# Camogie players challenge enforced skort rule as sexism claims intensify



# Enforced Skort Rule in Camogie Ignites Outcry Over Female Choice

The ongoing debate surrounding the mandatory skort rule in camogie has reached a fever pitch, with former Antrim All-Star Jane Adams at the forefront of the movement calling for change. Recently, the enforced skort requirement became a significant topic of discussion when both the Kilkenny and Dublin teams were compelled to switch into skorts before their Leinster Championship semi-final. Adams has openly declared that this mandate "screams sexism" and maintains that players should have the autonomy to opt for shorts instead. The Camogie Association has scheduled a Special Congress for 22 May to address these mounting concerns.

The existing regulations stipulate that players' attire must include a skirt, skort, or a divided skirt, in sharp contrast to women's Gaelic football, where shorts are part of standard gear. This discrepancy has not gone unnoticed, particularly as many players across the sport advocate for a shift towards more comfortable options. Adams points out that throughout her two-decade career, this issue pervaded discussions, highlighting a frustrating inconsistency in how female athletes are treated. "It’s about comfort,” she asserts, adding that the rule should have been reconsidered ages ago.

Frustration among players is palpable, as evidenced by a recent survey conducted by the Gaelic Players Association, which revealed alarming statistics: 70% of players felt discomfort wearing skorts, with a staggering 83% expressing a desire to wear shorts. Cork camogie player Ashling Thompson, in a bold statement to RTÉ News, indicated that her team would refuse to wear skorts during an upcoming final, even if it jeopardised the match outcome. “We will not change, regardless of the consequences,” she declared, underscoring the determination among some players to prioritise their comfort over tradition.

As the debate intensifies, Aislín Ní Choinn, a seasoned camogie player, echoed these sentiments by stating that skorts "aren't fit for purpose." Her experience highlights the practical disadvantages of skorts, particularly regarding player welfare. She noted that discomfort can be exacerbated by bodily changes, such as menstruation, creating an additional layer of stress during performance. "You’re worrying: ‘Am I exposed here?’ when you should be solely focused on the game," she remarked, underscoring the mental distractions caused by ill-fitting attire.

However, the issue is not universally viewed as pressing. Elen McIntosh, captain of Ballycastle's senior team, expressed a more tempered stance, suggesting that while the choice between skorts and shorts should rest with the players, there are more significant challenges in women's sports that demand attention, such as access to facilities and funding. “Let’s not allow this issue to overshadow bigger issues,” she cautioned while acknowledging that player choice should not be imposed.

Further complicating the situation, prominent player Clodagh McGrath has termed the skort requirement as "archaic" and a remnant of outdated traditions, stressing that shorts have become the preferred choice for many during training and matches. Editorial commentary from The Irish Times reinforced this perspective, asserting that the Camogie Association has consistently ignored players' preferences as evidenced by the defeat of motions to replace the skort mandate.

This continued push for change represents a broader movement within women's sports, advocating for equality and choice. As the May congress approaches, the future of the skort rule hangs in the balance, reflecting not only the desires of individual players but also a critical moment for change within the institution of camogie itself. “Let’s look for a solution instead of turning it into a fight,” Adams urged, summarising the sentiments of those seeking a more inclusive and fair athletic landscape.

As athletes await this pivotal meeting, the outcome could redefine the garments that women wear on the pitch, and the broader narrative of equality in sports continues to unfold in real time.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9e941d2e2o), [[4]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/othersport/arid-41368852.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9e941d2e2o), [[5]](https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/10/25/clodagh-mcgrath-speaks-out-against-archaic-rule-mandating-skorts-in-camogie/), [[6]](https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/camogie/everyone-bar-one-player-voted-for-shorts-camogie-skort-rule-angers-dublin-player-niamh-gannon/a927073773.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9e941d2e2o), [[5]](https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9e941d2e2o), [[3]](https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorials/2024/04/18/the-irish-times-view-on-the-controversy-in-camogie-an-embarrassing-failure-to-recognise-the-wishes-of-players/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/camogie/everyone-bar-one-player-voted-for-shorts-camogie-skort-rule-angers-dublin-player-niamh-gannon/a927073773.html), [[7]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2024/04/08/camogie-association-committed-to-players-after-proposals-to-allow-shorts-fail/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorials/2024/04/18/the-irish-times-view-on-the-controversy-in-camogie-an-embarrassing-failure-to-recognise-the-wishes-of-players/), [[4]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/othersport/arid-41368852.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9e941d2e2o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/10/25/clodagh-mcgrath-speaks-out-against-archaic-rule-mandating-skorts-in-camogie/> - Clodagh McGrath, a prominent camogie player, criticizes the mandatory skort rule in camogie, describing it as 'archaic' and 'outdated'. She emphasizes that players prefer wearing shorts during training and contests the necessity of skorts in matches, suggesting that the rule is a remnant of outdated traditions.
3. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorials/2024/04/18/the-irish-times-view-on-the-controversy-in-camogie-an-embarrassing-failure-to-recognise-the-wishes-of-players/> - An editorial in The Irish Times criticizes the Camogie Association for disregarding players' preferences regarding the skort rule. Despite surveys indicating a strong desire among players to wear shorts, motions to change the rule were defeated at the association's congress, highlighting a disconnect between the governing body and the players.
4. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/othersport/arid-41368852.html> - The Irish Examiner reports on the defeat of motions at the Camogie Association Congress that aimed to replace skorts with shorts. The motions were defeated by significant margins, indicating the persistence of the skort rule despite player dissatisfaction.
5. <https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808> - SportsJOE.ie covers the controversy surrounding the skort rule in camogie, detailing the motions presented at the Camogie Association Congress to change the rule. Both motions were defeated, leading to continued debate over the appropriateness of the skort requirement.
6. <https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/camogie/everyone-bar-one-player-voted-for-shorts-camogie-skort-rule-angers-dublin-player-niamh-gannon/a927073773.html> - The Irish Independent features Niamh Gannon, a Dublin camogie player, expressing her disappointment over the congress's decision to maintain the skort rule. She highlights the preference among players for shorts and the potential impact on player retention.
7. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2024/04/08/camogie-association-committed-to-players-after-proposals-to-allow-shorts-fail/> - The Irish Times reports on the Camogie Association's response after motions to allow shorts were defeated at congress. The association expresses commitment to ongoing engagement with members, despite the motions not passing.