**Secretary Report**

**Registration Review:**

This year a GDPR compliant on-line ‘Registration Tab’ was introduced to the newly designed Munster PPS website. All squads participating in Munster PPS competitions had to be registered by this user-friendly process. This season saw 507 (90%) of the 564 school squads competing across 30 competitions registered in full and on-time. 32 (5.6%) of squads were registered late while 25 (4.4%) squads were not registered at all.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Competition** | **Total No. of Teams** | **Registered on Time** | **Registered Late** | **Not Registered** |
| U-15 Hurling | **82** | **73** | **5** | **4** |
| Junior Hurling | **92** | **85** | **3** | **4** |
| Senior Hurling | **90** | **78** | **10** | **2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| U-15 Football | **99** | **92** | **2** | **5** |
| Junior Football | **100** | **94** | **2** | **4** |
| Senior Football | **101** | **85** | **10** | **6** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **564** | **507** | **32** | **25** |

**Rule Changes:**

Several playing rules passed at a Special Congress in Cork last October were implemented in the post-Christmas Munster PPS competitions. These included the introduction of an advanced mark, a sinbin and kick outs from 20m line. The short time between the rules being passed at Congress and implemented in competitive games created challenges for players and officials but all sides adapted admirably.

It must be said that the decision to remove the opportunity for players at C and D grades to play at All-Ireland level is short sighted and elitist. It will deprive many young men the only opportunity they will have at competing at All-Ireland level.

**2019-20 Competitions:**

This year the Munster PPS Committee made the decision that any team giving a walkover or failing to turn up at the appointed venue for a game will lose their €150 grant for that competition. The opposing team will receive compensation for the costs accrued.

The closing of schools on March 12th initially led to a postponement of all Munster PPS and All-Ireland competitions. At this stage Tralee CBS had won the Frewen Cup (Junior Football ‘A’ competition but all other competitions at Junior level (B, C, D & E) went unfinished. No U-15 hurling competition was finished meaning nine competitions were not completed. Coiste na Bainisti made the decision in July to cancel all remaining school competitions. This decision disappointed players and mentors from schools who had aspirations of All-Ireland success.

**Competitions Structure 2020-21:**

Covid 19 has led to several decisions being made regarding how Munster PPS competitions will run for 2020-2021 school year.

1. All competitions will be run on a knockout basis for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. The Corn an Artaigh (19 A H) and Corn Ui Mhuiri (19 A F), (KO format) will operate on a seeded draw based on last year’s respective competitions.
3. The “A” competitions will be run on a Provincial basis only as is currently the case. All “B, C, D & E” competitions will be completed on a regional basis, similar to what is already in place with Corn Roibeard Ui Bhuachalla (16.5 C F) and Corn Eamainn Ui Mhairtain (15 C F). The Province will be divided into two regions, Region 1 and Region 2, and the regional winners will then meet in the competition final. These measures have been brought in to cut down on travel time and minimise the amount of time spent by students in close proximity to each other on busses.
4. Games up to and including competition quarter finals will be played on a home and away basis, subject to CCC review.

The committee foresees issues with securing the use of neutral club venues due to Covid-19 requirements, re sanitation of facilities and manpower etc. etc., and feel that the best way to avoid games not being played / competitions not being finished is to implement a home and away draw this year.

The school hosting the game must provide a local GAA club venue to host the game. The Munster PPS servicing officer must be notified of the venue five days before the corresponding fixture via email.

The home team/host venue will be responsible to ensure that all return to play guidelines be followed.

If drawn (home) teams are unable to secure a venue they will lose home advantage and the away team will now be offered the opportunity to arrange a venue. If the drawn (away) team are unable to secure a venue the Committee will arrange a venue.

The competition will be run similar to the Munster Club Championships whereby we will try to avoid, where possible, a school having 2 away games in consecutive rounds. Any school who receives a bye in the competition will be AWAY in the next round.

1. Schools and students have the choice to opt in or out, “Such decisions shall be fully respected”.
2. The withdrawal of any player/team due to Covid related illness / quarantine, that occur within 5 school days before the fixture is scheduled does not entitle that team to a postponement of game or deferment of the competition. Where both teams agree not to play, the game will be deemed null and void. If there is a conflict of interest between both teams the decision lies with the CCC.
3. Standard change of fixtures procedures as per official Munster PPS website apply.

U-15 Hurling & Football competitions will both be played prior to Christmas while the U16.5 competitions will be played after Christmas due to the re-scheduling of the Munster Minor Championships to October and November. The Senior Hurling and Football Championships will being in late November after the Munster U20 Hurling & Football Championships have been completed.

**In Remembrance:**

This year saw the passing of Brother O’Connell a man who made a huge contribution to school teams in Templemore and Nenagh. He had a special affinity with the Rice Cup competition (CBS U-14), filling the roles of Secretary, Chairperson and President since the 1980’s. Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam.