# **2021 League and Championships – Revised Overview (Aprill 2021)**

**1. Preparation window and games provisions:**

* Return to collective Senior inter county training on April 19th
  + No return dates as of yet for collective inter county minor or U20 training – current exemptions only relate to Senior level.
* Below provisions guarantee a **minimum** of 5 games for each Senior County Football and Hurling team (all bar 3 counties guaranteed 6 games in Hurling)
* Objective – balance
  + Ensuring sufficient games at inter-county
  + League v Championship
  + Club window (2020 and 2021)
  + Inter county completed by end of August
* Original Programme announced in December – 27 weeks; new programme is 20 weeks

**2. Allianz Leagues**

**Football**

* Run from May 15th/16th to potential League finals weekend on June 19th/20th.
* Divisions will be split into North and South as planned in December.
  + 4 teams in each group – based on geography.
  + 3 Round Robin games per team.
  + Top two in each Divisional group to league semis, followed by league final\*.
  + Bottom two in each Divisional group to Relegation semis – losers (2) relegated.
  + Bottom teams in Division 4 to Shield semi and final.
* Changes to what was originally announced:
  + London will not be participating.
  + \*League finals will only be played (on June 19th/20th) if Counties involved are not playing in the Championship on the following weekend.
  + In that circumstance, Div 1 – joint winners; Div 2, 3, 4 – joint winners and promotion.

**Hurling**

* Div 1 and 2 Counties were asked if they were happy to return after 3 weeks on the basis that 5 league games could be guaranteed or after 4 weeks if only 3 games could be guaranteed – overwhelming majority opted for a return after 3 weeks.
  + Thus Division 1 and 2 will start on 8th/9th May – Division 3 the following week.
* Div 1a and 1b: As announced in December – remain round robin groups of 6
  + No quarter or semi-finals.
  + NO DIVISION 1 HURLING LEAGUE FINAL scheduled – there will be either joint winners for 2021, or if the teams that win Div 1a and Div 1b meet in the Championship, this will double as a League Final.
  + Hurling League Relegation play off to be played as curtain raiser to Senior Hurling Semi Final in August.
* Divisions 2 and 3 will not have league finals – top team in each Division will be crowned champions of that Division. Bottom team in 2a, 2b and 3a will be the relegated team.
* British based teams will not be involved in the AllIanz Leagues.
* London and Warwickshire will start 2022 in Divisions 2b and 3a respectively; Lancashire in 3b.

**3. 2021 Football Championships**

* Provincial knock-out Championships
* No Qualifiers
* New York and London NOT involved
* No Tailteann Cup in 2021

**5. 2021 Liam Mac Carthy Cup**

* Provincial knock-out Championships with back-door qualifier system (as in 2020) but with introduction of relegation (to Mc Donagh Cup).
* There will be 11 teams in Liam Mac Carthy in 2021.
  + Munster – Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Clare, Cork.
  + Leinster – Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford, Dublin, Laois, Antrim
* There will be a preliminary round in the qualifiers between the two defeated Quarter-final teams in Leinster.
* Winners progress to Qualifiers Rd 1 – Losers to Mc Donagh Cup 2022.

**6. 2021 McDonagh Cup and 2021 Ring, Rackard and Meagher Cups**

* No semifinals in Mc Donagh Cup is only change from what was proposed in December.
* Mc Donagh Cup winners are promoted in 2021 but do not have a back door into Liam Mac Carthy.
* Mc Donagh Cup and LSHC Final to be on Saturday, 17th July (to ensure Live TV coverage of Mc Donagh Cup final).
* If Kerry wins the 2021 Mc Donagh Cup, they will play in Leinster in 2022 and replace the relegated team from the LSHC.

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| **Mc Donagh Cup** |
| Ciarraí  An Iarmhí  An Mhí  Ceatharlach  Cill Dara  An Dún |

Played on the following basis:

Round Robin Phase – A and B groups of 3 teams, each drawn on an open draw basis.

Each team plays 2 games (one home, one away).

Top team in each group to Final

Bottom Team in each group to Relegation Final.

Semi-finals – Winner Group A v Runner Up Group B, and Winner Group B v Runner Up Group A Final (Home venue to Group winners)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ring Cup** | **Rackard Cup** | **Meagher Cup** |
| Ros Comáin  Sligeach  Cill Mhantáin  Doire  Uíbh Fhailí  Londain | Dún na nGall  Maigh Eo  Liatroim  Ard Mhacha  Tír Eoghain Warwickshire | Muineachán  An Longfort  An Lú  An Cabhán  Fear Manach  Lancasír |

Only change to what was announced in December is that British based teams will not be involved:

Played on the following basis (to guarantee at least 2 games for all teams with promotion/relegation):

Two sides to the draw: Group A - 3 teams drawn on an open draw basis (each team plays 2 games)

Group B - Two teams play in one fixture

Quarter-Final/Relegation play-off: Bottom team from A v Loser of B (loser relegated – exception: Meagher Cup)

Semi Finals: Top 2 teams from Group A are drawn to play against Winner of Group B and Winner of Quarter Final/Relegation play-off

British based teams begin the 2022 season in the same Cup as they were due to play in 2021

**7. 2020 Minor and U20 Hurling, and Minor Football and 2021 U20 Football and Hurling, Minor Football and Hurling**

* Details will be finalized when there is clarity on a return to training/play date.

**8. 2021 Club Window Provisions**

* Important to note that we still do not have permission to return to club training or games yet (only training in pods of 15 allowed in the North)
* However, calendar is set up in such a way that:
  + Club competitions with county players can take place as County teams exit the Championships (in football, teams start exiting from the end of June; in Hurling July 10th) **[RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING]**
  + From August 1st, all Counties bar All Ireland Semi-Finalists in Football and Hurling, and the teams in the Div 1 Hurling Relegation play off, will be free to stage club competitions with county players. **[RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING]**
  + Additionally, the commencement of the Provincial Club Championships will be delayed until Mid-November.
  + Provinces have been requested to ensure Clubs from teams in the senior inter-county All Ireland Semi-finals and Finals will not be involved in the earliest round of the relevant Provincial Championship (where possible).
* Senior Provincial Club Championship will most likely start in or around the weekend of Nov 20/21 (dates to be finalized by each Provincial Council).
* All Ireland Senior Club Finals are provisionally scheduled for the weekend of February 12th/13th 2022.