



# **CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION BYELAW 4 2026**

## **BYELAW 4: COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

These are the laws for the organisation and management of youth competitions and, for the purposes of the development and well-being of youth shinty, override the provisions of any other Byelaw with which there might seem to be conflict.

### **4.1 Definition of Child or Young Person**

A child or young person is any person under the age of 18. A 'youth' for the purposes of understanding the term 'youth shinty' for a particular playing season, is any person under the age of 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year in which that season commences.

This difference in age definitions is required to ensure maximum benefit for those who may have to make a claim on the Association's insurance policy for players. It is imperative that clubs registering members must give accurate information relating to age/date of birth for all members.

### **4.2 Equipment**

#### **4.2.1 Helmets**

Any person competing in the Camanachd Association Youth competitions up to and including U 17 level, as within Bye-Law 4.1, must wear a helmet and faceguard designed for protective purposes. This rule shall also apply to any person able to participate within the Under 17 level, playing in a team competing in any Senior competition covered by Bye-Laws 2 or 3. An exception to this Rule is granted for First Shinty competitions, owing to its use of different camans and balls.

It is the responsibility of those in charge of the team in which children or young people are playing, to satisfy themselves about the correct age of each child or young person. If in any doubt, the referee will seek a verbal statement of confirmation from an official of the team concerned as to the age of the child or young person.

A referee is obliged to bar any child or young person who is eligible to participate at U17 level and is not wearing a helmet and faceguard from taking part in a match.

**With only the exceptions noted below -Any person participating in Camanachd Association competitions must wear a helmet and face-guard which is compliant with the specifications noted below.**

**Any breach of the rule will result in an individual not being allowed to participate by the Official(s) in charge of the game until a compliant helmet and/ or face- guard is provided.**

#### **Specifications for Helmets**

Helmets shall be certified as fit for purpose. The Camanachd Association approved helmet must meet the requirements of Personal Protective Equipment Regulation (EU) 2016/425. The helmet must conform to one of the following Safety standards I.S. 355:2006, ISO 10256-2:2016 or ASTM F1045-16.

Any helmet and face-guard must meet these standards which are designed such that they prevent the passage of a struck shinty ball or swung standard caman through the guard. (Maximum grid size of-60mm horizontal x 28mm vertical)

Helmets must be secured by a chin strap.

Helmets must be free from any sharp edges and or projections.

It is a players and a clubs responsibility to ensure they are wearing compliant kit.

It shall be a specific disciplinary offence for a player to represent directly or indirectly that they are wearing a compliant helmet and faceguard when they are not.

#### **Exceptions to this Rule:**

First Shinty competitions when first shinty camans and balls are in use are encouraged to wear helmets where these are accessible however the plastic and rubber material used are designed for use by beginners and therefore helmets are not mandatory.

- 4.2.2 **Shin Guards** Shin Guards must be worn in all training, games and competitions. These must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and must be secured in place. Coaches should encourage shinty players to wear shin guards which protect both shins and ankles.

### **4.3 Variations to Byelaw 1 Rules of Play and Playing Season**

#### **4.3.1 Adaptations to the Field of Play**

For youth competitions the Camanachd Association promote, encourage and consent to the use of All-Weather 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation surfaces, where the required pitch dimensions are appropriate for the level of competition.

#### **Under-12 6-a-side Competitions**

##### **A Pitch Dimensions**

The length of the pitch will be no more than 73 metres and no less than 55 metres. The width of the pitch will be no more than 46 metres and no less than 37 metres.

##### **B Goal Dimensions**

The goals will be 12 feet (3.66m) wide by 8 feet (2.44m) high.

#### **Under-14 6-a-side Competitions**

##### **A Pitch Dimensions**

The length of the pitch will be no more than 91 metres and no less than 77.5 metres. The width of the pitch will be no more than 64 metres and no less than 50 metres.

##### **B Goal Dimensions**

The goals will be 12 feet (3.66m) wide by 8 feet (2.44m) high.

#### **U-14 9/12-a-side Competitions**

##### **A Pitch Dimensions**

The length of the pitch will be no more than 128 metres and no less than 100 metres (82m 9-a-side). The width of the pitch will be no more than 73 metres and no less than 55 metres (55m 9-a-side).

##### **B Goal Dimensions**

The goals will be 12 feet (3.66m) wide by 8 feet (2.44m) high.

#### **U-17 6-a-side Competitions**

##### **A Pitch Dimensions**

The length of the pitch will be no more than 91 metres and no less than 77.5 metres. The width of the pitch will be no more than 64 metres and no less than 55 metres.

##### **B Goal Dimensions**

The goals will be 12 feet (3.66m) wide by 8 feet (2.44m) high.

#### **U-17 9/12-a-side Competitions**

##### **A Pitch Dimensions**

The length of the pitch will be no more than 155 metres and no less than 128 metres (100m 9-a-side). The width of the pitch will be no more than 73 metres and no less than 64 metres (55m 9-a-side).

##### **B Goal Dimensions**

The goals will be 12 feet (3.66m) wide by 10 feet (3.05m) high.

#### **4.3.2 Number of Players**

The number of players within youth competitions is set out as per the individual competition rules, which constitutes the Camanachd Association Youth competition programme.

#### **4.3.3 Substitutions**

Rolling substitutes are permitted in all Camanachd Association Youth Competitions, i.e. players taken off, can be put back on the field of play. A substitute may only be permitted to enter the field of play at the mid point of either side-line, during a stoppage in the game having received a signal of authorisation from the referee.

#### **4.3.4 Provision of Referees – condition of entry**

Every club with at least one senior team, wishing to enter a juvenile competition run by the Camanachd Association, shall be required to identify at least one referee who is either qualified as a Foundation referee or is enrolled to attend a Foundation referee course. The nominated referee will commit to refereeing youth games for their home club and may be invited to officiate at other youth games within their local area, at their convenience. These youth competition referees must be separate and distinct from referees currently active and officiating at senior level.

### **4.4 Camanachd Association Youth Competition Programme**

#### **Under-14 Competitions**

(Under 14 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January on the year of competition)

##### **Under 14 6-a-side Competitions** (6 players and up to 2 substitutes)

- **North of Scotland Under 14 6-a-side Championship:** Participants within this competition shall be teams from the North of Scotland (as set out in Byelaw 3.10)

- **South of Scotland Under 14 6-a-side Championship:** Participants within this festival shall be teams from the South of Scotland (as set out in Byelaw 3.10)  
National Under 14 6-a-side Championship: Participation in this event will be open to all

#### **Under 14 National Cup Competitions**

- **Kenneth MacMaster Cup** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all clubs and will be conducted on a knockout basis.
- **National Development Trophy** (9 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to clubs/teams who do not participate in the Kenneth MacMaster Cup. Clubs with sufficient player resources may enter the Development Trophy as well as the Kenneth MacMaster Cup, but must submit a player pool of 10 named players to the Camanachd Association from the Kenneth MacMaster Cup team who cannot participate within the Development Trophy. The competition shall take the form of localised leagues (as determined by CA Development staff) with qualifiers from the local leagues qualifying for regional play-offs to determine who wins through to compete in the final. Staff will reserve the right to encourage teams that have evidenced sufficient development to compete in the Kenneth MacMaster competition.
- **South Area Under 14 Leagues** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all South area clubs (as set out in Byelaw 3.10). Leagues will be structured on a geographical basis within the South area, clubs being allocated to a particular league by CA Development Staff. The South League final shall be competed at 12-a-side.
- **North Area Under 14 League** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all North clubs (as set out by Byelaw 3.10). League will be structures in two phases:  
Phase 1: Geographical basis within the North area, clubs being allocated to a particular league by CA Development staff.  
Phase 2: League standings within phase 1 shall determine the standard of division with which the teams shall compete for the Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 titles.

#### **Under-17 Competitions**

(Under 17 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January on the year of competition)

#### **Under-17 6-a-side Competitions** (6 players plus up to 2 substitutes)

- **North of Scotland Under 17 6-a-side Championship:** Participants within this competition shall be teams from the North of Scotland (as set out in Byelaw 3.10)
- **South of Scotland Under 17 6-a-side Championship:** Participants within this competition shall be teams from the South of Scotland (as set out in Byelaw 3.10)
- **National Under 17 6-a-side Championship:** Participation in this event will be open to all

### **Under 17 Cup Competitions**

- **MacQuiston Cup** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all South (as set out in Byelaw 3.10) area clubs and shall be competed for on a league or knockout basis dependant on entry numbers.
- **MacTavish Juvenile Cup** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all North (as set out in Byelaw 3.10) area clubs and shall be competed on a knockout basis.

### **Under 17 League Competitions**

- **London Shield** (12 players plus up to 3 substitutes)  
The competition is open to all clubs. Leagues will be structured in a geographical basis, with clubs being allocated to a particular league by CA Development staff. Qualifiers from the league structure shall compete in a knockout competition to determine National League Winners.
- **W J Cameron Development Competition** (9 players with up to 3 substitutes).  
This competition is open to all clubs not participating in the London Shield competition. Leagues will be structured on a geographical basis, with clubs being allocated to a particular league by CA Development staff. Qualifiers from the league structure shall compete in a knockout competition to determine the National League winners.

## **4.5 Variations to Byelaw 3 Competition Regulations and Procedures**

### **4.5.1 Transfer of Players**

A youth player (Under 17) within a club that is not able to field an Under 14 or Under 17 team (including development competitions), within Youth League or Cup competitions shall be able to represent another team without the need to transfer (with the permission of the parent club). A player can only represent one club at each age group, i.e. a player can only play Under 17 shinty for one club in that season, unless a transfer is requested and approved. A club can borrow up to a maximum of two players in total and must enter the competition under a combined team name. This must be clearly detailed on the youth competition entry form and communicated to your respective Regional Development Officer. When the U-14 & U-17 youth leagues and cup competition commences the combined team name cannot be extended and players will be unable to move without a transfer been approved between the respective clubs.

Teams wishing to participate under a combined team of more than two players in the U-14 & U-17 main leagues and Development Competitions may do so with the agreement of their Regional Development Officer and participate on a participation only basis with no points added or taken away.

The deadline for any youth transfers is the 30<sup>th</sup> of May each year.

### **4.5.2 Suspensions**

Any suspensions incurred whilst competing for another team will be served at either the level the offence was incurred or for his/her host team as determined by the Camanachd Association.

Suspended Under-14 players will serve their ban in all Under-14 competitions. If due to age a player is unable to complete the suspension it will be carried forward to Under-17 level in matches following the age ineligibility date.

Suspended Under-17 players will serve their ban in all Under-17 competitions. If due to age a player is unable to complete the suspension it will be carried forward to adult level in matches following the age ineligibility date.

Suspended players cannot play for **any youth team** until their suspension is served at the appropriate age group.

#### **4.5.3 Eligibility Criteria (Byelaw 3.10)**

Unless specifically stated within the competition criteria the CA Development Staff reserve the right to modify the geographical boundaries set within Byelaw 3.10 in order to assist with the development of the game.

