

A large, solid purple diamond shape with a thin white border, centered on the page. Inside the diamond, the text 'Plan Purple Plus' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines.

Plan Purple Plus

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Plan Purple Proposal

Fixture list for the GAA season based on the club season is being defined as:

1. The month of April
2. From August 1st to December 31st

How would this be possible?

1. Replacing the All Ireland, Provincial Championships & National Hurling League for a new All Ireland Championship.
2. Creating a new straight knockout Provincial Cup to run alongside the All Ireland Championship
3. Setting defined windows for all counties to have their club championships completed.
4. Completing the All Ireland Club Championship in the calendar year.

All Ireland Championship

League Basis: The All Ireland Championships would be played on a league basis from February to June/July before the knockout stages. The top teams from the leagues play semi-finals and finals for the All Ireland. This allows for numerous home and away games and a meaningful season from start to finish.

Tiered Structure: The National Leagues are extremely popular due to their tiered structure, which has made the matches competitive and this can be maintained in the All Ireland.

April Break: The All Ireland Championships would break for the 'Club Month' of April. During this period the clubs would have 100% control of player access and no other competition would have the ability to interfere.

The Provincial Cup

This proposal would see the introduction of a traditional straight knockout cup tournament based on the Provincial Championships. This would culminate in provincial finals and a National Provincial Cup champion.

This tournament would be open to teams from all tiers and would run alongside the All Ireland Championship. The final would be played in Late July. This would offer teams two opportunities to win National trophies and allow for meaningful competition to be

This allows us to keep the historic provincial championships and also adds in the knock-out element which appeals to all GAA fans.

Possible Inter-County Hurling Championship

A Liam McCarthy Cup of 10 teams in groups of 5.

Relegation and Promotion for one team per season from the Christy Ring Cup, Nicky Rackard and Lory Meagher

Using 2016 season to start process: (2017 results would now be used)

1st Seeds: Tipperary & Kilkenny

2nd Seeds: Galway & Waterford

3rd Seeds: Clare & Wexford

4th Seeds: Cork & Limerick

5th Seeds: Dublin, Offaly

Example of Groups Drawn:

| Seed | Group A | Group B |
|------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Tipperary | Kilkenny |
| 2 | Waterford | Galway |
| 3 | Wexford | Clare |
| 4 | Limerick | Cork |
| 5 | Offaly | Dublin |

Group's play each other Home & Away – Potential opening week “Festival of Hurling” in neutral venue.

Top 4 of each group makes Quarter Finals based on tables.

- 1st Group A v 4th Group B
- 2nd Group A v 3rd Group B
- 3rd Group A v 2nd Group B
- 4th Group A v 1st Group B

Leading to the Semi-Final and All Ireland Final.

Bottom teams in Group enter relegation Play Off (ensures bottom teams have to play to the end).

All teams guaranteed 8 competitive games.

Extra Time for all Knock Out Matches to remove replay fixture pile-up.

The same format to be applied to the Christy Ring Cup, Nicky Rackard and Lory Meagher with finals to be played on same weekend.

All Ireland final to be played on second week of August.

As both counties have their club season affected, their county champions automatically are given a bye to the second round of the Provincial Championships.

Possible Provincial Cup - Hurling

Starting out with all county hurling teams

Working from new All Ireland Tiers

Liam McCarthy 10 teams (currently 14)

Christy Ring 10 Teams (currently 8)

Nicky Rackard 10 teams (currently 8)

Lory Meagher 5 teams (currently 5)

Preliminary Round – Two Lory Meagher Teams Play

Round 1 – Open Draw for Lory Meagher remaining teams

Round 2 – Open Draw Round 1 winners (2 teams) and Nicky Rackard Teams (10 teams) – 6 matches

Round 3 – Open Draw Round 2 winners (6 teams) and Christy Ring Teams (10 teams) – 8 matches

Round 4 – Round 3 winners play off – 4 matches

Round 5 (Pre QF) - Round 4 winners playoff to enter Leinster Quarter Finals – 2 matches

Round 6 – Quarter Finals of current of Provinces - maintaining current system - 3 Leinster, 1
Munster

Prov Semi Finals - Round 6 Winners and Other teams drawn

Prov Final

All Ireland Final

Possible Provincial Cup – Football

Same as Current All Ireland Football Championship with no back door. Straight knockout in each match.

Possible Inter-County Football Championship

A two-tier Senior Football Championship.

Relegation and Promotion for two teams per season from the Mick O Dwyer Cup/Sam Maguire Cup.

Sam Maguire Cup – 16 teams – 2 groups of 8

Mick O Dwyer Cup – 16 teams – 2 groups of 8

Seeding

In both cups the groups are seeded based on the prior year finishes. i.e. All Ireland Finalists seeded 1 and placed in separate groups in the next year, semi-finalists seeded 2 etc..

Tiers and seeds initially decided in 2018 by NFL of prior season (Div 1 & 2 teams at end of NFL make top tier) Teams would be given notice prior to the NFL that impacts the following year. In future years the prior year All Ireland will dictate seeds.

Structure

Group's play each other Home/Away

Leading to Semi Finals and All Ireland Final in both Tiers.

Bottom 2 teams in Sam Maguire Group enters relegation Play Off (ensures bottom teams have to play to the end).

Two up, Two down each season.

All teams guaranteed 14 competitive games.

Extra Time for all Knock Out Matches to remove replay fixture pile-up.

With this system ALL Intercounty teams will play a more meaningful Intercounty season with a real chance to compete against similar level counties.

(NB: 17 counties haven't played in an All Ireland final in over 60 years – this aims to make their year fair and worthwhile)

All Ireland final to be played on third week of August.

As both counties have their club season affected, their county champions automatically are given a bye to the second round of the Provincial Championships.

Min & Max No. Of Games

Hurling Intercounty - Season

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES PER COUNTY – (8 All Ireland + 1 Provincial Cup) – 9 games

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES = (10 All Ireland + 5 Provincial Cup) – 15 games

Football Intercounty - Season

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES PER COUNTY – (14 All Ireland + 1 Provincial Cup) – 15 games

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES = (14 All Ireland + 5 Provincial Cup) – 19 games

POSSIBLE CLUB SEASON

Possible Club County Season

April is designated club month – 4 weekends for fixtures.

From August 1st all counties (except 4 Inter-County Final teams) start club season.

Each county give until 9th October to have ALL County Finals played.

Total of 4 weeks in April, 10 weeks from August 1st to October 9th to play county championships.

14 weeks is enough time for all counties to organise club championships.

All Ireland Final Teams given 1 week allowance and bye to second round/semi final of Club Provincial Championships.

Possible Club Provincial Season

Club Provincial Championships to be run in 4 weeks from 16th October to 11th November. Only Leinster Football/Ulster Football will require all 5 weeks.

Provincial Finals played before 11th November

Possible Club All Ireland Season

Club All Ireland Semi Finals and Final to be played over the 4 weeks after the Provincial Finals.

Club Finals to be played on last week of November.

This completes the club season within the calendar year.

All Ireland Football 2017 Possible Structure – Example 2017 (2018 based on 2017 results)

Tier 1 – Sam Maguire

| Group 1 | Seed | Group 2 |
|-----------|------|-----------|
| Dublin | 1 | Kerry |
| Monaghan | 2 | Donegal |
| Mayo | 3 | Tyrone |
| Kildare | 4 | Galway |
| Cavan | 5 | Roscommon |
| Cork | 6 | Meath |
| Down | 7 | Clare |
| Tipperary | 8 | Louth |

Tier 2 – Mick O Dwyer

| Group 1 | Seed | Group 2 |
|-----------|------|-----------|
| Derry | 1 | Fermanagh |
| Armagh | 2 | Sligo |
| Longford | 3 | Offaly |
| Westmeath | 4 | Wexford |
| Antrim | 5 | Laois |
| Limerick | 6 | Carlow |
| Leitrim | 7 | Waterford |
| London | 8 | Wicklow |