



SECTION

2

RULES

OF

PLAY

SECTION 2 RULES OF PLAY

1. Players and supporters are subject to the **Rules of the Association, The Constitution, Code of Conduct, Code of Governance, and the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.**
2. The referee must give a decision in accordance with the Rules.
3. Only the referee or the promoters or the Hon. Secretary have power to **cancel or postpone** a score, or postpone the finish of a score, or decide when a score may be stopped and resumed, in accordance with the rules.
4. **No practice shots** shall be allowed from the starting line, or elsewhere, after the toss of the coin, no practice shots shall be permitted at any time during a score.
5. When the referee or the promoters or the Hon. Secretary decide that a score **cannot be finished**, all the 'tips' must be painted on the road where possible. Where painting of the tips is not feasible the referee, witnessed by the competing players or their representatives, shall measure the tips from some permanent object such as a tree, pole, or pillar.
6. The referee shall decide when a bowl is '**for the score**' in a resumed score. In a resumed score, in no circumstances shall the competing player(s) be allowed take a practice shot from, or adjacent to the marked tips, or over any part of the road which their first shot after resumption is likely to cover.
7. Only the **official score** shall come under the jurisdiction of the referee.
8. All scores shall be played with the appropriate **weight bowls** as decreed by the Executive Committee or the promoters.
9. The referee shall **hold the stake**, which he shall accept from the player or his/her representative and at the conclusion of the score shall hand over the stake to the winner or his/her representative.
10. The referee may demand to see a **list of subscribers to a stake** and may refuse money subscribed by a person or persons, without giving any reason for so refusing.
11. **The promoters** shall in no way be held responsible or liable for accidents to players or spectators, howsoever arising.
12. **Scores, in championships and tournaments**, must be played whether there be a stake or not.
13. **Competitions must be completed on the roads** selected by the Committee unless they decide otherwise for a reasonable cause.
14. **No bowl shall be thrown** until the promoters are satisfied that the road is clear.
15. **Deliberate delay** in throwing may entail disqualification.
16. **If bowls are declared "evens"** by the referee at the end of a score, or for "bowl" or "bowl of odds" or at any time, each side must throw another shot, as directed by the referee, to decide which side has won the score, "odds" etc. (NOTE: Bowls should be marked on both sides of the road to avoid uncertainty. If bowls are declared "evens" at the end of a score, the throw to decide the

winner shall be thrown back from the marks or end line, as the referee decides, when it is impractical or dangerous to throw forward).

17. If bowls are declared **“evens”** at the end of a partner’s score, the playing partners must throw in the direction announced by the referee and in the order in which they arrived at the last throw.
18. **Should the bowls be lost during the score**, the promoters may substitute suitable bowls. Players may not substitute bowls. Should all bowls be lost, the promoters shall fix a date on which the score shall be resumed.
19. **The referee shall mark** the tips after 10-minute search.
20. **If bowls rebound** from the same obstruction (wall, car wheel, pier etc.,) they shall be marked evens.
21. **The bowl shall be marked at the point where its forward run shall end.** The tip should be marked as soon after the bowl stops as possible, the referee and/or official marker may stop a bowl if it begins to run backwards on a slope or from a rebound after it has completed its forward run. The official marker shall at all times mark the tip, but the referee shall, at all times have the prerogative to decide where the tip should be marked, and his/her decision shall be final.
22. **The official marker or the referee** shall place a mark on the road to indicate the tip after each throw. The tip should be marked on both sides of the road where necessary to avoid uncertainty.
23. **A player shall deliver the bowl from behind his/her tip at all times.** No video recording, photography shall be allowed at any tip. In the event of a dispute video or photograph evidence will be accepted under any circumstance.
24. A shot shall be declared **invalid** if called by the referee.
25. An opponent may exercise a **“call”** only on the first throw from the tip. This right shall extend to a shot taken from a tip after the referee has declared the previous shot from that tip a **“stuck bowl”**.
26. A **“call”** may be issued when either of the player’s feet passes the tip. It must be issued before the bowl touches the road, fence, ditch etc.
27. The opponent’s call shall only be valid when it fulfils the following requirements:
 - a) It shall be sufficiently loud to be clearly and unambiguously understood by the referee to be a **“call”**
 - b) The opponent is so positioned that he/she can, in the judgement of the referee, determine with certainty when his/her opponent has passed the tip.
 - c) The call must be issued before the bowl touches the road, fence, ditch etc.
 - d) When either or both of the players feet pass the tip before the bowl is delivered.
 - e) The referee shall over-rule the **“call”** if he/she is not satisfied that all these requirements are fulfilled.

28. The referee alone has the right to “call” a player on the second or third throw from the same tip.

29.

- a) Should the referee “call” the first attempt from any tip, that player shall be penalized by five metres. The referee shall measure the five metres penalty and mark it clearly
- b) Should the referee “call” the second attempt from any tip, that player shall be penalized by five metres. The referee shall measure the five metres penalty and mark it clearly.
- c) The referee shall then publicly warn the offending player that he/she will be disqualified from the competition and reported to the Executive Committee if he/she oversteps the tip on the third and final throw from that tip.
- d) The player shall be automatically disqualified from the competition if the referee “calls” him/her for overstepping the tip for a third time. The referee shall provide the Hon. Secretary with an account of the incident.

30. The referee may exclude a player or their supporters from a tip if he/she feels they are interfering with his/her duties or interfering with the sporting conduct of the score.

31. A bowl shall be considered as having been thrown when the player completes the actions necessary to throw the bowl and it leaves his/her hand and crosses the “tip” without outside interference.

Example: if a player slips, stumbles, etc., and allows the bowl to leave his/her hand and crosses the tip that bowl shall be deemed to have been thrown. If a player is tripped by a dog or other agents, and as a result of which he/she drops the bowl from their hand, they may throw the bowl again.

32. Once a player starts a score, he/she must finish on that day, otherwise their opponent must get the score (see however Rule 3, Rules of play).

33. If a player does not throw for the **odds**, he/she concedes the **odds**.

34.

- a) If a player, at any time, leaves their bowl on or inside any part of a fence, wall, or paling, it shall be a **bowl of odds**. The player must again throw the bowl from the original **tip**.
- b) In partners score, the partner must throw from the original **tip** if the bowl be declared **stuck**.

35. The referee shall decide whether or not a bowl is to be declared **stuck**.

36.

- a) A bowl shall be declared a **stuck bowl** if, at any time, it lodges on or inside any part of a fence, wall, or paling. The player shall forfeit a bowl of odds and he/she must throw again from the original **tip**.

- b) It shall not be a **stuck bowl** if the bowl, having first passed over a fence, wall, or paling, lodges on the wall, fence or paling on the opposite side of the road e.g., over lofting a corner.
- c) If a bowl is declared a **stuck bowl** in a partners or team score, the other partner or the next team member must throw the bowl from the original **tip**.
- d) Only the referee can declare a **stuck bowl** and his/her decision shall be final.

37. The player hind bowl shall throw first (see however, Rule 17).
38. Motorcars, bicycles, or other **obstructions** may be removed by supporters of either side, at any time, with the owner's permission. Limbs or trees, paling posts or other permanent obstructions may not be removed. Loose stones etc., may be removed at any time.
39. In three-hand return scores, when turning, the position of the hindmost and foremost shall be reversed and suitable adjustment shall be made in the position of the **middle player**. All players must pass the return sign before the **turn**.
40. Except where there is widespread snow or frost, players must be ready to **throw off** 15 minutes after the time announced by the promoter. (Penalty: disqualification from the competition).
41. If the promoters or their representatives cannot, for any reason, **come to a decision**, the matter must be referred to the Executive.
42. If a point arises during a score, **which is not covered by the rules**, the referee may decide to refer such a point to the Executive.
43. **A player who fails to adhere strictly to the rules** shall be disqualified from the competition.
44. **No allowance** shall be made at bends or crossroads, where lines are placed, unless first agreed to, by the Executive Committee for the safety of all concerned.
45. **All club lines** on the bowling road must be painted with any colour other than white or yellow.
46. **The finishing line** shall be scored only when all of the bowl has passed all of the finishing line.
47. Except where otherwise provided, players shall, in general, receive four days' notice of the date, time and venue of all scores if possible.

1 OTHER

- i. Each **club** shall be allowed to run a total of **10** benefit scores annually. They shall also be allowed to run one benefit tournament to include, not more than, 9 players. Permission for all benefit scores and tournaments will have to have been granted by the Executive Committee. In the event of a club running more than **10** benefit scores 50% of all stake money must be paid to Bol-Chumann na hEireann Treasurer.

- ii. **A club** must advertise a minimum prize fund before the commencement of a tournament.
 - iii. **Each club** shall pay to the Executive Committee such annual affiliation as shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee
 - iv. **Each player** shall pay to the Executive Committee such annual affiliation fee as shall be prescribed by the Executive.
 - v. In **all scores** a deduction of 5% of the total stake shall be made by the referee.
 - vi. All **regions** shall pay to the Association an annual regional levy of €350 or as agreed by the Executive Committee.
 - vii. All **Senior** and **Intermediate** players shall pay to the Association an annual affiliation fee and championship entry fee, such sums to be as the Executive shall, from time to time may decide.
 - viii. All **vintage** players shall pay to the Association an annual championship entry fee, such fee to be as the Association, from time to time, decide.
 - ix. **All other grade of player** shall pay to the Association through the Regional Treasurer an annual affiliation fee, such fee to be determined, from time to time, by the Association itself. Championship entry fees for all such grades shall be determined by the Regional Committee.
 - x. Permission for **regional fund**-raising activities shall be sought and obtained from the Executive Committee.
- i. **An unaffiliated player** who takes part in any score involving a Ból-Chumann na hÉireann player(s) shall pay to the association's honorary treasurer a levy of €300 before his/her application for membership of Ból-Chumann na hÉireann shall be considered.
 - ii. **A player** (having pleaded the gaming act) who serve notice of his/her intention of returning the official stake to the association shall be required to serve a period of 12 months suspension from the date of such repayment before his/her application for membership of Ból-Chumann na hÉireann shall be considered and pay a fine of €500 to the Association.

DISPUTES ARISING OUT OF PLAY

An Electronic copy of this Constitution and Rules of Play are available on the Ból Chumann na hÉireann website. www.irishroadbowling.ie

1. OBJECTIONS

A player has the right to object to a decision of a referee on the road of play provided he/she fulfils the following steps:

- I. He/she places that objection in writing to the referee within ten minutes of the

disputed decision

- II. The written objection must clearly state under which rule or rules the objection is being lodged
- III. The written objection must be accompanied by an objection fee of the greater of €300 or 10% of the total stake of the score. The objection fee for stake less scores shall be €300

2. OBJECTION PROCEDURE

- I. The referee shall submit the written objection and objection fee to the Regional Honorary Secretary in the case of Regional Objections or to the Honorary Secretary of Ból Chumann na hÉireann in the case of Executive Objections as soon as is practicable. The referee is obliged to inform the relevant Honorary Secretary within 48 hours of the objection being lodged.
- II. The referee shall submit a written report outlining the decision he/she made, outlining under which rules he/she made that decision, and any other relevant matter pertaining to a fair hearing of the objection. This report shall accompany the written objection and the objection fee.
- III. In the case of all scores, except those being organized directly under the aegis of the Executive committee, all objections fulfilling the criteria outlined in Rule 1, above shall be submitted for adjudication to the Regional Committee in whose jurisdiction the disputed score was being played.
- IV. In the case of all scores being run directly under the aegis of the Executive Committee, objections fulfilling the criteria outlined in Rule 1 above shall be submitted for adjudication to the Executive Committee via the Honorary Secretary.
- V. An objection shall be automatically rejected if it does not fulfill all the criteria outlined in Rule 1 above.

3. DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS

- I. The Regional Committee or Executive Committee shall deal with all objections quickly as is practicable. It shall normally be dealt with as the next monthly meeting provided the Honorary Secretary has received the written objection

and the stipulated objection fee at least seven days prior to said meeting.

- II. The objecting player(s), their opponent(s), the referee, and other relevant officials and/or officers shall/will be asked to attend the meeting at which the objection is being heard. The objecting party may be asked to make a short statement in the interest of fair procedure and natural justice.
- III. The Honorary Secretary shall confirm to the meeting that all the steps in Rule 1 above have been fulfilled before the objection can be heard, failing this, the objection will be rejected.
- IV. A roll shall be called before the objection is heard. Only Officers, delegates, those outlined in Rule (ii) above and one representative of each player involved in the dispute shall be permitted to attend the meeting. In special circumstances additional persons may be invited to attend by the Honorary Secretary upon written request to the Honorary Secretary by the player(s), or referee, if the attendance is considered by the meeting to be essential to a fair hearing of the dispute.
- V. The Honorary Secretary shall read without comment, the written appeal, the report of the original decision on the dispute and where it might help clarity also the original objection and the referee's report.
- VI. Only matters directly relevant to the Rules and/or Rules allegedly breached or misinterpreted by the referee shall be discussed.
- VII. The Chairperson shall request all persons directly involved in the dispute to leave the meeting after all the evidence has been heard.
- VIII. The meeting shall make a decision on the dispute based on the relevant Rule or Rules cited in the written objection.
- IX. When a decision has been reached, those directly involved in the dispute shall be invited to re-join the meeting at which point the Chairperson shall verbally announce the decision of the meeting. The appellant may be asked to make a short statement after the decision being made.
- X. If an objection is declared lost by the Chairperson, the objection fee shall be forfeited. This fee shall be deposited into the funds of Ból Chumann na hÉireann.
- XI. If the objection is upheld, the objection fee shall be returned to the objector. The objection fee shall be withheld if the referee states within 5 minutes of

the decision, that he/she will request The Executive Committee to give an interpretation of the rule or rules he/she applied.

There shall be no right to a further appeal or hearing of the dispute. All parties are obliged to fully accept the decision of the final appeal hearing.

1. APPEALS

- a) The original objector(s), or their opponent(s) in the disputed score may lodge an appeal to a higher body, but only in the case of Regional Objections, when the higher body shall be the Executive Committee. In the case of Executive Committee decisions, there is no appeal.
- b) The referee, whose decision was adjudicated on, may however request the Executive Committee to give an interpretation of the Rule or Rules he/she applied during the score. This shall not be considered an appeal, but the Executive Committee shall have the right to hold a new hearing of all or certain aspects of the original objection if they consider that the ruling of the original hearing was not consistent with a true interpretation of the Rules. The new hearing shall supersede and invalidate the Regional hearing and the case shall be dealt with by the Executive as a new Executive objection.
- c) An appeal may only be heard once at a higher body. The decision of that body shall be final and beyond appeal.
- d) The appellant must lodge a written objection to the decision reached on the original objection, within seven days of that decision being reached, to Honorary Secretary of Ból Chumann na hÉireann.
- e) The written appeal must clearly state, in which ways the original decision was not in accordance with the Rule or Rules quoted in the original objection. No new rules may be stated, the objection may not be extended to include other matters, and new evidence may only be submitted where it is directly relevant to the interpretation of the rule or rules quoted in the original objection.
- f) The written appeal must be accompanied by an appeal fee of the greater of €500 or 10% of the total stake of the score. The objection fee for stake less scores shall be €500

2. DEALING WITH APPEALS

- a) The Executive Committee or Officers shall deal with all appeals as quickly as is practicable. It shall normally be dealt with at the next monthly meeting provided the Honorary Secretary has received the written appeal and the stipulated appeal fee at least seven days prior to said meeting.

The appealing player(s), their opponent and the referee and other relevant officials and or officers shall be asked to attend the meeting at which the appeal is being heard. The objecting party shall be asked to make a short statement in the interest of fair procedure and natural justice.

- b)** The Honorary Secretary shall confirm to the meeting that all the steps in Rule 4 above have been fulfilled before the appeal can be heard. Failing this, the appeal will be rejected.
- c)** A roll shall be called before the appeal is heard. Only Officers, delegates, those outlined in Rule 3(ii) above and one representative of each player involved in the dispute shall be permitted to attend the meeting. In special circumstances additional persons may be invited to attend by the Honorary Secretary upon written request to the Honorary Secretary by the Region that heard the original dispute, the player(s), or referee, if their attendance is believed by the meeting to be essential to a fair hearing of the appeal.
- d)** The Honorary Secretary shall read without comment: the written appeal, the report of the original decision on the dispute and where it might help clarity also the original objection and the referee's report.
- e)** Only matters directly relevant to the Rules and/or Rules allegedly breached or misinterpreted during the original hearing shall be discussed.
- f)** The Chairperson shall request all persons directly involved in the appeal to leave the meeting after all the evidence has been heard.
- g)** The meeting shall make a decision on the appeal based on the relevant rule or rules cited in the written appeal.
- h)** When a decision has been reached, those directly involved in the appeal shall be invited to re-join the meeting at which point the Chairperson shall verbally announce the decision of the meeting.
- i)** If an appeal is declared lost by the Chairperson, the appeal fee shall be forfeited. This fee shall be deposited into the funds of Ból Chumann na hÉireann. (The appellant shall be asked to make a short statement after the decision has been made).
- j)** If after all Appeal avenues have been exhausted, the appellant does not accept the appeal decisions, the member shall be excluded from the Association.

MODEL CLUB RULES

1. NAME:

The Club shall be known as _____

2. AFFILIATION TO Ból-Chumann na hÉireann OBJECTIONS AND RULES

- A.** The Club shall be an affiliated unit of Ból Chumann na hÉireann (hereinafter "The Association).
- B.** The club shall have the same objectives as those of the Association.
- C.** The club and these rules shall be subject in all respects to the rules of the Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION

(NOTE: see The Associations rules and in particular rule (3) of Memberships and Subscription.)

- A.** Any person may apply for club membership on the written nomination of an existing club member.
- B.** All members shall pay an annual club subscription fee which shall be due on the date on which a member joins a club and thereafter on the 1st of January of each year.
- C.** The Club Committee shall from time to time determine the amount of the annual club subscription and in so doing may make special provision for such member and/or categories of members as shall to it seem fit.
- D.** A club member shall cease to be a club member if at any time he ceases to be a member of the Association.

4. CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

- A. The business and affairs of the club shall be under management of the Club Committee which shall be the controlling body of the club, and which shall be comprised of the following officers:
- President
 - Chairperson
 - Vice-chairperson
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Registrar
 - Fixtures Secretary
 - Youth Officer
 - PRO
 - Committee Members
- B. The officers shall be elected by the members, other than youth members, present entitled to vote and voting at the annual general meeting on the nomination in each case of 2 such members, youth members shall be not eligible for election as officers.
- C. The officers shall hold office for one year or until the following annual general meeting whichever is the sooner.
- D. The Club Committee may fill any casual vacancy in their number by co-option from among their own number or from the other members of the club except for youth members.
- E. The Club Committee shall have all such powers that may be necessary or desirable for the regulation and management of the activities of the club and the furtherance of its objects and in particular and without prejudice to the foregoing shall have power to:
1. Administer the business affairs of the club and deal with any property of Ból Chumann na hÉireann.
 2. Make contracts on behalf of the club.
 3. Appoint and define the duties of sub-committees and shall have complete power to overrule decisions of sub committees. All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Club Committee and conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Club Committee.
- F. Members of the Club Committee shall be indemnified by all the members of the club jointly and severally against all liabilities properly incurred by them or any of them in or on account of the management of the affairs of the club or its activities. Such indemnity shall initially be provided out of the funds and assets

of the club and thereafter, and if necessary, jointly, and severally by all club members. No person shall be entitled to such indemnity if the liability has arisen from his/her own fraud or will default.

- G. Club Committee meetings shall be held not less than once in each quarter and shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson. Voting shall be by simple majority by those present and voting and four members shall constitute a quorum. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in the case of a tie, in addition to his/her ordinary vote.
- H. The Club Committee shall not exercise its power to suspend or discipline a member unless before doing so it gives such member a reasonable opportunity to address the Committee in that regard.
- I. Each club should have an appeals process

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

- A. The club shall hold an annual general meeting arranged by the Executive Committee and of which at least 28 days' notice shall be given to all members.
- B. The club shall hold a special general meeting only on foot of a decision of the Club Committee or on the requisition of not less than 10 full members. Not less than 5 days' notice of such meetings shall be given by the Executive Committee to all members. No business shall be conducted at this special general meeting save that stipulated in the decision of the Club Committee or members requisition as the case may be and any matter bona fide arising therefrom.
- C. Nominations for office must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary before the annual general meeting is convened. Motions for the consideration of an annual general meeting may be put at any time prior to the conclusion of an annual general meeting and shall be considered by the meeting save that the Chairperson and at his/her discretion shall be entitled to stipulate that any such motion be taken at such time during the meeting as shall to him seem fit.
- D. The Vice-Chairperson will act in the absence of the Chairperson. The Honorary Secretary will act in the absence of the Vice-Chairperson.
- E. The following business shall be transacted in the annual general

meeting.

- Consideration amendment and approval of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and any other subsequent special general meetings.
- The Honorary Secretary's annual report.
- The Honorary Treasurers annual report
- The election of officers
- The election of delegates to regional convention and annual convention
- Any other business

6. FINANCE BORROWING AND PROPERTY

- A.** The Club Committee may borrow money on the club's behalf and for the clubs' purposes only if and insofar as authorized so to do by a general meeting of the club.
- B.** The Club Committee shall in any event have no power to pledge the personal liability of any club member for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.
- C.** Save as is otherwise provided by the rules of the Association all monies payable to the club shall be received by the Honorary Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the club. No money shall be drawn from any such account save by cheque or other appropriate authorisation signed by the Honorary Treasurer and either the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.
- D.** The income and property of the club shall be applied only in the furtherance of the clubs' objects.
- E.** The Honorary Treasurer shall keep a proper set of books recording the clubs' financial transactions and affairs and shall make a quarterly report thereon for the consideration of the Club Committee and an annual report thereon for the consideration of the annual general meeting.
- F.** The property of the club other than cash at the bank will be vested in not more than three custodians who shall deal with it as directed by resolution of the Club Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive of evidence of such a resolution. The custodians shall be elected at a general meeting of the club and shall hold office until death, resignation, or removal by resolution of a general meeting. Custodians shall be entitled to be indemnified by the members of the club jointly and severally in respect of all liability properly incurred by them or any of them, in respect to their

discharge of their duties. Such indemnity shall initially be provided out of the funds and assets of the club members. No custodian shall be entitled to such indemnity if his liability has arisen from his own fraud or wilful default.

7. DISSOLUTION

- A.** A resolution to dissolve the club shall only be considered by a special general meeting and shall be carried only by a $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) majority of those present and entitled to vote.
- B.** A dissolution shall take effect from the date of the said resolution and the Club Committee shall be responsible for winding up the assets and liabilities of the club and shall have all powers desirable for that purpose.
- C.** Any property or assets remaining after the discharge of the club debts and liabilities shall be divided equally among those persons who were members of the club at the date of dissolution.

8. ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES

Alterations and additions to these rules may be made only by general meeting and if the resolution proposing such alteration or addition is carried by the vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present and voting and if such an alteration and addition does not conflict with the rules of The Association. Motions to alter or add to these rules must, if they are to be considered at an annual general meeting, be proposed by notice in writing to be received by the Honorary Secretary not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

9. INTERPRETATION

The Club Committee shall have authority to interpret these rules and the decision of the Club Committee on any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the club and not provided for in these rules is binding on the members, subject to the decision of a general meeting and to the rules of the Association. In no circumstances shall any such decision be subject to appeal to a court of law.

SAFETY

- 1.** The Executive Committee may make safety regulations for the safe conduct of

all competitions and all competitions shall be conducted in accordance with such regulations.

2. Regardless of any other provision of these rules the Executive Committee may at any time amend supplement or replace the safety regulations by simply majority vote.
3. A copy of any current safety regulations shall be provided by the Executive Committee to each member on the issue and on every renewal of his membership card (unique ID number). Each member shall familiarise himself/herself with such regulations. Individual members and committees will receive a copy of the Code of Governance, Code of Conduct (which will have to be signed by every member) and Constitution by email.
4. A copy of the Executive Committee decision pursuant to Rule 2 above shall be sent within seven days to each Regional Committee which shall, in turn, and within a further period of seven days, send a copy thereof to each Club Secretary and the decision shall take effect on the expiry of the said second period of seven days, save that nothing in this rule shall prevent any unit of the Association from implementing such a decision immediately it has been made.
5. No competition/score/event shall commence, nor shall any throw be made unless and until the referee has given the permission. The referee shall not give his/her permission unless satisfied that it is safe to do so. The referee may at any time, for safety reasons, cancel, postpone, halt, or suspend the conduct of any competition or throw or change the date or time or venue thereof.
6. Any score being hosted by a club, it is the responsibility of that club to submit a written report of any incident to the Honorary Secretary of Ból Chumann na hÉireann within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in the Affiliation of the club being suspended which will also mean that the players from that club will stand suspended.
7. The referee may at any time disqualify any player from any competition for failure to comply with safety regulations or with the instructions of the referee or any steward and the referee may direct any member, whether a player or not, to leave the road or field of play for failure to comply with safety regulations or the instructions of the referee or steward.
8. The Discipline Executive Committee may, in accordance with the procedure set down suspend or expel any member for failure to comply with safety regulations or the instructions of the referee or a steward.

9. No steward shall have any other role or function in respect of a score at which he/she officiates, then that of steward, nor shall he/she have any financial interest in the result of the score, nor shall he/she assist in judging roads, and he/she shall act impartially and solely in the interest of safety.
10. Without prejudice to the foregoing, all reasonable care shall be taken by all members involved in the organisation, management, and supervision of the participation in all competitions conducted under the auspices of the Association or any of its units and by all members present at such competition to prevent and avoid injury, loss or damage to person or property.

11. INCITING HATRED OR VIOLENCE

A Participant who publicly incites others to hatred or violence may be sanctioned with a suspension and/or a fine to be decided by Disputes and Disciplinary Committee.

12. RACISM/DISCRIMINATION

Any Participant, who offends, disparages, discriminates against, or denigrates someone, or a group of persons, in a derogatory manner on account of 'race', skin colour, language, religion, disability, gender, ethnic and/or national origin(s) or sexual orientation, or perpetrates any other racist/discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. The Disciplinary and Disputes Committee shall consider and have the power to impose a suspension, fine and/or other sanction as deemed appropriate.

Sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, shall result in disciplinary action.

Ból Chumann na hÉireann respects, values, and accommodates diversity across all nine grounds in the equality legislation – **gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race, and membership of the Traveller community.**