whistle: This is an area where many young Referees are lost to us through bad experiences or other outside forces. Local Referees can play a vital role in assisting/mentoring new Referees who will be operating at Go-Games level.

## Competencies of a First Whistle Referee

- Appropriately attired in First Whistle top and bottoms
- Communicates with all players and mentors in a friendly manner
- Displays confidence with hand signals, blowing whistle
- Good time keeping skills
- Display basic rule knowledge
- Move around the pitch.



## Level 1 Junior Club Referee

A Junior Club referee having met the requirements of the first whistle stage on the pathway will be encouraged to progress to the next stage in the referee pathway.

*Eligible to referee Age Grade u14-u16 league and championship games.*

### REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Must be a member of the Camogie Association or the GAA
- ★ Complete First Whistle course and Recommendation from Club official
- ★ Minimum 18 years old. Must be Garda vetted and have a recognised child protection course completed
- ★ Attend and complete Level 1 Junior Referees Course
- ★ Attain at least 80% or above in written rules assessment
- ★ Physical fitness assessment
- ★ Referee a minimum of 10 challenge and league games between u14-u16 and complete Referee Reports before he/she can referee u14 or u16 championship games.

### Competencies of a Level 1 Junior Referee

- Awareness of movement and positioning
- Keep accurate score keeping, time keeping and recording of match detail
- Identify basic technical and aggressive fouls
- Player and coaching management
- Basic report writing
- Uniform
- Fair Play

## Level 1 Senior Club Referee

At the beginning of each playing season; interested persons will be invited to apply to take part in a Foundation Level Training Course, administered by one of the Camogie Associations national Tutors. On successful completion of the course, it is imperative that county Boards would appoint these new referees to baseline competitions. Progress through the grades<sup>2</sup> will be performance based, to this end it is recommend that Boards would appoint a referees coordinator<sup>3</sup>

## Level 1 Club Referee

Eligible to referee u18 and Adult club league and championship games.

Required qualifications prior to attending level 1 senior course: Completion of 1<sup>st</sup> whistle, level 1 Jnr phase (course and match requirements)

### REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Must be a member of the Camogie Association or the GAA
- ★ Must be 18 years of age or older. Must be Garda vetted and have a recognised child protection course completed
- ★ Completion of Level 1 Junior course (for all new referees)
- ★ Must be refereeing at least 2 years
- ★ Attend and complete Level 1 senior course
- ★ Attain minimum 80% in written rules assessment
- ★ Physical Fitness assessment
- ★ Referee at least 12 adult games and fill in referees' diary.

<sup>2</sup> Constructive Assessment provides Referees with the feedback needed to improve and progress. The national Tutors can provide Assessor training to Boards to allow them operate at local level.

<sup>3</sup> Details of the role of a referee co-ordinator can be found on page 15.

## Competencies of a Level 1 Senior Club Referee

- Apply the rules and control the game
- Apply fair-play in all games
- Correctly wear the referees uniform
- Develop effective communication skills through use of the voice, whistle and hand signals
- Demonstrate engagement with other match officials when required.
- Demonstrate good match book recording
- Good player management skills
- Develop conflict management skills.



## THE PROVINCIAL REFEREE

Referees who have a proven ability to perform at the highest level in their County (Senior) may be proposed by the County Referee Co-ordinator to be considered for promotion to provincial Level. Progress here will also depend on performance.<sup>4</sup> It is very important that Referees gain access to games at higher levels, in order to be fairly assessed.<sup>5</sup>

### *Level 2 Provincial Referee*

Eligible to referee all club and inter county juvenile and adult games at provincial level.

### REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Must be a member of the Camogie Association or the GAA
- ★ At least 18 years old. Must be Garda vetted and have a recognised child protection course completed
- ★ Successfully completed Level 1 Senior Referees Course
- ★ Attend one Provincial Course
- ★ Refereeing at least three years
- ★ Recommendation from County Board
- ★ Attain minimum 90% in written rules assessment
- ★ Positive assessment to graduate.

---

<sup>4</sup> Grading: once the referee has met the required standard set at each level in the pathway, grading will apply to maintain the highest standards

<sup>5</sup> A good starting point would be Inter County Development Squad competitions and similar fixtures.

## Competencies of a Provincial Referee

- Apply fair-play in all games
- Demonstrate good match control
- Demonstrate good awareness of positioning
- Display a developed knowledge of rules of the game
- Consistency in application of rules
- Managing players and coaches
- Demonstrate leadership qualities with match officials
- Demonstrate good evaluative and analysis skills
- Report writing: serious foul play incidents
- Awareness of lifestyle choices (to include fitness test participation, provision of guidelines on diet and nutrition) by attending national referee forum.



## THE NATIONAL REFEREE

Referees who have demonstrated high levels of performance on a consistent basis may be proposed for or invited to join the National Referee Academy. A certain level of competition for appointments to the Camogie Associations premier competitions will ensure high performance levels from our Referees. While positive performances will ensure a Referees progression, negative performances will have to have consequences. A system of Grading will be essential to ensure that Camogie Referees are suitably motivated to perform to the best of their ability.

### *Level 3 – National Referee*

The Camogie Association National Referee is the highest grade for referees in Camogie. Referees at this level will have completed all other stages in the pathway and have demonstrated a high level of consistency in their refereeing performances.

Eligible to referee: Inter-county provincial and All Ireland League and Championship Games at adult and juvenile level (to include All Ireland Club competitions).



## REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Must be a member of the Camogie Association or the GAA
- ★ Successful completion of Level 1 Adult course. Must be Garda vetted and have a recognised child protection course completed
- ★ Refereeing at least three years in adult games
- ★ Refereed in Senior County Championship within the last year and Provincial level
- ★ Attain minimum 94% in written rules assessment
- ★ Attain practical fitness level
- ★ Attendance at least two seminars each year
- ★ Assessment required.

## Competencies of a Provincial Referee

- In-depth knowledge and application of rules
- Apply fairness in all games
- High level of communicational skills through voice, whistle and hand signals
- High consistency in application of rules
- Lifestyle management
- Displays a high level of player and coach management
- Displays good leadership qualities with match officials
- Demonstrate excellent analysis and evaluation skills
- Excellent report writing
- Good safety awareness.

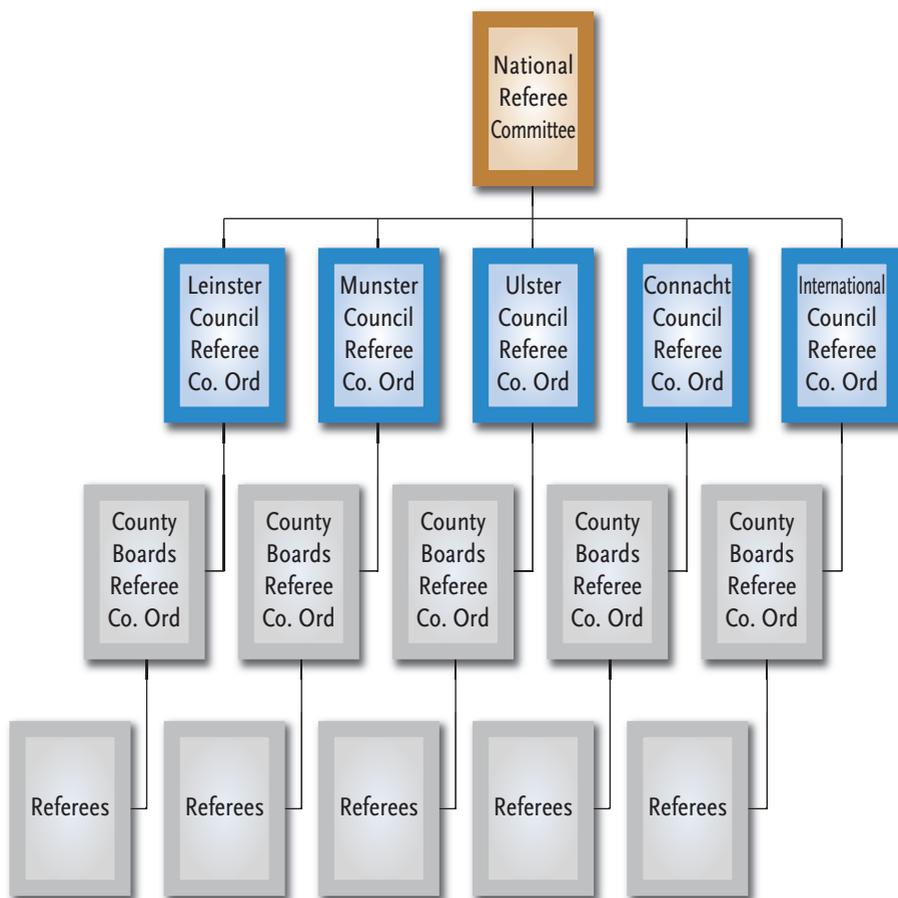
## ***County and Provincial Camogie Referee Co-ordinator***

The success of any project depends entirely on all parties working together. County Boards and provincial councils are key to the success of the Referee pathway by appointing a suitable and capable person to the position of referee co-ordinator.

Progress through the referee Grades will be performance based, to this end the referees coordinator at county and or Provincial level will assist the board/provincial council with Training, monitoring and also advise on appointments to games. She/he would also act as a liaison to the national referee committee keeping Counties up to date on developments. This Person would ideally be a former Referee with suitable knowledge and experience to carry out the role successfully.



## Referee Co-ordinator Structure



### NOTE

**Hurling Referees:** The increase in the use of existing GAA referees is welcome, provided that they are suitably qualified to officiate at Camogie games. It is imperative that these Officials are properly trained before participating at any level. The minimum standard should be completion of the Foundation level Referee course and achieving at least 90% on the Playing Rules Test. We should insist on a genuine commitment to the sport rather than playing second fiddle to Hurling if these Officials wish to progress upwards.



[Facebook.com/officialcamogieassociation](https://www.facebook.com/officialcamogieassociation)



[Twitter.com/officialcamogie](https://twitter.com/officialcamogie)



[www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie)