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GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

Eligibility

1. All competitions are club competitions, except where otherwise stated. All competitors must be affiliated members of Macra na Feirme at all stages of any competition. Competitors in all non-sports competitions must be affiliated no later than the national closing date, with the exception of substitutes as outlined in Rule 9.
2. It is the duty of county/regional executives to ensure all competitors and their clubs are affiliated. This information is available to a designated officer in each county/region through the Macra database (MIAMI).
3. If requested, a competitor must produce a current Macra na Feirme membership card.
4. A competitor may only compete for the branch to which s/he is affiliated (except where rainbow teams are allowed).
5. Any team found to have a competitor under the age of 17 or over the specified age for that competition will be automatically disqualified. The Macra na Feirme National Competitions Sub-Committee reserves the right to ask for a valid ID from any competitor before a competition and failure to produce same by a specified date will result in automatic disqualification.
6. A competitor or substitute can only represent one team within a competition in any one year.

Substitution

7. Only two substitutes per team are allowed over all stages of the competition, except where stated.
8. The name, branch and membership number of substitutes must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at the time that all team members must report for the competition.
9. Any substitute must fulfill the same conditions and rules as all other competitors in that competition. However, a substitute need only be affiliated prior to the date of the previous round of the competition or, in the case of the first round of a competition, on the national closing date.
10. When eligibility for team members to compete in the following year is being considered, a substitute who competes in any round of a competition but does not compete in the national final will be eligible to compete the following year, provided s/he adheres to all the other rules governing that competition.

Transfer

11. To transfer from one branch to another, a member must have their membership details transferred by National Office and the written approval of the county/regional executive to which the old branch is affiliated.
12. For the purpose of competitions, transfer of members from one branch to another is allowed only once during the Macra affiliation year.
13. Students at third-level colleges can compete in the county rounds of a competition for their home club and their college club provided they are not in the same county. A student cannot represent two clubs in the national round of a competition.

Entry

14. Entry must be completed through the MIAMI database accompanied by the proper entry fee and must be received in National Office on or before the specified closing date for the competition.
15. Each county will designate one officer at the start of the year to be responsible for entries and liaising with National Office re: same.
16. Entries no longer require membership numbers for Miami.
17. Entries will be invalid if they do not include the team/participant contact details.
18. Faxes will not be accepted as a valid form of entry.
19. Late entries for competitions are accepted up to five working days after the official closing date for the competition. Late entries must be accompanied by a €60 late entry fee.
20. Counties that submits a late entry, within the allowed time, will forfeit the right to the standard notice in the competition.
21. Counties will be allowed to amend a competition entry, once, up to 5 working days after the official closing date for the competition. Amendments after the closing date must be accompanied by an amendment fee of €40. Any County that amends an entry within the allowed time, will forfeit the right to the standard notice, in the competition.

Rainbow Teams

22. Where the rainbow team rule applies, a county/region can only enter one team per competition.
23. Where there is a club entry, a county/region cannot enter a rainbow team.
24. A County/Region eligible to enter a rainbow team can do so for Three out of Four Consecutive years

Sign in and Late arrival

25. At sign in prior to a competition, each competitor must sign in personally.
26. Five per cent of a team or competitor's total marks will be deducted from each score sheet if any team member or competitor fails to sign in to the Presiding Officer at the venue on or before the appointed time.
27. All members of a team must sign in, for sign in to be complete and valid.
28. A team or competitor being more than a half an hour late for sign in will be disqualified.
29. Once a county has submitted an entry to National Office for a competition, any subsequent withdrawal from that competition will result in a fine to the county. These fines can amount up to €150, depending on the amount of notice given and the competition in question.
30. If a team progresses to the next round of a competition and that round takes place on the same night, then any late arrival penalties will only be applied to the score sheet of the initial round taking place that night.
31. Counties with outstanding competition debts will be ineligible to enter national competitions where debts are 30 days end-of-month overdue.
32. Monthly statements will be issued to counties from National Office.

Results

33. In competitions where there is more than one national round, at least two of the judges must not reside in or be a Macra member of any of the participating counties.
34. In all matters relating to adjudication, the decision of the judge(s) is final.
35. After each competition, the score sheets will be checked by the Presiding Officer and any errors will be brought to the attention of the judge(s) for correction. In the event of a tie as a result of penalties incurred, the original decision of the judge(s) will stand.
36. The Presiding Officer will decide the result in accordance with the rules and announce it.
37. The judges' score sheet will not be available to competitors immediately after the competition. They will be available from National Office on request.
38. The judge(s), Presiding Officer and scorekeepers will be appointed by the National Competitions Sub-Committee or National Office. The Presiding Officer will be a member of the National Competitions Sub-Committee where practicable.
39. The National Competitions Committee reserves the right to rectify a result, where an error or omission has been detected.

Safety

40. Competitors should maintain standards of safety when participating in competitions so that there is no danger to themselves or the public. Competitors, who persist in unsafe practices, after a warning has been given by the Presiding Officer, will be liable for disqualification at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

Information Communication Technology

41. Information Communication Technology (ICT) devices are not permitted to be used while competing in competitions, except for Capers and Drama where ICT devices can be used as a prop only. If a competitor is found using an ICT device while a competition is in progress, then the team/individual will be disqualified.

Presiding Officer

42. The Presiding Officer's decisions on the day are final. It is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to sign in teams, be timekeeper, act as Master of Ceremonies, check score sheets, deduct penalties where necessary, and announce a result. The Presiding Officer may appoint assistants to carry out some of these duties. In the event of a competitor feeling ill or a power failure or other major problems occurring when a competition is in progress, the Presiding Officer, at his/her discretion, may adjourn the competition.

Objections

43. Any objection arising out of a national round of a competition must be lodged in writing, with a fee of €60, with the committee responsible for organising the competition, within three working days of the competition taking place or of the results being announced.
44. Each objecting branch will be offered the opportunity to present their case orally. The objecting branch may be represented by one county/regional officer and two branch members – officers or team members. Only these people may attend, and they will be given a maximum of 10 minutes, including questions, to present their case further to their written objection.
45. All parties involved in an objection will have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf, thus ensuring that all sides of the argument are heard, resulting in a fair and just decision being made.
46. The €60 will be refunded if the objection is upheld.
47. In the case of national competitions, all appeals will be heard by the Board of Directors

Counties/Regions

48. In counties where regional committees exist, the term 'county' may be interpreted as 'region', at the discretion of the county executive, in the rules of the competition.

Breach of General Rules

49. If the National Competitions Sub-Committee finds a deliberate breach of the General Rules there will be a fine of €60 in addition to any other penalties.

National Council

50. The National Council of Macra na Feirme reserves the right to alter, cancel or amend the rules, marking systems, times, formats and lists of subjects for any competition at any time without prior notice and their decision is final.

AGGREGATE SCORING

Aggregate scoring is used to determine the result of a competition where there are multiple score sheets and/or multiple judges. It is the fairest way to find a result in these cases as judges marking can vary.

This is an explanation and example of how aggregate score usually works. In Macra na Feirme competitions aggregate scoring is used in the following events:

Public Speaking
 Impromptu Public Speaking
 Debating
 Impromptu Debating
 Capers
 Drama
 Farm Skills

Aggregate scoring works by taking the sum of each team's placing from each judge and the team with the lowest total will be deemed the winners.

Step 1

Double check the judges' totals and apply any appropriate penalties. Work out the final total for each team. See Fig. 1.

Step 2

Apply the placings as per the following rules. The team with the highest total will get a 1, the next highest will get a 2 etc. If two teams have the same total, they will both be given the same placing. If this happens, the next placing is skipped, and you continue on from the next placing. See Fig 2.

Step 3

When you have applied the placings, you must now total the placings of each of the teams. See Fig 3.

Step 4

The team with the lowest total is deemed the winners. If there is a tie at this point, apply the competition specific rules to determine your winner. See Fig 4. As both teams have a 12, Canberra are deemed to be 4th as they have the next highest placing, i.e. a 4. In the Farm Skills competitions, the placings in each skill are totaled to get an overall result.

Branch	Entertainment Value 30	Content 10	Variety 10	Talent 10	Utilisation of Cast 15	Production 25	Sub Total	Minus Penalty	Total	Place
Adelaide	26	6	9	9	13	22	85		85	
Darwin	28	8	8	9	14	22	89		89	
Brisbane	25	7	9	9	14	21	85		85	
Geelong	24	7	8	8	12	21	80		80	
Canberra	23	7	8	8	12	20	78		78	
Freemantle	28	8	7	8	14	22	87	1	86	

Branch	Entertainment Value 30	Content 10	Variety 10	Talent 10	Utilisation of Cast 15	Production 25	Sub Total	Minus Penalty	Total	Place
Adelaide	26	6	9	9	13	22	85		85	3
Darwin	28	8	8	9	14	22	89		89	1
Brisbane	25	7	9	9	14	21	85		85	3
Geelong	24	7	8	8	12	21	80		80	5
Canberra	23	7	8	8	12	20	78		78	6
Freemantle	28	8	7	8	14	22	87	1	86	2

Branch	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Place
Adelaide	3	1	6	10	
Darwin	1	3	2	6	
Brisbane	3	4	1	8	
Geelong	5	6	3	14	
Canberra	6	2	4	12	
Freemantle	2	5	5	12	

Branch	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Place
Adelaide	3	1	6	10	3
Darwin	1	3	2	6	1
Brisbane	3	4	1	8	2
Geelong	5	6	3	14	6
Canberra	6	2	4	12	5
Freemantle	2	5	5	12	4

KNOW YOUR AGRICULTURE TABLE QUIZ

Sponsored by the Irish Farmers Journal

Purpose

- To encourage members to explore and improve their agricultural knowledge.
- To encourage members to read all publicly available agricultural literature and to further intensify the discussion of agricultural issues by their county's Young Farmers Discussion Group.

Team Size

Teams must consist of four members.

Entries

Two entries per county/region are allowed.

Eligibility

Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year.

Two members per team of each of the previous year's county/region representative teams can participate the following year.

National winners are ineligible to compete for two years.

Format

All stages of the table quiz competition consist of six rounds, each having 10 questions under the following categories:

Dairying

Drystock

Grassland and tillage

Competitions

Farm management (including taxation and farm grants)

Agricultural policy

Machinery and safety

Rural development

General

Note: ICT is not permitted while competing in this competition. If a competitor is found to have such equipment on their person while the competition is in progress, then the team will be disqualified.

Results

The team with the highest score is the winner. In the event of a tie, extra rounds of five questions will be asked of the tied teams to determine the winner.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Moynalty, Meath

Philip Brady, Matthew Brady, Ollie Brady & Martin Flood

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

CLUB QUESTION TIME

Sponsored by Kerrygold

Purpose

This competition is intended to encourage members to improve their general knowledge.

Team Size

A team must consist of four members.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter two teams to the national final.

Eligibility

Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years on September 1st, in the current Macra year. All members of the previous year's county/region winning team can participate the following year.

National winners are ineligible to compete the following year.

Note: team will do specialist rounds simultaneously and team general knowledge rounds will follow.

Format

Part 1

The first four rounds will be individual written tests comprising 10 questions on a topic chosen by the competitor from the following:

Current affairs

Sport

Film and television

Popular music

Each team member must choose a different topic and can only answer on one topic. Tables for all competing teams will be clearly named/numbered at the venue. The first member of each team will sit at their table (alone) and answer their 10 questions on one topic only. After the sheets are collected, the other team members do likewise in turn. Each correct answer will receive one mark. There will be a break after part one and the aggregate score after four rounds will be announced before part two commences.

Part 2

There will be six rounds of 10 team questions in a table-quizz format. The quizmaster may use audio or visual rounds as they wish. Each correct answer will receive one mark.

Results

The team with the highest score is the winner. In the event of a tie, extra rounds of five questions will be asked to the tied teams to determine the winner.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, September 20th, 2023**

National Winners 2022/23.

Callan Team 1, Kilkenny

Colin Byrne, Pdraig Maher, Jim Lynch & Bill Lahart

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Purpose

- This competition is intended as an introduction to public speaking for members.
- It will help them acquire both the confidence and skills to speak in public.
- It also encourages research on topics of general interest and public concern.

Team Size

Teams must consist of three members, i.e., a chairperson and two speakers.

Entries

Counties and regions can enter one team to the national rounds of the competition.

Eligibility

Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years on September 1st in the current Macra year.

All members of a county's winning/representative team can enter the following year's national competition.

Counties/regions with three or less clubs as of August 31, 2023, will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members who are not necessarily all from the same club.

Counties/regions that have not entered public speaking in the last two years will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members from several different clubs within the county/region.

Format

The chairperson will open and close the presentation during which each speaker will deliver a speech. When all speeches are completed, an independent questioner will ask them questions through the team chairperson. The judges may indicate who is to answer the question. The judges themselves are allowed to ask one question. The time taken to ask questions is not included in the time allocated for answering the questions. Props being used by teams during their presentation can only be operated by a member of the team.

Subjects

Each team may select their own subject up to and including the county final. From inter-county rounds to national final, teams will have a choice of two topics emailed to them 10 working days in advance of the competition. Teams must indicate their choice of topic by a given date prior to the competition. This is to facilitate judges' preparation for the competition.

Time

Time allowed for each team to make their presentation is 15 minutes. A bell will ring at 13 minutes to indicate two minutes left. Should it be necessary to ring the bell at 15 minutes, teams will automatically lose marks at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof. Teams will be allowed eight minutes for answering questions and summing up. A bell will ring at five minutes to indicate three minutes remaining for answering and summing up. Should it be necessary to ring the bell at the end of this time, teams will lose marks at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Presentation

The purpose of this competition is to promote public speaking, not public reading. While notes and charts are not forbidden, they are not encouraged.

Judges

There will be three judges who will sit out of communication with each other during the competition.

Marking System

Chairperson:

Effectiveness in communication.....	50
Knowledge of subject.....	25
Method of chairperson.....	25
Total	100

Each Speaker:

Effectiveness in communication.....	25
Ability to form and support opinions.....	25

Knowledge of subject.....	25
Answers to questions.....	25
Total	100

Results

The aggregate placing system will determine the winner. If there is a tie, the team with the most 'firsts' will be the winner. If there is still a tie, the total marks will determine the winner. A Best Speaker prize is awarded at each national round. The host county is responsible for the best speaker & individual prizes for this competition.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Bree, Wexford

Mary Byrne, Grace Keogh & Jordan Feeley

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING

Purpose

This competition is suitable for those who have achieved a degree of competency in speaking, perhaps through already having competed in a speaking competition or having completed a public speaking course. However, this is not compulsory. The competition should develop speaking skills already acquired.

Team Size

This competition is for individual members.

Entries

Two competitors can represent a county/region in the competition.

Eligibility

Competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year. National winners are allowed to compete again after Five years.

Format

A list of topics are placed in a 'hat' and randomly chosen by each participant. When each competitor selects a topic, s/he will have to speak for two minutes on that topic. Each competitor will have to select and speak on three different topics.

Judges

There will be three judges who will sit, out of communication with each other, during the competition.

Marking System

The following are the marks awarded for each speech:

Content	40
Delivery	40
Innovation and approach	20
Total	100

Results

The aggregate placing system will determine the winner. If there is a tie, then the person with the most 'firsts' will be the winner. If there is still a tie then total marks will determine the winner.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.**

National Winner 2022/23

Callan, Kilkenny

Josephine O'Neill

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

DEBATING

Purpose

Debating develops the key skills of:

- Presenting an argument.
- Critically appraising an opposing view, and
- Being able to think clearly and speak persuasively.

Teams

A team will consist of four members in Senior Debating representing their club or county.

A team will consist of three members in Novice Debating representing their club or county.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter **two** teams to the senior debating section and **two** teams to the novice section.

Counties/regions with three or less clubs as of August 31, **2023**, will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members who are not all from the same club.

Counties/regions that have not entered in the previous two years will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members from different clubs within the county/region.

Eligibility

Senior Debating	Novice Debating
Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1 st in the current Macra year.	Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1 st in the current Macra year.
All members of a county winning/representative team can enter the following year's national competition unless they win the national final	All members of a novice debating team, must not have entered the senior debating or impromptu debating competition previously.
National winners are ineligible to compete the following year.	Members can enter the Novice debating competition for 2 out of 3 consecutive years.
Following completion of the two years of ineligibility, a maximum of Two previous national winners may be on a team at any one time.	All members of a county winning/representative team can enter the following year's national competition unless they win the national final. Novice debating winners may not enter novice debating but can enter senior debating.

Format

Both teams will be seated on stage together.

The proposition should sit on the chairman's right.

The leader of the proposition will open the debate and propose the motion.

- Members of the proposition and opposition will speak alternatively.
- The leader of the opposition will then summaries the team's argument, followed by the leader of the proposition.

Motions

Motions for debates will be sent to the teams 10 working days before each debate and will be worded in such a way to ensure that there are two clear, opposing, debatable sides, These will be checked by independently.

Time

Senior Debating: Time allowed for the opening address will be six minutes. Each speaker will be allowed six minutes. Time allowed for the summaries will be six minutes. A warning bell will ring one minute before the end of allocated time. Should it be necessary to ring the bell at the end of the time, teams will automatically lose marks at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Novice Debating Time allowed for the opening address will be five minutes. Each speaker will be allowed five minutes. Time allowed for the summaries will be five minutes. A warning bell will ring one minute before the end of allocated time. Should it be necessary to ring the bell at the end of the time, teams will automatically lose marks at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Heckling

NB. Heckling is only allowed in the senior debating section, No Hecking in Novice

A heckle is defined as a quick spontaneous comment, question or interruption. A double heckle is defined as two people from the opposing team heckling the speaker at the same time. There are no additional marks for heckling.

A penalty of five marks per offence will be deducted from the teams' marks for the infringement of any of the below rules.

- Only the person with the floor has the right to reply to a heckle.
- Heckling during summaries will be penalised.

A penalty of two marks per offence will be deducted from the teams' marks for the infringement of any of the below rules.

- Double heckling at any time will be penalised
- The Presiding Officer, at his/her discretion, can stop excessive heckling.

Judges

There will be three judges who must not communicate with each other. Each judge must independently give a clear decision in favour of one team.

Marking System

Speaker 1

Ability to communicate	30
Layout of arguments	50
Summary	40
Refutation	30
Total	150

Speaker 2

Ability to communicate	30
Content	45

Refutation	25
Total	100

Speaker 3

Ability to communicate30
Content	30
Refutation	40
Total	100

Speaker 4

Ability to communicate	30
Content	30
Refutation40
Total	100

Results

The aggregate placing system will determine the winner. If there is a tie, then the team with the most 'firsts' will be the winner. If there is still a tie, then total marks will determine the winner. A Best Debater prize is awarded at each national round. The host county is responsible for the individual prizes in this competition.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, November 29th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Senior: Donoughmore, Muskerry

Alan Twomey, Heather Healy, Sean Wallace & Breda Forrest

Novice: Banteer, Avondhu

Colette Crowley, John Cashman, Amanda O' Sullivan & Joseph Murphy

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED

IMPROMPTU DEBATING

Purpose

The Impromptu Debating competition incorporates the skills of debating with spontaneity and general knowledge.

Team Size

A team will consist of three members representing their club.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one team to the national rounds.

Counties/regions with three or fewer clubs, as of August 31, 2023, will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members who are not necessarily all from the same club.

Eligibility

Team members must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year.

The previous year's county winners/representatives are eligible to compete.

National winners are ineligible to compete the following year. A maximum of one previous national winner can be on a team

at any one time.

Format

Both teams will be seated on stage together.

The proposition should sit on the chairman's right.

The leader of the proposition will open the debate and propose the motion.

- Members of the proposition and opposition will speak alternatively.
- The leader of the opposition will then summarise the team's argument, followed by the leader of the proposition.

Motions

Motions for debate will be given to the teams 30 minutes before each debate. A draw will take place to decide which team will propose and which team will oppose the motion. Teams will be allowed no preparation material except one dictionary.

Separate rooms will be provided for teams to prepare for debate; these rooms will be supervised and no phones will be allowed.

Time

Time allowed for the opening address will be four minutes. Each speaker will be allowed four minutes. Time allowed for the summaries will be four minutes. A warning bell will ring one minute before the end of allocated time for each speaker during which there will be no heckling. Should it be necessary to ring the bell at the end of the time, teams will automatically lose marks at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Heckling

A heckle is defined as a quick spontaneous comment, question, or interruption. A double heckle is defined as two people from the opposing team heckling the speaker at the same time. There are no additional marks for heckling.

A penalty of five marks per offence will be deducted from the teams' marks for the infringement of any of the below rules.

- Only the person with the floor has the right to reply to a heckle.
- Heckling in the final minute of any speech will be penalised.
- Heckling during summaries will be penalised.

A penalty of two marks per offence will be deducted from the teams' marks for the infringement of any of the below rules.

- Double heckling at any time will be penalised.

The Presiding Officer, at his/her discretion, can stop excessive heckling. Continuing to heckle excessively in the opinion of the Presiding Officer will be penalised

Judges

There will be three judges who must not communicate with each other. Each judge must, independently, give a clear decision in favour of one team.

Marking System

Speaker 1

Ability to communicate	40
Layout of arguments	40
Summary	40
Refutation.....	30
Total.....	150

Speaker 2

Ability to communicate	40
Content	35
Refutation.....	25
Total.....	100

Speaker 3

Ability to communicate	40
Content	30
Refutation.....	30
Total.....	100

Results

The aggregate placing system will determine the winner. If there is a tie, then the team with the most 'firsts' will be the winner. If there is still a tie, then total marks will determine the winner. A Best Debater prize is also awarded at each national round. The host county is responsible for the individual prizes in this competition.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, March 13th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Clonakilty, Carbery

Anne Barrett, Liam O'Driscoll & Joseph O'Sullivan

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION, EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

CAPERS

Sponsored by FBD

Purpose

- To encourage greater participation by clubs in variety-type entertainment, without incurring excessive cost.
- To develop skills, confidence and teamwork.
- The competition is designed for those wishing to gain experience in entertainment shows.

Team Size

Teams can consist of between one and 15 members.

Entries

- Counties/regions can enter two teams to the national rounds.
- Counties/regions that have not entered Capers in the last two years will be allowed to enter a rainbow team, consisting of members from several different clubs within the county/region.

Eligibility

- All competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year.
- A club may not pay a cast member to perform.
- County/Region winners are eligible to compete the following year.
- National winners are ineligible to compete the following year.

Format

Teams produce a light entertainment variety show. There should be good balance between items musical, choral, dancing, comedy, etc. Adjudicators will be advised not to give credit for extravagance in costume, props and other effects. Each team may have its own producer. S/he need not be affiliated to Macra na Feirme. All team members must be affiliated, including musicians. Only the team/cast members and a maximum of 5 helpers (including the producer, if they are in the wings) will be

allowed in the wings before, during and after each performance, except for the Presiding Officer and his/her assistants.

There are no restrictions on the number of helpers who are not in the wings, e.g., light/sound assistants.

Helpers need not be affiliated to Macra na Feirme. Live music, CDs and tapes will be allowed.

Venue

- Standard lighting as at venue – no extra lighting. Standard lighting will consist of four 1,000W lanterns on each side of the stage and one spotlight. Colored lighting (not compulsory) can be used, once available to all teams.
- There will be a standard backdrop and wings at the venue. Nothing (e.g. posters, props, etc.) can be fixed to the backdrop.
- Props will be allowed on stage. A prop is an object (e.g. table, chair, etc.) and should be in keeping with the spirit of the competition and be low budget. Props should be free standing and not change the scene of the stage. For example, a real car may be replaced by a cardboard one.
- Sets will not be allowed on stage. Sets are something that transforms the stage completely (e.g. a backdrop with a street scene painted on it), which sets the scene of the stage.
- The host county will provide a sound system which will include at least one monitor speaker. A maximum of seven microphones, four of which must be cordless will be provided at the venue. Any musical instruments plugged into the sound system are not counted and are seen as additional to these seven microphones. No other sound equipment or amplifiers will be allowed.
- Teams are advised to contact the host county prior to the competition to confirm what sound equipment and facilities are being provided.

Time

- Teams are allowed a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes for their performance.
- Teams are allowed five minutes to prepare the stage, plus two minutes for composure on the stage.
- After the performance, a team will be allowed two minutes to clear the stage.
- Each team's performance will be timed from the start to the end of the show, i.e. including any performance taking place outside of curtain opening. Failure to comply with these time limits will incur a penalty of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Judges

There will be three judges who must not communicate with each other. Each judge must, independently, give a clear decision in favour of one team.

Marking System

Content	10
Variety	10
Talent	10
Entertainment value	30
Production.....	25
Utilisation of cast.....	15
Total.....	100

Prizes

Prizes are awarded to best female performance, best male performance, best act and best producer at the national rounds.
The host county is responsible for the individual prizes for this competition.

Results

The aggregate placing system will be used to determine the winner. If there is a tie, then the team with the most 'firsts' will be the winner. If there is still a tie, then total marks will determine the winner. If the teams are still tied at this point, the team with the higher score for entertainment value will be deemed the winner.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, December 13th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Clonakilty, Carbery

Anne Barrett, Edel Calnan Brid Collins, John Condon, Noel Crowley, Aiesha Hurley, William Maybury, John O'Leary & Conor O Mahony.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

AMATEUR DRAMA

Purpose

- To develop dramatic skills.
- To develop creativity in production, stage setting, stage management.
- To introduce members to the world of theatre.

Team Size

There is no limit to team size.

Entries

- Counties/regions can enter two teams to the national rounds.
- Any county/region that has not entered drama in the last two years will be allowed to enter a rainbow team consisting of members from a number of different clubs within the county/region.

Eligibility

- All competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year.
- National winners of the competition are ineligible to compete the following year.
- Previous county winners/representatives are eligible to compete in the following year.
- Persons under 17 years of age are allowed to play children's roles where specified by the author only. Such persons are not required to be affiliated members of Macra na Feirme.
- Paid actors, full or part time, are not eligible to compete.

Format

- Plain drapes, which will be provided by the hosting branch, may be used by the competing teams.
- Colored lighting (not compulsory) can be used, once available to all teams.
- All stage furniture must be free standing i.e. tables, chairs, windows, doors, fireplaces, cooker.
- Each entry must have its own producer and stage manager and be responsible for its own play.
- All entries must supply their own costumes, furniture and other props.
- Only the team/cast members and a maximum of 5 helpers (including the director, if they are in the wings) will be allowed in the wings before, during and after each performance, with the exception of the Presiding Officer and his/her assistants. There are no restrictions on the number of helpers who are not in the wings, e.g. light/sound assistants. Helpers need not be affiliated to Macra na Feirme.

- Teams are not allowed to bring props of any kind onto the stage or wings before the specified time allocated for them. This includes any form of marking i.e. tape markings.

Plays

- One-act plays that are eligible for the Drama League of Ireland One Act festivals and competitions are eligible for the Macra na Feirme Amateur Drama competition.
- A branch cannot produce the same play for two consecutive years. Teams may be able to find suitable one-act plays from the following sources:

Samual French Ltd.,

52 Fitzroy Street, London, W1T 5JR, England.
www.samuelyfrench.com or www.samuelyfrench-london.com
 This is the most comprehensive source for plays and musicals.

Irish Playography

(run by the Irish Theatre Institute)
www.irishplayography.com
 A wide-ranging database of all plays professionally produced in Ireland since 1904.

The Society of Irish Playwrights,

19 Parnell Square, D1. Phone: 01 872 1302. A comprehensive list of plays written after 1950 is available. Enclose an s.a.e.

The Drama League of Ireland, The Mill Theatre, Dundrum, Dublin 16. www.dli.ie

A support service to amateur theatre in Ireland which also has a very well stocked lending library of plays.

The One-Act Play Companion

by Rex Walford & Colin Dolly.
 (published by A & C Black, London – www.acblack.com) A far-reaching guide to one-act plays, playwrights and performance.

The Macra Trilogy

Macra's booklets, Intermission Impossible 1 and 2 and Intermission Complete are available from the National Office.

If necessary, teams should inform the Presiding Officer if the content of their drama could cause offence to the audience (bad language, etc.) so that an announcement can be made. Competitors are requested to submit a copy of the play they are performing to the National Office at the closing date for entries.

Permission

Written permission from the author to produce the play must be presented to the Presiding Officer on the night of performance. Permission must be produced each time the play is performed. Failure to do so will mean disqualification. Branches must pay all copyrights and production rights of the plays performed. The county executive or Board of directors will not be responsible for any legal proceedings issued against any branch. The main agent in Ireland for most plays is The Drama League of Ireland, The Mill Theatre, Dundrum, Dublin 16. Phone: 01 296 9343, www.dli.ie
 Note: Teams are advised to obtain written permission, licence, etc. well in advance of the competition.

Time

- There will be 55 minutes allowed for each team's performance, that is, from opening to closing of curtains.
- Ten minutes will be allowed for preparation of the stage, plus two minutes for composure on the stage.
- Five minutes will be allowed for the clearing of the stage.
- Teams failing to comply with above time limits will be penalised at the rate of five marks per minute or part thereof.

Judges

There will be one Drama League of Ireland Judge who must give a clear decision in favour of one group

Marking System

Acting	45
Direction	30
Production	15
Innovation	10
Total	100

Results

The aggregate placing system will be used to determine the winner. In the case of a tie, the total marks will determine the winner. If there is still a tie, the team with the higher score for acting will be deemed the winner

Prizes

Prizes are awarded to best actor, best supporting actor, best actress, best supporting actress and best producer at national rounds. At national rounds, a special Adjudicator's Prize will also be awarded. The host county is responsible for the individual prizes for this competition.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Whitechurch, Seandun

Conor Murphy, Caoimhe Buckley, Aileen Buckley, Denise Keohane, Ellen Murphy & Denis O'Sullivan.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

CREATIVE WRITING

Purpose

- To develop writing skills.
- To develop creativity
- To introduce members to the world of literature

Team Size

This is a competition for individual members.

Entries

Members may have one entry one submission per category, poetry and short story.

There is no limit on entries per region.

Entries cannot have been previously published.

Professional writers are not eligible to enter.

Poetry

Poems may be a maximum of 40 lines (excluding the title).

Members may pick their own theme.

Short story

Short stories may be a maximum of 1,500 words.

Members may pick their own theme.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Poetry: Awbeg Avondhu. Sean O'Callaghan

Short Story: Goldenvale South Tipp, Caroline O Connor

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

WELDING

Purpose

This competition is designed to help members to learn the skills of welding.

Team Size

This is a competition for individual members.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one member to the national final.

Eligibility

All competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years of age on September 1st in the current Macra year. National winners are allowed to compete again after 3 years but can only win the competition a maximum of 3 times.

Format

The national final will have the following format:

- Academic (theory) test.
- Practical welding test 1: weld two pieces of mild steel (6mm approx.) to fillet weld on flat.
- Practical welding test 2: weld two pieces of mild steel to fillet weld on vertical.
- If a result is inconclusive after completing the above, up to six of the top competitors may be asked to weld two pieces of mild steel on the outside corner in vertical.

Note: ICT is not permitted while competing in this competition. If a competitor is found to have such equipment on their person while the competition is in progress, they will be disqualified.

Marking System

Theory test	10
Practical welding test 1	45
Practical welding test 2	45
Total	100

Judges

There is one judge at the competition and his decision is final.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, November 8th, 2023.**

National Winner 2022/23

Rathdowney Laois

John Sweeney

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

FARM SKILLS

Sponsored by FBD

Purpose

- To help young farmers develop the skills required in modern farming.
- To create greater awareness of farm safety.

Team Size

Teams must consist of three members from the same club.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club to the national rounds.

Eligibility

- All competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years on September 1st in the current Macra year.
- All members of a county winning/representative team can enter the following year's competition.
- National winners are ineligible to compete the following year. A maximum of one previous national winner can be on a team at any one time.

Format

At inter-club rounds of the competition, counties will decide themselves what skills will apply. At inter-county rounds the following will apply:

- Tractor Teamwork (Task 1)
- Farming knowledge – written team quiz (Task 2)
- Stock-Proof Fence (Task 3)

Safety competition – A safety competition will be incorporated into all of the above tasks, and a special award will be given to the team that scores the highest safety marks in the national final.

Task 1: Tractor Teamwork

Team member A using tractor 2 takes two round bales from X and places them at Y on two pallets using a bale handler on the rear.

Team member B using tractor 1 reverses the roller through the course to X and unhooks it from the tractor. Team member B then takes one pallet and bale from Y and places it on a raised platform at Z.

Team member B then places the tractor in the parked position and team member C places the remaining bale and pallet on the remaining platform. Member C then places the tractor in the parked position. Meanwhile, team member A has removed the bale handler and attached tractor 2 to the roller. Member A then drives through the course and places the tractor in the parked position. Team member A with tractor 1 then removes both pallets and bales from Z to Y. The bales are then removed from the pallets manually. During this time, team member C has reversed the roller through the course to X where it is unhooked and the bale handler put back on to tractor 2. The team then returns all bales to their original position at X. Team member B, using tractor 1, finally hooks to the roller and all tractors and machines are returned to their original positions.

Time Bonus: Teams will be given 120 marks at the beginning of Task 1 and will lose three marks per half minute used or part thereof.

Task 2 – Farming Knowledge - Written Team Quiz

Competitors will be required to answer 25 questions. Each team will sit together and answer on one answer sheet. This will happen for all National Rounds.

Questions will be evenly divided among the following subjects: farm management & general farm issues; farm safety; crop management; machinery management and animal husbandry.

Teams will have 30 minutes to complete this task.

Task 3 – Stock-proof Fence

Teams are required to manually erect an approximately 10m-long, L-shaped, stock-proof fence using machined 4” posts, with which will be driven manually by the teams as part of the task. Each end will have a H-Frame and the corner post will have a double H-frame. The stock-proof fence will consist of two strands of high-tensile wire. Teams must form a 90o angle between the two end posts using the third turner post.

Teams must use the gripple method to tension the wire midway between post A and post B. Each strand of wire must be cut and joined using only the wire itself and using a knot suitable for purpose, e.g. a reef or figure of 8 knot, midway between post B and post C. Teams must use two insulating eggs at post C and may decide what insulating method they use at post A. Teams must use an insulator around post B to make the corner. Teams have 60 minutes to complete the task.

Time Bonus: Teams will have 60 minutes to complete the fence task with a 10-mark time bonus available. The marks will be awarded as follows:

No marks will be lost for the first 50 minutes.

From 50 minutes to 60 minutes, teams will lose one mark per minute or part thereof.

The stopwatch will be started at the beginning of the task.

Chainsaws and Power Tools:

No chainsaws or angle grinders will be allowed at any stage of the competition. Safety must be adhered to when using other power tools and the appropriate safety gear used with them.

Judges

The judges will judge the competition in communication with each other and their decision is final.

Result

Final overall placings will be decided on the aggregate placing system. If teams finish level on aggregate placing, then the team that finishes highest in the safety competition will be deemed the winner. If teams are still level at this stage, then the team with the highest mark in the academic test will be deemed the winner.

Marking System

Task 1: Tractor teamwork:

Loading and Unloading	30 up/30 down
Safety	40
Driving and Reversing	40
Teamwork	40
Attaching and Removing Implements...	20

Task 2: Farming Knowledge – written team quiz

Academic Test	25
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Task 3: Stock-proof fence

Finish, appearance, effectiveness.....	35
90o Angle.....	10
H-Frames.....	30
Efficiency and teamwork.....	20
Safety.....	20
Wire height and spacing.....	10
Wire tension.....	15
Joining wire.....	20

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, June 19th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23

North Kilkenny, Kilkenny

Fabian Jacob, David Fogarty & Shane Hegarty

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION, EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

SHEEP STOCKJUDGING

Sponsored by Bord Bia

Purpose

- This competition helps young farmers become skilled at assessing livestock, thus preparing them for the actual job of buying and selling farm animals.
- It encourages decision making.
- Stockjudging broadens the young farmer's knowledge of new developments in stockbreeding, husbandry and disease control.

Teams

This is a competition for individual members.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter two members to the National Final.

Eligibility

- All competitors must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years on September 1st in the current Macra year.
- National winners are allowed to re-enter the competition after 3 years but can only win the competition a maximum of 3 times.

Format

The sheep stockjudging competition consists of the following tasks:

- An academic test.
- Judging a pen of four cross-bred ewes.
- Judging a pen of four rams of the same breed.
- Reasons for cross-bred ewes.
- Judging a pen of four finished, fat lambs.
- Liveweight (kilos only) four finished lambs.

All animals will be designated A, B, X and Y. All animals and judging cards will be supplied by the organisers. Excessive handling of animals may result in penalties.

When scoring, the presiding officer will use a grid like the example below.

The four animals are put in order along the top row as per the judge's decision

	X	Y	B	A
1	10	7	3	0
2	7	10	7	3
3	3	7	10	7
4	0	3	7	10

Competitors are required to complete the following:

- Academic test: complete 12 sheep husbandry Questions (12 marks), EU and Fat classification of two carcass diagram No subdivisions (L or H) will be used (16 Marks) 3 calculations Questions (12 Marks) Total 40 Marks (a calculator will be allowed) Time allowed: 20 minutes
- Cross-bred ewes: place four cross-bred ewes in order of merit. Time allowed: 15 minutes.
- Rams: place four rams of the same breed in order of merit. Time allowed: 15 minutes.
- Reasons: give reasons to judges on placing of crossbred ewes, (competitors may keep notes for this section on paper provided only). Time allowed two-minutes.
- Fat lambs: place in order of merit four fat lambs for the **French market**.
- Estimate the liveweight, in kilos, of four fat lambs. One mark will be deducted for every kilo above or below the correct figure per lamb.

Competitors must not communicate with any persons during all sections of this competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification in the relevant section.

Note: Mobile phones are not permitted while competing in this competition. If a competitor is found to have a mobile phone on their person, while the competition is in progress, they will be disqualified.

Judges

The judges will judge the animals in accordance with the Macra Score Chart. The judges' decisions in all sections are final.

Marking System

Academic test	40
Judging cross-bred ewes	40
Judging rams	40
Reasoning	40
Weight Fat Lambs	32
EU Grid	40
Total	232

Results

The winner will be the competitor with the highest total score. In the event of a tie, the result in the academic section will decide first place.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023.**

National Winner 2022/2023.

Awbeg Avondhu

Breda Forrest

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION, EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

BEEF STOCKJUDGING

Sponsored by Bord Bia

Purpose

- This competition helps young farmers to become skilled at assessing livestock, thus preparing them for the actual job of buying and selling farm animals
- It encourages decision-making.
- Stockjudging broadens the young farmer's knowledge of new developments in stockbreeding, husbandry and disease control.
- The same rules apply to both the senior and under-23 competitions. However, different academic tests will be used for senior and under-23 competitors in both competitions.

Teams

This is a competition for individual members.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one member in each of the senior and under-23 sections of the Beef Stockjudging Competition.

Eligibility

- All competitors in the senior section must be 17 years of age, or over, and under 35 years on September 1st in the current Macra year.
- All competitors in the under-23 section must be 17 years of age or over and under 23 years on September 1st, in the current Macra year.
- Competitors can only enter one section of the Beef Stockjudging Competition in any one year.
- National winners can re-enter the competition after 3 years but can only win the competition a maximum of 3 times.

Format

The Beef Stockjudging competition consists of the following tasks:

- Academic test (General knowledge, carcass grading and calculations)
- One pen of six beef cattle (mandatory); and, any two of the following three:
 - One pen of six light stores.
 - One pen of six replacement heifers.
 - One pen of six bulls.
- EU and Fat classification of beef cattle.
- Reasons for placings one pen of cattle.
- Live weight (kilos only) of one pen of cattle.

All animals will be designated A, B, C, D, E, F. All animals and judging cards will be supplied by the organisers. Competitors are required to carry out the following:

- Academic test: complete 10 beef husbandry Questions (20 marks), EU and Fat classification of two carcass diagram. No subdivisions (-,=or +) will be used. (20 Marks) 4 calculations Questions (20 Marks) Total 60 Marks Time allowed: 20 minutes
- Beef Cattle: place in order of merit six beef cattle.
Any two of options (1), (2), or (3):
 - Replacement heifers for a suckler herd, place in order of merit, six replacement heifers suitable for a suckler herd.
 - Light stores: place six light stores (approx. 350kg each) in order of merit for growth potential.
 - Place six bulls in order of merit.

Time allowed for each pen: 15 minutes.
- Beef cattle: Competitors will judge conformation and fat scores using full divisions eg. U3 R4. No subdivisions (-,=or +) will be used. (48 marks available)
For example: the master judge scores an animal R4 and a competitor scores the same animal R3.
The competitor gets 4 marks for correctly judging the conformation score but no marks for fat score since they scored the fat score incorrect
If both the fat score and conformation were correct they would have scored 8 marks for that animal
- Reasons: give reasons to judges for placing of replacement heifers. Competitors may keep notes for this section on paper provided only. Time allowed: two minutes. (Where a pen of heifers is not present, the presiding officer will indicate which pen to give reasons for);
- Weight: estimate live weight (kg) of animals in the remaining pen.
In the live weight, 10 marks will be awarded for being within 20kg above or below the correct weight. Five marks will be awarded to the 20kg above or below this range and no marks will be awarded thereafter.

Competitors must not communicate with any persons during all sections of this competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification in the relevant section.

The following score card will be used for placing animals with the animal number along the top in order of judges placement:

	D	C	F	A	E	B
1	10	8	6	4	2	0
2	8	10	8	6	4	2

3	6	8	10	8	6	4
4	4	6	8	10	8	6
5	2	4	6	8	10	8
6	0	2	4	6	8	10

Judges

The judges will judge the animals in accordance with the Macra Score Chart. The judges' decisions in all sections are final.

Marking System

Academic test.....	60
Judging beef Cattle.....	60
Judging Pen 2.....	60
Judging Pen 3.....	60
Reasoning.....	60
Live weight	60
EU and fat classification.....	48
Total.....	408

Results

The winner in each section will be the competitor with the highest total score. In the event of a tie, the result in the academic section will decide first place.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to the National Office is **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23

Senior Competition: Fethard South Tipp, Steven Tierney

U 23 Competition: Clonakilty, Carbery Aiesha Hurley

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION, EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

DAIRY STOCKJUDGING

Sponsored by Ornua

Purpose

The purpose is to help young farmers become skilled at assessing livestock online, thus preparing them for the job of buying and selling farm animals in the current system.

- Designed to improve skills in young farmers
- It encourages decision-making.
- Stockjudging broadens young farmers' knowledge of new developments in stockbreeding, husbandry and disease control.
- The same rules apply to both the senior and under-23 competitions.

Team Size

This is a competition for individual members.

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one member in senior stockjudging and one member in under-23 Dairy Stockjudging.

Eligibility

- All competitors in the senior section must be 17 years of age or over and under 35 years on September 1st, in the current Macra year
- All competitors in the under-23 section must be 17 years of age or over and under-23 years on September 1st, in the current Macra year.
- Competitors can only enter one section of the Dairy Stockjudging Competition in any one year.
- National winners can re-enter the competition after 3 years but can only win the competition a maximum of 3 times.

Format

The Dairy Stockjudging competition will consist of the following tasks:

- a) An academic test.
- b) One ring of six Friesian cows.
- c) One ring of six Friesian heifers.
- d) Oral: reasons on Friesian cows.

Organisers will supply all animals and judging cards. Competitors will be required to carry out the following:

- a) Academic test: complete a paper on dairy husbandry (a pen and calculator will be allowed). Time allowed: 20 minutes.
- b) Friesian cows: place six cows in order of merit. Time allowed: 15 minutes.
- c) Friesian heifers: place six heifers in order of merit. Time allowed: 15 minutes.
- d) Reasons: give reasons to judges on placing of cows (competitors may keep notes for this section on paper provided only). Time allowed: two minutes.

Depending on whether this competition is held on a farm or at showgrounds where animals are trained, they should be led: otherwise, they should be penned. Cows that are to be led should be viewed in motion and static. When the animals enter the ring, they will first be moved around for three minutes (one and a half minutes in each direction) so that competitors can view them in motion from both sides. The animals will then be lined up head-to-tail and the competitors will observe them from a distance of at least 10 feet for at least three minutes. During this period, no handling will be allowed. The animals will then be drawn up parallel to one another for five minutes, the competitors will be notified four minutes before the time is up and these four minutes will be allowed for observation at a distance. During the last four minutes, competitors must mark their cards, giving their placing of the six animals.

A total of 15 minutes will be allowed to competitors to observe and handle each ring of animals in the arena and to record their placings. At the end of that time, the placing cards will be collected by the steward and handed to the scorekeeper.

Note: Competitors must not communicate with any persons during all sections of this competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.

Stockjudging with Six Animals – A, B, C, D, E, F Competition Scoresheet

Instructions on completing the grid:

1. The master judge places each animal in order of preference.
2. Place letters of cows across the top row of grid in fig.1 in the same order as the master judge's placings, starting with the best cow on the left.

When all cows are placed in the correct order, the top score is 60 points.

Fig.1

	D	C	F	A	E	B
1	10	8	6	4	2	0
2	8	10	8	6	4	2
3	6	8	10	8	6	4
4	4	6	8	10	8	6
5	2	4	6	8	10	8
6	0	2	4	6	8	10

Marking System

Academic test	60
Friesian cows	60
Friesian heifers	60
Reasoning	60
Total	240

Results

The winner in each section will be the competitor with the highest total score. In the event of a tie, the result in the academic section will decide first place.

Closing Date

The closing date for completed entries to the National Office is **Wednesday June 5th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Senior Competition: Crecora Manister Croom Limerick, Donal Burke
U 23 Competition: Tullyallen Louth, Aisling Floyd

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION EXCEPT WHERE STATED.

GENERAL SPORTS RULES

Eligibility

1. All competitions are club competitions except where otherwise stated.
2. If requested, a competitor must produce a current Macra na Feirme membership card.
3. A competitor may only compete for the branch to which s/he is affiliated.
4. All competitors and substitutes must be 17 years of age or over and under 40 years of age on the day of competition.
5. Any team found to have a competitor under the age of 17 or over the specified age for that competition will be automatically disqualified. The Macra na Feirme National Competitions Sub-Committee reserves the right to ask for a valid ID from any competitor before a competition and failure to produce same by a specified date will result in automatic disqualification.
6. A member can only represent one team within the same competition in any one year.
7. All previous county winners are eligible to participate in sports competitions.
8. Two members of the national winning teams are eligible to compete in that competition the following year.

Substitutes

9. Each substitute must fulfill the same conditions and rules as all other competitors.

Transfers

10. Transfer of members from one branch to another is allowed only once during the affiliation year. Students in third-level colleges can compete in the county rounds of a particular competition for their home club and their college club provided they are not in the same county. Students cannot represent two clubs in national rounds of a competition.
11. To transfer from one branch to another, a member must have his/her membership transferred by National Office and the written approval of the county/regional executive to which the first branch is affiliated.

Entry

12. Entry must be completed through the MIAMI database accompanied by the proper entry fee and must be received in National Office on or before the specified closing date for the competition.
13. In the case team sports one team contact only is required to be submitted on Miami by the closing date of competitions.
14. All team members and affiliation numbers must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at registration on competition day.
15. Entries are not valid unless forms are completed, legible and signed by the team contact.
16. Submission of an entry form on or before the required closing date to the National Office will be regarded as an acceptance of all the rules and regulations and of the competitors willingness to observe them or submit to the penalties for breaches of same.
17. Late entries are accepted up to five working days after the official closing date for the competition. Late entries must be accompanied by a €60 late entry fee.
18. On receipt of correct entry forms with the proper fee, a team is required to represent their county at subsequent rounds. Failure to do this could result in the county/regional executive being fined up to €150.
19. Counties with outstanding competition debts will be ineligible to enter where debts are 30 days end-of-month overdue.
20. Counties will be allowed to amend a competition entry, once, up to 5 working days after the official closing date for the competition. Amendments after the closing date must be accompanied by an amendment fee of €40. Any County that amends an entry within the allowed time, will forfeit the right to the standard notice, in this competition.

Sign In and Late Arrival

21. At sign in, prior to the competition, each competitor must sign in personally.
22. Teams arriving late for sign in, but within 15 minutes of that time, will be penalised as follows:
- Indoor soccer: One goal for each game played in the Round Robin series.
 - Basketball: Three points for each game played in the Round Robin series.
 - Volleyball: Two points per set for each game played in the Round Robin series.
 - Bowling: 5% of the team's total score.
 - Gaelic football: One goal for each game in the Round Robin section.
 - Tag Rugby: Three points for each game played in the Round Robin series.
23. Teams arriving more than 15 minutes after the sign-in time will be disqualified.

Results

24. Where possible, every team taking part in national rounds and finals will be guaranteed a number of games in a Round Robin series.
25. The top team(s) in each section of a Round Robin series will qualify for play-offs.
26. In the event of the Round Robin series not producing an outright winner, score difference will be taken into account. (Score difference is the total of the goals/points scored in each match minus goals/points conceded in each match).
27. If score difference remains inconclusive, teams scoring the highest overall total goals/points will determine the group placing.
28. In the event of an outright winner failing to emerge after score difference and overall score calculations, teams involved will have a 10-minute play-off.

Guidelines

29. While guidelines for play are included in the rules section for each competition, these may be altered on the day of the national finals to suit conditions following consultation between the referees and presiding officer. The referee will be the final arbiter as regards rules of play. The presiding officer has the final decision on the day.

Objections

30. Any objection arising out of a national round of a competition must be lodged in writing, with a fee of €60, with the committee responsible for organising the competition, within three working days of the competition taking place or of the results being announced.
31. Each objecting branch will be offered the opportunity to present its case orally. The objecting branch may be represented by one county/regional officer and two branch members, officers or team members. Only these people may attend and they will be given a maximum of 10 minutes, including questions, to present their case further to their written objection.
32. All parties involved in an objection will have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf, thus ensuring that all sides of the argument are heard, resulting in a fair and just decision being made.
33. The €60 fee will be refunded if the objection is upheld.
34. All sports competitions appeals will be heard by the Board of Directors.

Insurance

35 All members are covered by Macra's Personal accident policy. For more information, contact National head office.

National Council

36 The National Council of Macra na Feirme reserves the right to alter, cancel, interpret or amend the results of sports competitions at any time, without prior notice, and their decision is final.

VOLLEYBALL

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club team in the competition.

A County / Region that has not entered a Volleyball team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for Three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

Teams must consist of a minimum of six players – three of whom must be women.

A team can sign in up to four substitutes.

A team list, including substitutes, must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at sign-in on the day of the competition. This list will be checked for verification and affiliation.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Suggested Guidelines for Play

1. Each match will last until a team reaches 11 points or for 10 minutes, whichever comes first. The best of three matches will determine the winner.
2. In the semi-finals and final, there is no time limit.
3. If the score is 10-10, the next point wins (i.e. a team does not have to win by two points). If the scores are level after 10 minutes, the next point wins. This does not apply to the final.
4. Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw.

5. Teams should be ready to play their next game five minutes beforehand. If a team is not ready or is not there to play at the appointed time, that game will be forfeited and the other team will be awarded the points.
6. When the Round Robin section is complete, the leading teams will go forward to the play-offs.
7. The net service is in play if, when serving, the ball touches the net and passes to the opposite side.
8. Touching the net is not a fault except when playing the ball or interfering with the play.
9. Time-outs are in normal play. All time-outs are for 30 seconds. Each team has two time-outs per set.
10. Intervals between sets are for three minutes. The interval between the second and third set may be extended up to 10 minutes by the competent body at the request of the organisers.
11. Teams must supply their own volleyballs.

Note: The above are guidelines and can be modified by the Presiding Officer subject to conditions on the day.

Substitution

1. The number of substitutions allowed is unlimited (i.e. a player may play, then take a break, and then play again in a game).
2. However, there must be no more than three players of the same gender on the court at any one time.
3. The referee should be made aware of all substitutions and they should take place during dead-ball situations.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Fermoy, Avondhu

Michael Dunne, Rachel O'Callaghan, Eddie Joyce, Thomas Quinn, Redmond Walsh, Shelley O'Neill, Shane O'Sullivan, Becky Collins, Laura Geary, Steven Mills.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

INDOOR SOCCER

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club women's team and one club men's team.

A county/region that has not entered a men's or women's team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

- Teams must consist of a minimum of five players.
- Teams can sign in up to five substitutes.
- A team list, including substitutes, must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at sign-in on the day of the competition. This list will be checked for verification and affiliation.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Suggested Guidelines for Play

- 1 Each match, except the final, will be six minutes per side with a three-minute interval. The final will be 10 minutes per side.
- 2 Extra time of five minutes a side will be played in the final only. At the knockout stages, penalties will decide the outcome (minimum of five with a sudden death play-off if necessary).

- 3 Teams not in the hall ready to play within two minutes of the scheduled kick-off time will forfeit the game.
- 4 Following a Round Robin series of games – in which three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw – the top two teams in each group will go forward to the knockout stages of the tournament. Goal difference will decide ranking for teams on equal points.
- 5 All areas of the hall are in play with the exception of the goal area, which is exclusive to the goalkeeper.
- 6 The ball can only be played inside the goalkeeper's circle by the goalkeeper. Players may run through the circle. The goalkeeper is not allowed outside the designated area. If the goalkeeper infringes this rule, a free kick from outside the circle will result.
- 7 Goals can only be scored from outside the goal area and within the opponent's half of the hall.
- 8 A free kick will be awarded against defenders encroaching the goal area. Repeated encroachment by an attacker is a yellow-card offence.
- 9 The ball must not exceed head height. A free kick can be awarded at the discretion of the referee should this be breached.
- 10 If a player receives two yellow cards in one game, s/he will be suspended from their team's next game. If a player receives a red card, s/he will be suspended for the rest of the tournament.
- 11 Only one step back is allowed when taking penalties and free kicks.
- 12 A sliding tackle is deemed a yellow-card offence.
- 13 No 'hand on the wall' (i.e. shielding the ball) will be allowed.
- 14 The goalkeeper re-introduces the ball into play with an underarm throw. A ball passed back to the goalkeeper may be returned with a kick.
- 15 After the ball leaves the centre circle at tip-off it is 'live' – any player may play it.

Note: the above are guidelines and can be modified by the Presiding Officer subject to conditions on the day.

Substitution

1. The number of substitutions allowed is unlimited (i.e. a player may play, then take a break, and then play again in a game).
2. The referee must be made aware of all substitutions, and they should take place during dead-ball situations. Teams must supply their own footballs.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23

Women's Competition: Longwood/Killyon Meath, Katie Maguire, Lisa Foley, Carolanan Foley, Ciara Foley, Clare Mc Leron & Keesha Ging

Men's Competition: Raphoe Donegal, James Roulston, Simon Goudie, James Wilson, Odhran Callaghan, Robert Patterson, Lorcan Doherty,

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

BASKETBALL

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club women's team and one club men's team.

A county/region that has not entered a men's or women's team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

- Teams must consist of a minimum of five players.

- Teams can sign in up to five substitutes.
- A team list, including substitutes, must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at sign-in on the day of the competition. This list will be checked for verification and affiliation.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Guidelines for Play

- 1 Each match will be 12 minutes non-stop with no stop-clock and only one time-out.
- 2 A Round Robin series will take place with three points for a win and one for a draw.
- 3 The leading teams in the Round Robin series will go forward to the play-offs. If necessary, extra time will be added in the play-off.
- 4 Teams should be ready to play their next game at least five minutes beforehand. If a team is not ready, or does not show at the appointed time, then the game will be forfeited and the opposing team will be awarded two points.
- 5 Games will be played according to normal basketball rules.

Note: The guidelines can be modified by the Presiding Officer, subject to conditions on the day.

Substitution

1. The number of substitutions allowed is unlimited (i.e. a player may play, then take a break, and then play again in a game).
2. The referee must be made aware of all substitutions, and they should take place during dead ball situations.

Teams must supply their own basketball.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Women's Competition: Whitechurch Seandun, Denise Keohane, Aine Humphreys, Meabh Humphreys, Orla Humphreys, Rita O'Brien, Sheila Walsh, Caoimhe Buckley & Aileen Buckley

Men's Competition: Banteer, Avondhu, Ryan Palmer, Jimmy McAuliffe, Darragh Ducey, Cathal Ducey, Alan O'Connor, Joe Murphy, John Kiely, BJ Dunstan, Adam Kenouche & Aidan Lenihan

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

BOWLING

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club team in the competition.

A County / Region that has not entered a Bowling team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

Teams must consist of six players – three of whom must be women.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Guidelines for Play

1. Games will be played according to usual bowling rules.
2. Any rules listed below will take precedence over the rules of the venue.
3. Members of each team will bowl as a group in the same lane for the first round.
4. Team members' scores will then be added together and the six teams with the highest total scores will bowl in a bowl-off.
5. Team members will bowl in separate lanes for the bowl-off.
6. The team with the highest score from the bowl-off is the winner.
7. Should the winning scores be tied after the bowl-off, at least an additional 3 frames will be played between the two teams. Teams will play as a team on 2 separate lanes, with each person getting 2 throws per frame. The highest team score after the 3 frames will be the winner.
8. If the scores are still tied, an extra frame is added in a sudden death situation until a winner is reached.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, November 8th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Banteer, Avondhu

Aishling O'Keeffe, Amanda O'Sullivan, Emily O'Connor, Billy Murphy, Gerard Kelleher & Kelvin O Connor.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

7-A-SIDE GAELIC FOOTBALL

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club women's team and one club men's team in the competition.

A county/region that has not entered a men's or women's team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

- A team must consist of a minimum of seven players.
- Teams can sign in up to three substitutes.

- A team list, including substitutes, must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at sign-in on the day of the competition. This list will be checked for verification and affiliation.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Guidelines for Play

- 1 Games will be played in accordance with GAA rules.
- 2 Team jerseys must be worn.
- 3 Kick-outs after wides or scores can be taken from the goalkeeper's hands.
- 4 Games will be a minimum of eight minutes per side in the group stages and 10 minutes per side for play-off games.
- 5 Players sent off as a result of two yellow cards will be suspended for the rest of the match while players who receive a straight red card are suspended for the rest of the tournament.
- 6 Teams must supply their own footballs.

Note: The above are guidelines and can be modified by the Presiding Officer subject to conditions on the day.

Substitution

Substitution is unlimited but can only occur during a break in play and with the referee's approval.

Closing Date

The closing date for entries to National Office is **Wednesday, October 11th, 2023.**

National Winners 2022/23.

Women's Competition: Aghinagh Muskerry, Eibhlis Kelleher, Ciara McCarthy, Ava Kelleher, Caoimhe Cotter, Miriam Cotter, Eireann O'Shea, Aileen Corkery & Mairead Corkery

Men's Competition: Kilmeen Carbery, Shane McCarthy, Christopher McCarthy, Cathal McCarthy, Gearoid McCarthy, Brian Deasy, Aidan O Shea, Sean Deasy, Darren Deasy, Barry Kirby, Liam O'Brien & Johnathan Deasy

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

TAG RUGBY

Sponsored by the National Dairy Council

Entries

Counties/regions can enter one club team to compete in the competition.

A County / Region that has not entered a Tag Rugby team for two or more years can enter a rainbow team for three out of four consecutive years.

Team Size

- A team must consist a minimum of seven players – two of whom must be women.
- A team can sign in up to five substitutes.
- A team list, including substitutes, must be submitted to the Presiding Officer at sign in on the day of the competition. This list will be checked for verification and affiliation.

Eligibility

See general sports rules.

Substitutions

Substitution is unlimited but can only occur during a break in play and with the referee's approval.

Guidelines for Play

1. Games will be played according to the laws for IRFU Tag Rugby as published on the IRFU website, with any rules listed below taking precedence over the IRFU rules.
2. IRFU referees will be used where possible.
3. The Round Robin system of games will apply when it is complete the leading teams will go forward to the play-offs.
4. Teams must always have a minimum of two female players on the pitch.
5. Games will be of a maximum of twenty minutes duration – 10 minutes each half.
6. During play the referees' decision is final.
7. Teams must bring their own tag rugby ball.
8. Tags will be supplied by National Office.
9. Teams must wear similar coloured jerseys and suitable tag rugby approved shorts.
10. The rules can be modified subject to conditions on the day at the discretion of the presiding officer and his decision will be final.

Closing Date

The closing date is **Wednesday, May 15th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/2023:

Fermoy, Avondhu

Shane O'Sullivan, Dan Murphy, Paddy Kelly, Laura Stafford, Michael Carey, Shelley O'Neill, Martha Fitzgerald, Eileen Casey, Kevin Houlihan, Mike Dunne, Brian Martin & Will Keane

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.

POC FADA

Poc Fada is Irish for "long puck". An All-Ireland **Poc Fada** Championship which is held annually testing the skills of many of the top Hurling and Camogie players

Entries

This is an individual competition. Counties may award the top female and male player.

Eligibility

See general sports rules

Guidelines for Play

1. No modifications may be made to the hurley. Cultec hurleys are permitted.

2. Size 5 Sliotars to be used for men, Size 4 for ladies. No wall balls permitted.
3. Course will be set out over a distance of approx 3km
4. Participants will start and finish the course in groups of 4. Players will take their first shot in random order. All subsequent shots after this will be taking by the players furthest from the finish line, A scorekeeper and steward will follow each group to mark and count shots.
5. Competitors must puck a sliotar with a hurley (they may lift and strike or hit the ball from the hand).
6. The steward will mark the spot where the sliotar lands, participants cannot pass this mark when taking their next shot.
7. If a shot goes out of bounds the player must drop a shot before continuing.
8. The player who finishes the course in the least amount of shots will be deemed the winner.

Closing Date

the closing date is **Wednesday June 12th, 2024.**

National Winners 2022/2023

Women's Competition: Longwood/Killyon Meath, Lisa Foley

Men's Competition: Callan Kilkenny, Michael Power

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GENERAL SPORTS RULES APPLY TO THIS COMPETITION, EXCEPT WHERE STATED ABOVE.