



## 2026 Wallball Irish Nationals

GAA Handball are pleased to announce that Connacht (Kilglass & Ballinamore) have been selected as the Hosts for the 2026 Wallball Nationals.

### General Information

**Date:**

- Weekend of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Venues:**

- Kilglass
- Ballinamore

**Entry Deadline:**

- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Midnight.

**Contact details:**

- GAA Handball (Padraig)  
[competitions.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:competitions.handball@gaa.ie)  
085-8719537

Where possible we kindly ask that all requests for information on the tournament is submitted via email to [competitions.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:competitions.handball@gaa.ie) , and for local information only contact the secretaries of the host clubs via email addresses above.

### Grading Eligibility:

- Men's Open:** Players must be eligible to play in Inter County Senior & Open Championship Grade.
- Men's A:** Player's must be eligible to play Intermediate Grade in Championship. Must not have won a Men's A Singles (or Open) in Irish Nationals or World Championships.
- Men's B:** Player's must be eligible to play Junior Grade. Must not have won a Men's B Singles (or above) or underage grades (17&U, 19&U) in Irish Nationals or B Singles in World Championships.
- Men's C:** Player's must be eligible to play Junior B Grade. Must not have won a Men's C Singles (or above) or any 15&U, 17&U, 19&U in Irish Nationals or won a C Singles or Doubles in World Championships.
- Men's Challenger:** Beginners grade, Player's must have not won a title in any grade/code, County, Provincial or National. Entrants to this grade will be assessed regarding eligibility.
- 40+ (Masters):** Player's must be 40 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 45+ (Masters):** Player's must be 45 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 50+ (Masters):** Player's must be 50 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 55+ (Masters):** Player's must be 55 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 60+ (Masters):** Player's must be 60 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 65+ (Masters):** Player's must be 65 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- 70+ (Masters):** Player's must be 70 or over on the first day of the tournament.



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### Grading Eligibility CONT.:

- Ladies Open:** Players must be eligible to play in Inter County Senior & Open Championship Grade.
- Ladies A:** Player's must be eligible to play in Intermediate Championship Grade. Must not have won a Ladies Open, A Singles, in Irish Nationals or World Championships.
- Ladies B:** Player's must be eligible to play Junior Grade. Must not have won a Ladies B Singles (or above) or underage grades (17&U, 19&U) in Irish Nationals or B Singles in World Championships.
- Ladies C:** Player's must be eligible to play Junior B Grade. Must not have won a Ladies C Singles (or above) or any 15&U, 17&U, 19&U in Irish Nationals or won a C Singles or Doubles in World Championships.
- Ladies Challenger:** Mothers & Other playing 3 years or more, Player's must have not won a title in any grade/code, County, Provincial or National. Entrants to this grade will be assessed regarding eligibility.
- Ladies 40+ (Masters):** Player's must be 40 or over on the first day of the tournament.
- Mothers & Others A:** Player's must be new to the sport in the previous 2 years, must not have won any title in previous Mothers & Other Events.
- Mothers & Others B:** Player's must be new to the sport in the previous year, must not have won any title in previous Mothers & Other Events.
- Juvenile Grades:** Player's must be at or under the age grade limit on the first day of the tournament. Grades offered are as follows:
- Boys: 19&U, 17&U, 15&U, 13&U, Fun mixed Doubles 11&U
- Girls: 19&U, 17&U, 15&U, 13&U, Fun mixed Doubles 11&U



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### **Please Note:**

- Entries will only be accepted through the online system and can be paid for by credit card. No entries can be accepted after the closing date; however a reserve list will be made available in the event of withdrawals.
- Players can only enter one grade.
- GAA Handball reserves the right to amend grades or entries if they feel it is necessary.
- Grades may be amalgamated depending on entries, a minimum of eight entries are required for each grade, if eight entries are not received then that grade will not be run, with that grade being merged with another grade. GAA Handball's decision will be final in such matters.
- 11&U is a fun based Doubles event. All other grades are Singles events.
- Winning a title in the same calendar year does not rule you out of an event in the current year's Nationals.
- Matches in the Irish Wallball Nationals will be one 15-minute timed game for Juveniles & Adults. Except for Open grades where matches will be one 20-minute timed game.
- The Big Blue One-Wall ball will be the official tournament ball for juvenile grades of 11's, 13's, and 15's. The Penn Ball will be the official ball for all other juvenile grades and Adult competition.
- By entering this competition, you automatically agree to be available to play on the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of the tournament weekend.
- Please note you will get a confirmation email back from myclubfinances.com to confirm that your entry was successful. If you do not receive a confirmation, then you must complete the registration process again.
- The event will be broadcast and as such you may be featured on the coverage.
- Players are expected to agree to Sport Ireland's Clean sport policies.

### **Plate Competition Information:**

- Every player is guaranteed two Matches via the Plate Consolation events.
- Players must lose their first match to be eligible to play the Plate.
- Please advise tournament desk if you cannot play the Plate.
- Tournament organisers will release draws just prior to the event start times.

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## Key Wallball playing Rules:

### General:

- Elite Men's & Ladies matches 1 x 31 or 20 mins.
- All other matches 1 x 31 or 15 mins (unless stated otherwise).
- No timeouts allowed in timed matches.
- Eye-guards are compulsory.
- Referees may appoint line judges to help them make key decisions throughout the match.
- If a rally starts before the match time elapses, play should continue, and the outcome of that last rally should be accounted for on the final score-line.
- In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker to 5 points is played.

### Wallball Specific Rules:

#### **Legal Block**

- After the attacking player takes his/her shot, they must remain still in front of or aside their opponent. This is not a hinder but a "Legal Block"

#### **Legal Block Hinder**

- While attempting a "Legal Block" if the attacker moves away from the opposing player, not affecting his/her opponent's line of sight or obstructing them from striking the ball, then this is a hinder. The referee has the option to let play continue, giving the attacking player the shot, if they wish to take it. If they decide to take the shot, the rally continues to a natural conclusion and no hinder is called.

#### **Legal Block Avoidable**

- While blocking if the blocking player moves in the direction of the opposing player, causing an obstruction to the line of sight, or obstructing the player from striking the ball, then this is an illegal block and an avoidable hinder is called.

#### **Blocking On Backswing**

- All the above only applies to holding ground in front or to the side of your opponent's position. Play always favours the player closest to the front wall and as such, you cannot take up a blocking position behind your opponent. Intentional blocking from behind is an avoidable hinder.

*Part 4, Rule 4.7 B.1 & 2: Interpretation The referee must remember that if the ball is judged to be un-retrievable, a hinder should not be called no matter what kind of interference takes place. However, if the referee is in doubt, the benefit of that doubt should go to the player attempting to retrieve the ball and the hinder should be called.*

### Serving:

- No second serves in timed matches
- A served ball or any shot during play that lands on a perimeter line is deemed good.
- Served ball is deemed a fault if it hits any part of the service line.
- A served ball that travels between the server's legs is deemed a replay.
- Players must NOT serve the ball until the referee calls the score, regardless of the time running out.