# Camogie players push to ditch skorts amid growing call for shorts vote



The impending vote on whether camogie players should have the option to wear shorts instead of the traditional skort has ignited fervent debate among athletes, spearheading a broader discussion on gender equality and sports apparel. Scheduled for 22nd May, this vote comes after numerous matches were disrupted due to players appearing on the pitch in shorts, leading to frustrations within the all-female sport.

Historically, camogie players have donned skorts—essentially shorts with a fabric overlay that mimics a skirt. This longstanding tradition is now under scrutiny, with players questioning its relevance in modern gameplay. The Gaelic Players Association recently conducted a survey that revealed a staggering 83% of athletes would prefer the option of wearing shorts, challenging the norms set forth by the Camogie Association.

Critics of the skort policy, such as Clodagh McGrath, have called the mandate ‘archaic’ and ‘ridiculous’. In an interview, she articulated her concerns about the discomfort associated with skorts and expressed confidence that an overwhelming majority—citing as high as 99%—would vote in favour of a shift towards shorts. This sentiment is echoed across the sport, including by players like Dublin’s Emma O’Byrne, who emphasised not only the practical advantages of wearing shorts in training but also the need for the sport to reflect the greater push for equality, aligning more closely with men's games.

Resistance to change, however, has been notable at recent Camogie Congress meetings. Proposals to replace the skort with shorts were met with significant opposition; one motion to eliminate skorts lost by a vote of 64% to 36%, while another to allow shorts as an alternative fell by 55% to 45%. This trend was mirrored by a campaign launched by the Thomas McCurtains club in London, where an earlier survey indicated that 82% of respondents preferred shorts, further highlighting the disconnect between player preferences and governing body rulings.

The fervour surrounding "Skortgate" has sparked conversations on social media, with commentators labelling the adherence to skorts as “nonsensical” and “screaming sexism.” As discussions continue, the upcoming vote represents a critical junction for the sport, where tradition meets the legitimate desires of its players.

Such dynamics not only encapsulate the spirit of camogie today but reflect broader societal shifts, as female athletes advocate for their right to choose attire that promotes comfort and equality. As the date looms, the outcome of this vote may well redefine the approach to women's sports attire, potentially fostering a more inclusive environment where the needs and preferences of athletes are prioritised.

**Reference Map**:

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/skortgate-the-totally-absurd-row-over-what-camogie-players-wear/a1138819953.html)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/skortgate-the-totally-absurd-row-over-what-camogie-players-wear/a1138819953.html), [[7]](https://www.irishtimes.com/life-style/2024/04/12/give-me-a-crash-course-in-the-skorts-controversy/)
* Paragraph 3: [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/10/25/clodagh-mcgrath-speaks-out-against-archaic-rule-mandating-skorts-in-camogie/), [[5]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/gaa/arid-41254819.html)
* Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/11/16/i-would-stand-with-getting-rid-of-the-skorts-dublins-emma-obyrne-supports-calls-for-change-in-camogie/), [[4]](https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808), [[6]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/othersport/arid-41368852.html)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/skortgate-the-totally-absurd-row-over-what-camogie-players-wear/a1138819953.html), [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/10/25/clodagh-mcgrath-speaks-out-against-archaic-rule-mandating-skorts-in-camogie/), [[4]](https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/skortgate-the-totally-absurd-row-over-what-camogie-players-wear/a1138819953.html), [[4]](https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808), [[7]](https://www.irishtimes.com/life-style/2024/04/12/give-me-a-crash-course-in-the-skorts-controversy/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/podcasts/the-beltel/skortgate-the-totally-absurd-row-over-what-camogie-players-wear/a1138819953.html> - 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 criticizes the mandatory skort rule in camogie, describing it as 'archaic' and 'ridiculous.' She highlights that players prefer wearing shorts during training and questions the necessity of skorts in modern times. McGrath suggests that if a vote were taken among players, 99% would favor the change to shorts, emphasizing the discomfort and outdated nature of the current attire.
3. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2023/11/16/i-would-stand-with-getting-rid-of-the-skorts-dublins-emma-obyrne-supports-calls-for-change-in-camogie/> - Dublin camogie player Emma O'Byrne supports the movement to replace skorts with shorts. She notes that no one wears skorts during training and advocates for the option to wear shorts in matches. O'Byrne emphasizes the desire to emulate the men's game and the importance of equality in the sport.
4. <https://www.sportsjoe.ie/gaa/skorts-camogie-congress-312808> - At the Camogie Congress, motions to replace skorts with shorts were defeated. The first motion to replace skorts entirely lost by 64% to 36%, and the second motion to allow shorts as an alternative lost by 55% to 45%. The Thomas McCurtains club in London had launched a 'Shorts not Skorts' campaign, conducting a survey where 82% of respondents preferred shorts over skorts.
5. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/gaa/arid-41254819.html> - Clodagh McGrath of Sarsfields camogie team expresses support for trials but advocates for the removal of the skort requirement. She believes that 99% of players would prefer shorts, highlighting the discomfort and outdated nature of skorts. McGrath questions the necessity of skorts in modern camogie.
6. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/othersport/arid-41368852.html> - Motions at the Camogie Congress to allow shorts were defeated. The first motion to replace skorts with shorts lost by 64% to 36%, and the second motion to add shorts as an option lost by 55% to 45%. The Thomas McCurtains club in London had conducted a survey where 82% of respondents preferred shorts over skorts.
7. <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-style/2024/04/12/give-me-a-crash-course-in-the-skorts-controversy/> - An overview of the camogie skorts controversy, explaining that players are required to wear skorts, a combination of skirts and shorts. Many players find them restrictive and prefer regular shorts. The article discusses the history of skorts in camogie and the ongoing debate over their necessity.