

REGULATIONS



Primary School Competition Olympic Handball Regulations 2024/25

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INTRODUCTION

Over 30 million people in 183 countries take part in the game of (Olympic) Handball. Olympic Handball Ireland (OHI) acts as the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of Olympic Handball for the whole island of Ireland.

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

Olympic Handball is applicable to all age groups, with adaptations to the rules dependent on physical space conditions (hall sizes, indoor/outdoor), equipment (balls, goals), time restraints, and human resources (referees volunteers, OHI representatives).

1. REGISTRATION

1.1 REGISTRATRATION PROCESS

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

1.2 ACTIVE COUNTIES & NEW COUNTIES

Registration will be open for the following ACTIVE counties:

- Cork, Dublin, Meath, Kildare, Limerick, Tipperary, Longford, Westmeath, Antrim, Derry & Down.

The NEW counties, will then fill out a form to gather interest from schools to enter the competition and will require a minimum number of teams (depending on location). See 1.3.

1.3 MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAMS

In order for the competition to happen in the NEW county, a certain number of registered teams is required and is variable depending on the county. The organisation will be in contact as soon as registrations are closed to inform the next steps.

1.4 COSTS

The costs are as follows:

- 1 team - €60
- 2 teams - €110
- 3 teams - €145
- 4 teams - €170
- additional teams - €30 each

1.5 OPENING & CLOSING DATES

Registrations will open on the 2nd of September 2024 and close on the 30th of September 2024.

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

1.6 REFUNDS

Refunds will not be provided in any circumstance.

2. COMPETITION FORMAT

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



2.1. LOCAL REGIONAL GROUP PHASES

The local regional group will be the 1st phase of our competition, where teams from each county will be allocated to a group based on their location/proximity. Local Regional Group Phases will happen from October to December 2024.

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

This phase of the competition must be done in the format of a blitz day. This phase of the competition will be led by OHI with the assistance of teachers, with the following responsibilities:

By OHI:

To divide the groups

Create the Schedule

Act as mediators in the groups to ensure there's a date and venue to play the group stage.

By Teachers:

Refereeing

Report to OHI the dates and venues for the group stage of the competition

Submit results to OHI after the matches have been played

Regulation and training will be provided by the Olympic Handball Ireland to all teachers and school staff interested in taking part. General Meeting and refereeing online training date to be confirmed after the registration closing date.

The Local Regional Group Phase deadline is the 20th of December 2024. All results need to be submitted to OHI.

2.2. COUNTY FINALS

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

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

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

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

The County Finals will be done on a blitz day format where teams play a group stage and finals based on their group qualification – winners of each category in each participant county will go to the next phase of the competition.

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

2.3 PROVINCIAL FINALS

The Provincial phase will be organised by Olympic Handball Ireland and will happen in March (2024).

This 3rd phase of the competition will have the winners of each category in all the participant counties in the provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster & Connaught being represented.

The Provincial Finals will be done on a blitz day format where teams play a group stage and finals based on their group qualification.

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

2.4 ALL-IRELAND FINALS

The All-Ireland finals will be organised by Olympic Handball Ireland and will happen in April 2024.

The provincial winners of each category in the provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster & Connaught will be qualified for the All-Ireland.

The All-Ireland will be done on a blitz day format where teams play a group stage and finals based on their group qualification.

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

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

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

CATEGORY	CLASS/YEAR
MINIS (previously U11)	3rd & 4th classes (ROI) Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 (NI)
INFANTS (previously U13)	5th & 6th classes (ROI) Year 7 & Year 8 (Secondary) (NI)

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

CETOGORY	COURT SIZE (minimum)	BALL SIZE	GOAL SIZE	GAME LENGTH/BREAK	NUMBER OF PLAYERS
MINIS	20m x 18m	0	3mx2m*	2 x 8 min (2)	5 x 5
INFANTS	20m x 18m	1	3mx2m	2 x 8 min (2)	5 x 5

- a) See technical-pedagogic rules
- b) Length of matches can be adapted depending on agreement between schools and/or the organiser.
- c) See 6.1.8 for goal size.

4. TEAMS

4.1 Minis & Infants (Handball 5):

4.1.1 Five (5) players minimum and twelve (12) maximum per team. No more than the maximum number of players will be permitted to play the match.

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

4.1.3 Ideally each match should have 1 Student/Teacher referee and 1 table official being the home team responsible for it.

NOTE:

- Outfield Players must have uniform colors across the team.
- Goalkeepers must be in a separate color from outfield players.
- Gloves are not allowed.

5. TECHNICAL - PEDAGOGIC REGULATION

5.1 Substitutions are unlimited and can happen at any stage of the game.

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

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

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

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

6. GENERAL RULES

6.1. MINIS & INFANTS (Handball 5):

6.1.1 On the MINIS & INFANTS Team/Groups it is accepted that the Team/Groups are constituted by boys and/or girls. The Teams/Groups registered with mixed players will compete in the boys group.

6.1.2 TEAM BUILDING - Per game, each team can have a minimum of 5 players and a maximum of 12 players.

6.1.3 Ball reposition is done by the goalkeeper, inside the goalkeeper's area, after the referee's whistle.

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

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

6.1.6 Playing field – the recommended size of the playing field is a minimum of 20mx18m, however, it can go up to 40mx20m.

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

6.1.8 Goal – The size of the goals to be used are 3mx2m (regular size), nevertheless in MINIS category, the adapted size goal (2.40mx1.60m) can be used. In the County Finals, Provincial Finals & All-Ireland Finals, regular size goals will be used for MINIS & INFANTS categories.

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

6.1.10 Sanctions:

6.1.10.1 The exclusion time is 1 (one) minute.

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

7. CLASSIFICATION, SCORING AND TIE DOWN

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

VICTORY ----- 3 POINTS
TIE/DRAW ----- 2 POINTS
DEFEAT -----1 POINT

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

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

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

NOTE:

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

7.4 At all age groups, at the end of the regular time in the knockout games (County Finals, Provincial Finals & All-Ireland Finals), if any game ends in a draw, the rule of:

- 1 period of three (3) minutes extra time.
- If the draw subsist, "golden goal" rule will be applied (the first team to score a goal wins).

NOTE:

The start of the extra time and golden goal period will be by throw off done by the referee.

8. REFEREEING

8.1. In the “Group Stage” of the competition, teachers should be refereeing. In some counties, OHI referees might be available at an extra cost - please contact the organisation to arrange that. (subject to availability and location)

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

8.3 Olympic Handball Ireland will provide online training to all teachers taking part in the competition (date to be scheduled).

9. OMITTED CASES

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

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

APPENDIX


1. TIMEFRAME

COMPETITION PHASE	START DATE	END DATE	organiser	LOCATION
GROUP STAGE	OCTOBER	DECEMBER	OHI/TEACHERS	REGIONAL
COUNTY FINALS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	OHI	COUNTY
PROVINCIAL FINALS	MARCH	MARCH	OHI	PROVINCES
ALL-IRELAND	APRIL	APRIL	OHI	MEATH

2. DATES AND LOCATION (PROVISIONAL)

COMPETITION PHASE	LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	organiser
COUNTY FINALS	CO. DUBLIN	NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA	5th of FEBRUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. CORK	NEPTUNE STADIUM, CORK CITY	24th of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. TIPPERARY	CANON HAYES	28th of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. MEATH	GORMANSTON COLLEGE, MEATH	14th of FEBRUARY	OHI

COMPETITION PHASE	LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	organiser
COUNTY FINALS	CO. GALWAY	TBC	10th & 11th FEBRUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. LIMERICK	UL	30th of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. WESTMEATH	TBC	27th of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. LONGFORD	TBC	31st of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. KILDARE	NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA	6th of FEBRUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. ANTRIM	ANTRIM FORUM LEISURE CENTRE	22nd of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. DERRY	UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER COLERAINE	20th of JANUARY	OHI
COUNTY FINALS	CO. DOWN	ARDS BLAIR MAYNE LEISURE CENTRE	TBC	OHI
PROVINCIAL FINALS	LEINSTER	GORMANSTON COLLEGE, CO. MEATH	12th of MARCH	OHI
PROVINCIAL FINALS	MUNSTER	NEPTUNE STADIUM, CORK CITY	11th of MARCH	OHI
PROVINCIAL FINALS	ULSTER	BELFAST	14th of MARCH	OHI
ALL-IRELAND FINALS	CO. MEATH	GORMANSTON COLLEGE, CO. MEATH	9th of APRIL	OHI



For any NEW counties, a confirmation of dates and locations for the county finals will be informed at a later date, after the registration phase is closed.

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

2. EQUIPMENT PACKS

EQUIPMENT PACK

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30% OFF

PACK P2 INCLUDES
5 BALLS SIZE 0 & 1

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*WHILE STOCK LASTS



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