# Camogie Association ends skort rule as players win right to wear shorts



The recent decision by the Camogie Association to allow players to wear shorts instead of the mandatory skorts marks a significant victory for athletes eager to modernise their sport. This change comes after years of discontent regarding skorts—a hybrid of shorts and skirts that many players have deemed uncomfortable and impractical. In a decisive vote during a special congress, 98% of delegates supported the change, showcasing a monumental shift in attitudes within the sport's administration.

Historically, the skort was seen as a feminine representation of the game—a stance that increasingly felt out of touch with contemporary sports culture. As stated by Brian Molloy, president of the Camogie Association, the new policy is about giving players “greater choice in their playing attire,” while still maintaining uniformity in terms of team kits. This represents not only a compromise but also a progressive step towards inclusivity.

The decision stems from a recent protest during the Leinster semi-final where players from Dublin and Kilkenny defied the skort rule by arriving in shorts. This dramatic display of solidarity culminated in the threat of game abandonment unless they complied with the existing regulations, underscoring the garment's discomfort and the players' resolve for change. The protest resonated beyond the pitch, as government officials and public figures voiced their support for the players. Female lawmakers from the Sinn Féin party even wore shorts to Parliament, signalling a wider endorsement of the athletes' standpoint.

Additional backing for the players emerged from various sectors, including women's advocacy groups and social commentators. An opinion piece in a prominent Irish publication decried the archaic nature of the skort requirement, contrasting it with the modern expectations of female athletes. Many voices echoed the sentiment that allowing players to wear shorts is not merely a matter of comfort, but also one of dignity and respect for the female athletes involved.

The shift in policy is well overdue, with past surveys indicating that approximately 83% of inter-county players had expressed a preference for the option of wearing shorts. Now, with the ban lifted, players have the autonomy to choose their attire, a move that aligns better with the evolving landscape of women's sports. Aisling Maher, captain of Dublin’s camogie team, hailed the decision as a “victory for players” and expressed hope that this moment of increased attention would foster a more positive engagement with the sport.

As the All-Ireland Championship approaches, the focus on camogie is now poised to grow, encouraging new players to participate and further enhancing the sport's appeal. The players' determined stance has not only altered a dress code but has also actively contributed to a broader conversation about gender equality in sports, showcasing the powerful impact that athletes can have in pushing for change.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[4]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/04/denis-walsh-camogie-players-are-right-to-protest-about-skorts-its-scandalous-that-they-still-need-to/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/05/irish-camogie-players-shorts-protest-against-skorts), [[5]](https://sinnfein.ie/news/senator-maria-mccormack-stands-in-solidarity-with-camogie-players-calling-for-the-choice-to-wear-shorts/), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/gaa/hurling-camogie/camogie-association-to-hold-special-congress-to-address-skorts-row-NS6BWK5IPRCSXDPEVOD6D5L2IQ/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/04/denis-walsh-camogie-players-are-right-to-protest-about-skorts-its-scandalous-that-they-still-need-to/), [[5]](https://sinnfein.ie/news/senator-maria-mccormack-stands-in-solidarity-with-camogie-players-calling-for-the-choice-to-wear-shorts/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/gaa/hurling-camogie/camogie-association-to-hold-special-congress-to-address-skorts-row-NS6BWK5IPRCSXDPEVOD6D5L2IQ/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/05/irish-camogie-players-shorts-protest-against-skorts)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/23/irish-camogie-players-triumph-skorts-backlash-now-wear-shorts> - The Camogie Association has voted to allow players to choose between wearing skorts or shorts, ending the mandatory skort rule that many found uncomfortable. This decision follows protests from players, including Dublin and Kilkenny teams wearing shorts during a Leinster semi-final, leading to a special congress where 98% of delegates voted for the change. The new policy aims to provide players with greater choice while maintaining uniformity in team kits.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/05/irish-camogie-players-shorts-protest-against-skorts> - Dublin and Kilkenny camogie players protested the mandatory skort rule by wearing shorts during a Leinster semi-final. The referee threatened to abandon the game if players did not change into skorts, highlighting the discomfort and impracticality of the skort for many players. This protest has sparked wider discussions about the appropriateness of the skort rule in modern camogie. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/05/irish-camogie-players-shorts-protest-against-skorts?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/04/denis-walsh-camogie-players-are-right-to-protest-about-skorts-its-scandalous-that-they-still-need-to/> - An opinion piece in The Irish Times supports camogie players' protests against the mandatory skort rule, describing it as outdated and uncomfortable. The article criticizes the Camogie Association for not listening to players' concerns and calls for a change in the uniform policy to allow shorts. ([irishtimes.com](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/04/denis-walsh-camogie-players-are-right-to-protest-about-skorts-its-scandalous-that-they-still-need-to/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://sinnfein.ie/news/senator-maria-mccormack-stands-in-solidarity-with-camogie-players-calling-for-the-choice-to-wear-shorts/> - Senator Maria McCormack of Sinn Féin expressed solidarity with camogie players advocating for the right to choose between wearing shorts or skorts. She highlighted that this issue has been ongoing since 1959 and emphasized the discomfort and impracticality of the skort for many players. ([sinnfein.ie](https://sinnfein.ie/news/senator-maria-mccormack-stands-in-solidarity-with-camogie-players-calling-for-the-choice-to-wear-shorts/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/gaa/hurling-camogie/camogie-association-to-hold-special-congress-to-address-skorts-row-NS6BWK5IPRCSXDPEVOD6D5L2IQ/> - The Camogie Association has announced a special congress to address the controversy over the mandatory skort rule. This decision follows protests from players and a survey showing that 83% of inter-county players prefer the option to wear shorts. ([irishnews.com](https://www.irishnews.com/gaa/hurling-camogie/camogie-association-to-hold-special-congress-to-address-skorts-row-NS6BWK5IPRCSXDPEVOD6D5L2IQ/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/07/dublin-camogie-instructs-referees-to-allow-games-go-ahead-even-if-players-refuse-to-wear-skorts/> - Dublin camogie has instructed referees to allow games to proceed even if players refuse to wear skorts, despite the sport’s rules stating that games should be abandoned when this occurs. This move is in support of players protesting the mandatory skort rule. ([irishtimes.com](https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/gaelic-games/2025/05/07/dublin-camogie-instructs-referees-to-allow-games-go-ahead-even-if-players-refuse-to-wear-skorts/?utm_source=openai))