

LGFA
PEIL na mBAN



TG 4



**TG4 ALL IRELAND LADIES JUNIOR FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL 2021**



**ANTRIM
v**

CARLOW



**LANNLEIRE, DUNLEER, CO LOUTH
SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST 2021, 1:00 PM**

Helen O'Rourke
Chief Executive

Cumann Peil Gael na mBan
Clár Oifigiúil





TG4 All Ireland Ladies Junior Football Championship Semi-Final 2021

Lannleire, Dunleer, Co Louth

Sunday 22nd August 2021 @1.00pm

Winner on the day: Extra time followed by 30-metre kicks



ANTRIM

Aontroim

v

CARLOW

Ceatharlach



Streamed by LGFA

12.28pm	Antrim take to the field
12.30pm	Carlow take to the field
12.40pm	Referee and officials take to the field
12.50pm	Coin Toss
1.00pm	First half commences
	Water break between the 12 th & 17 th minutes
*1.33pm	Half time (12 mins)
1.45pm	Second half commences
	Water break between the 12 th & 17 th minutes
*2.17pm	Game finishes
	<i>* Depending on added time</i>

If Extra Time Required teams to remain on the pitch

Clár an Lae B

2.25pm	Coin Toss
	Captain from each county to meet the referee in the centre of the pitch
2.30pm	ET commencement
*2.41pm	Half Time
2.46pm	Second half commences
*2.57pm	End of Game
	<i>*Depending on added time</i>

Match Officials

Referee:

David Hurson, Monaghan

4th Official:

Kelley Cunningham, Offaly

Lines People:

Emma Dunne, Louth

Gráinne Sands, Down



Antrim also beat Limerick to ensure they finished second in the group ahead of Carlow, who recorded victories over Derry and Limerick.

Our 2021 Championships have provided some terrific entertainment to date and today's game promises to be no different.

And as we approach the end of another

Fearaim fáilte is fiche romhaibh chuig Cluiche Leath-Cheannais Sóisir Uile-Éireann TG4.

It is my great pleasure to welcome Antrim and Carlow to Lannleire, Dunleer, for this afternoon's TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Junior Football Championship semi-final.

We already know the identity of one of our Finalists heading for Croke Park on Sunday, September 5, following yesterday's semi-final between Wicklow and Limerick, and today's second semi-final should be one to savour.

The Junior Championship has been incredibly competitive to date, as four counties emerged from a five-team group to contest the semi-finals, with Derry unfortunate to lose out.

Antrim were semi-finalists last year and today they'll go in search of a first Final appearance since 2016.

For Carlow, this is a chance to make real history as they've never appeared previously in an adult All-Ireland inter-county Final.

The counties met in the group stages and it was Antrim who had the upper hand on that occasion, as they ran out winners after extra-time.

wonderful season of inter-county football, it's incredible to think that this is the 21st year of our partnership with Championship sponsors TG4.

We're rightly proud of the coverage that we have provided during this Championship campaign.

Alongside live TV fixtures, we've provided all of the other games in the 2021 TG4 Championships free of charge via our live-streaming service. We are streaming today's fixture for our viewers at home and abroad and for two excellent teams, we're anticipating a cracking game, with the All-Ireland Final within touching distance.

It is wonderful to have spectators back attending our fixtures and your presence here today will add to what promises to be a terrific spectacle.

Best wishes also to our match referee David Hurson and his team of officials, while I also have to pay tribute to the county boards, volunteers and hard-working LGFA staff for their efforts in ensuring that big days like this run smoothly.

Bain taitneamh as an gcluiche

Mícheál Naughton
Uachtarán LGFA



who manage TG4's sports output and our superb colleagues in the LGFA, led by Helen O' Rourke. If anything, 2021 has been a more difficult year than 2020 and their work has been outstanding. Tá éacht déanta agaibh, a chairde.

I pay a special heartfelt tribute to Marie Hickey, who has deftly guided the LGFA as Uachtarán for the last six years in what she herself

Thar ceann TG4, tá áthas orm fáilte mhór a chur roimh Aontroim agus Ceatharlach, an dá chontae atá ag glacadh páirte sa chluiche leathcheannais i gCraobhchomórtas na Sóisear i bPeil na mBan. Tabharfaidh na buaiteoirí aghaidh ar Chill Mhantáin nó Luimneach i gCluiche Ceannais na hÉireann Dé Domhnaigh an 5 Meán Fómhair i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Chruthaigh Contae Aontroma thar barr anuraidh agus tá mná Aontroma ar ais sa chluiche leathcheannais arís i mbliana. Ina gcoinne inniu, tá Ceatharlach, agus an deis stairiúil ag mná na contae Cluiche Ceannais Uile-Éireann a bhaint amach. Chas an dá fhoireann seo ar a chéile sa ghrúpa i mbliana agus theastaigh am breise chun iad a scaradh agus lámh in uachtar ag Aontroim. Ba cheart go mbeadh an-iomaíocht arís idir an dá fhoireann inniu.

This 21st year of the TG4-LGFA partnership has been one of excellent growth, despite the continued huge challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our broadcast coverage of the Lidl National Leagues has doubled and now, between TG4 broadcasts and the LGFA Player, the partnership has ensured live coverage of all of this year's Championship matches. Using our own unique social media personality, TG4 has also made big steps in promoting Peil na mBan. I would especially like to thank all those

described as 'a wonderful journey' which presided over a historic leap in crowd attendances at the LGFA Finals. Marie has been a friend and supporter of TG4 and our mission and it has been an honour and a privilege for me to have worked with her. I also warmly welcome Micheál Naughton to the helm of the LGFA. Everyone knows of his deep connection with Peil na mBan in both management and administration and I look forward to working together to build a post-Covid vision for the TG4-LGFA partnership as the association moves towards its 50th anniversary in 2024.

Guíonn TG4 gach rath ar imreoirí, bainisteoirí agus oifigigh inniu, agus glacann muid buíochas ó chroí go háirithe le lucht leanta Pheil na mBan, ag féachaint ar na cluichí sa bhaile in Éirinn agus ar fud an domhain.

Alan Esslemont
Ard-Stiúrthóir/Director General TG4

ANTRIM V CARLOW PREVIEW



Since then, Carlow have been building steadily and while they did lose out to Wicklow by eight points, successive victories over Derry and, most impressively, Limerick, sent the Barrowsiders through to the semi-finals.

By Jackie Cahill

A first appearance on TG4 All-Ireland Final day for Antrim since 2016 – or Carlow's maiden voyage?

All will be revealed in this afternoon's TG4 All-Ireland Junior Championship semi-final, with Croke Park potentially just an hour away for one of these counties, barring extra-time and perhaps even free kicks.

They've met already in the round-robin phase of the competition and while Antrim ran out 5-20 to 2-13 winners, that result is skewed somewhat as the fixture went to extra-time and it was only then that the Saffrons pulled away.

That was Carlow's first game of the competition, too, while Antrim had added motivation and incentive following defeat to Derry in their opening fixture.

Victory for Carlow would send the county into a very first adult inter-county Final, while Antrim are no strangers to the big day, having contested Junior deciders in 2016, 2012 and 2009.

It should be an entertaining game, as the sides have registered 20-89 between them in eight games.

Antrim have racked up 11-49 from four matches to date, with Carlow collecting 9-40.

There's little to separate them and there's genuine scoring threat on both starting teams. Carlow have the Junior Championship's leading scorer in scintillating form. Clíodhna Ní Shé is on 6-14 currently and very much in the race for the ZuCar Golden Boot award, which will be presented to the leading scorer in the 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Championships.

Antrim players haven't been shy about finding the target either, with Cathy Carey (1-16), Grainne McLaughlin (2-10), Caitlin Taggart (3-6) and Aoife Taggart (3-4) impressing.



Match Preview

Carey and Caitlin Taggart (1-5 each) were in good scoring form when the sides met previously, while McLaughlin and Aoife Taggart collected 1-3 each on that occasion.

Carlow will have those players marked out for close marking while Ní Shé (1-5) was their own leading scorer on the day.

Both sides collected two wins each in that round robin phase and have shown that they're genuine Championship contenders. For one, however, the journey will end this afternoon.



Antrim Path to the Semi-Final

Antrim 0-7	Derry 1-7
Antrim 5-20	Carlow 2-13 (AET)
Antrim 5-10	Limerick 2-7
Antrim 1-12	Wicklow 1-17

Antrim Scorers

Cathy Carey	1-16
Gráinne McLaughlin	2-10
Caitlin Taggart	3-6
Aoife Taggart	3-4
Theresa Mellon	2-5
Michelle Magee	0-4
Ellen Morgan	0-2
Orla Corr	0-1
Meabh McCurdy	0-1
TOTAL	11-49

Carlow Path to the Semi-Final

Carlow 2-13	Antrim 5-20 (AET)
Carlow 3-7	Wicklow 3-15
Carlow 0-9	Derry 1-5
Carlow 4-11	Limerick 1-9

Carlow Scorers

Clíodhna Ní Shé	6-14
Dannah O'Brien	1-9
Aoibhinn Gilmartin	0-11
Sara Doyle	1-3
Nicole Hanley	1-0
Oonagh Fitzpatrick	0-1
Rachel Sawyer	0-1
Niamh Kelly	0-1
TOTAL	9-40



JULIE CURRAN
St. Brigids



DUANA COLEMAN
Sarsfields



ORLA CORR
St. Johns



AISLINN MCFARLAND (C)
Bredagh



MAEVE BLANEY
St. Brigids



MARIA HANNA
St. Pauls



ÁINE TUBRIDY
St. Pauls



EMMA FERRAN
St. Brigids



CIARA BROWN
St. Pauls



NIAMH ENRIGHT
St. Pauls



CATHY CAREY
Moneyglass



GRÁINNE MCLAUGHLIN
Glenavy



AOIFE TAGGART
Aldergrove



THERESA MELLON
St. Brigids



CAITLIN TAGGART
Aldergrove

IONADAÍ

16. Anna McCann
Moneyglass

17. Ciara Austin
St. Brigids

18. Rebekah Hemsworth
St. Pauls

19. Niamh Webb
Lamh Dhearg

20. Ellen Morgan
Glenavy

21. Michelle Magee
Carryduff

22. Aoibhin Enright
Gort na Mona

23. Eimear Matthews
Rossa

24. Mary Mitchell
St. Brigids

25. Natasha O'Neill
Glenavy

26. Caoimhe Stewart
St. Pauls

27. Niamh McIntosh
Moneyglass

28. Cliona Griffin
Moneyglass

29. Maria O'Neill
Moneyglass

30. Broghan Crossan
Gort na Mona

Manager: Emma Kelly **Maor Foirne:** Kyla Trainor **FLO:** Paula Brown **Physio:** Ian McIlfatrick
Mentors: Saoirse Tennyson, Niall Mitchell, Stephen Austin, Liam Taggart, Ursula Madden, Danielle Connolly

Carlow Team Line Up



NICOLE HANLEY
Old Leighlin



OONAGH FITZPATRICK
Fenagh



AMY DOOLEY
Old Leighlin



RUTH BERMINGHAM
Bennekerry/Tinryland



NUALA MOHAN
Bennekerry/Tinryland



ELLEN ATKINSON
Old Leighlin



NIAMH MURPHY
St. Annes



CAOIMHE O'NEILL
Old Leighlin



NIAMH FORDE
Old Leighlin



MARIA KINSELLA
Na Fianna



SARA DOYLE
St. Brigids



NIAMH KELLY
Bennekerry/Tinryland



AOIBHINN GILMARTIN (C)
Old Leighlin



CLÍODHNA NÍ SHÉ
Bennekerry/Tinryland



DANNAH O'BRIEN
St. Annes

IONADAÍ

- 16. Shannen Cotter
Bennekerry/Tinryland
- 17. Michelle Dermody
Old Leighlin
- 18. Antoinette Dowling
Fenagh

- 19. Elaine Ware
Bennekerry/Tinryland
- 20. Grace Lawler
Bennekerry/Tinryland
- 21. Mayghan Doyle
St. Brigids

- 22. Caoimhe Redmond
Kildavin Clonagall
- 23. Keea Collins
Old Leighlin
- 24. Rachel Sawyer
Old Leighlin

Manager: Mark Keating **Maor Foirne:** John Corcoran **FLO:** Martina Harding **Physio:** Richie Walsh
Mentors: Vinny Lambe, Fionnuala Ní Mhordha, Bernie Kearns



AISLINN McFARLAND ANTRIM

Q: It's almost time for the 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Junior Championship semi-final. How excited are you about the clash with Carlow?

A: We are absolutely delighted to be involved in the later stages of the Championship campaign. It's an amazing time to still be playing football. We had the final four as our aim from the get-go this year so it proves that our hard work has paid off. There is an incredible buzz going around the Antrim camp at the minute and a tenacity about training. We are all fighting for positions and for the first time in years we have a panel with depth and around 30 girls who have the potential to get us to Croke Park.

The Captain's Table



Q: What's been the most encouraging aspect of Antrim's progress to the semi-final?

A: I think more than anything it's the resilience we've shown this year. We lost our opening game to Derry, who we had beaten quite comfortably in our previous meetings. The girls regrouped and then we played Carlow, which ended up in extra time, and again the girls never once gave up. We fought hard and came away with an amazing win which led us to Limerick, where we again fought hard to the end to come away with a victory.

Q: Your opponents are Carlow, who you defeated after extra-time in the group stages. How big a test will this be for Antrim?

A: I think anyone watching the Junior championship this year can tell how closely-matched the teams have been. Carlow are a strong, physical team who really pushed us in the group stages, we have no doubt we'll be up against it when we meet in the semi-final. They will be wanting to get their own back but we have trained incredibly hard and in all the years I've played for Antrim, I don't think we've ever knitted together as much as one unit. We want this and will do everything we can on Sunday to win.

Our main focus is our performance as opposed to who we play. We need a big game from every player who crosses that line, that's our aim.

Q: What is it like preparing to meet a county again when you've played against them quite recently?

A: I think it's easy for teams to turn up and play with an air of complacency after previously beating a team. We won't be going in with that attitude. We lost our last game to Wicklow and we knew we didn't perform. Our main focus is our performance as opposed to who we play. We need a big game from every player who crosses that line, that's our aim.

With our team being very young, they radiate confidence that allows all of us to have a fearless approach to games. We are ready and focussed on our task.

Q: How big a boost would making it to the Final be for Antrim?

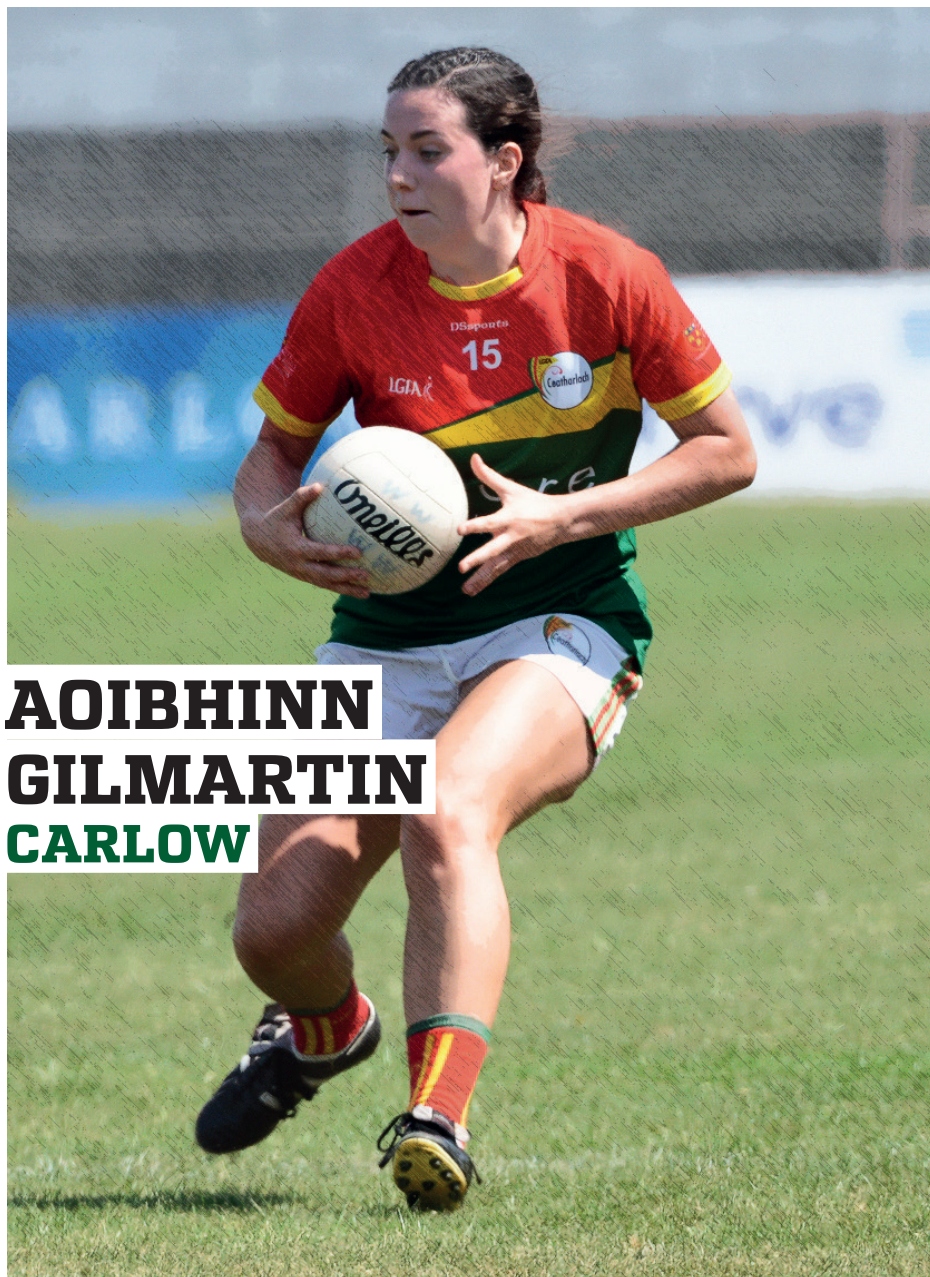
A: Over the past number of years, Antrim ladies have had some amazing success in underage competitions, we aim to continue this success. We have faced managers leaving, a global pandemic and a lot of doubters over the past few years. We have regrouped, have two outstanding managers in and are ready to prove people wrong. It would be an amazing end to an fantastic year for us to reach Croke Park on the 5th.

Q: How do you prepare your team for big games like this? Is it a case that you try to steer clear of the hype – or do you try to embrace it?

A: I think there's an element of both. This is why you play football, you want to reach the knockout stages, play on the big days and feel that level of success, but also not overly concern yourself with the hype. With our team being very young, they radiate confidence that allows all of us to have a fearless approach to games. We are ready and focussed on our task.

Q: How have you found the year 2021 in general, returning to a more normal calendar and progressing to an All-Ireland semi-final?

A: I think like most people, 2021 has brought with it a renewed sense of normal. Football has been a release to so many of us and actually being able to fulfil all fixtures and compete week in, week out brings its own comforts. It allows consistency and for our team to develop and grow to get to where we need to be.



**AOIBHINN
GILMARTIN
CARLOW**



Q: It's almost time for the 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Junior Championship semi-final. How excited are you about the clash with Antrim?

A: We are all really excited for the match. It's great to be coming into it after such a good match last weekend against Limerick, I feel the team has finally started to build a bit of momentum, which makes the process and preparation all the more enjoyable.

Q: What's been the most encouraging aspect of Carlow's progress to the semi-final?

A: I think the fact that we saw visible improvement with the team throughout the season has been the most encouraging and exciting part. We have started to gel very well as a team and the work we have been doing at training is finally starting to show.

Q: Your opponents are Antrim, who defeated you after extra-time in the group stages. How big a test will this be for Carlow?

A: Every match this year has been a battle, there was nothing between any of the teams really. Having drawn with Antrim in normal time highlights the small margins between us. However, after suffering a big defeat from them in extra-time, we know we will have to step up hugely to meet the challenge this weekend.

Q: What is it like preparing to meet a county again when you've played against them quite recently?

A: Having played against them so recently makes the preparation a bit different. We know lots about them now and can plan accordingly, but unfortunately they can do the same. Hopefully we can learn from the mistakes we made the last time and not let history repeat itself in that way.

Q: How big a boost would making it to the Final be for Carlow?

A: It would be unbelievable, even the excitement among the team last weekend after qualifying for this All-Ireland semi-final was huge. I can't even imagine the buzz around the team and our supporters if we do qualify for the Final.

We have started to gel very well as a team and the work we have been doing at training is finally starting to show.

Q: How do you prepare your team for big games like this? Is it a case that you try to steer clear of the hype – or do you try to embrace it?

A: There is a balance to be struck in this sort of scenario. Obviously you have to avoid distractions and focus on the game but you do have to enjoy occasions like this. Allowing a bit of hype and excitement can help some players rise to the occasion, while some prefer to treat it like any normal game.

Q: How have you found the year 2021 in general, returning to a more normal calendar and progressing to an All-Ireland semi-final?

A: It was obviously a tough year with Covid and all the uncertainty at the start of the season. At times it didn't look like we would have a season at all so getting back to group training and making it to an All-Ireland Final would make all of the tough lockdown sessions alone worth it.

TG4 ALL-IRELAND LADIES JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winners	Runners up
2020	Fermanagh	Wicklow
2019	Louth	Fermanagh
2018	Limerick	Louth
2017	Fermanagh	Derry
2016	Longford	Antrim
2015	Louth	Scotland
2014	Wexford	New York
2013	Offaly	Wexford
2012	Antrim	Louth
2011	Wicklow	New York
2010	Limerick	Louth
2009	Antrim	Limerick
2008	London	Derry
2007	Kilkenny	London
2006	Sligo	Leitrim
2005	Armagh	Sligo
2004	Kildare	Sligo
2003	Donegal	Kildare
2002	Galway	Donegal
2001	Roscommon	Kildare
2000	Down	Galway
1999	Tyrone	New York
1998	Louth	Roscommon
1997	Longford	Tyrone
1996	Clare	Longford
1995	Cork	Tyrone
1994	Meath	Donegal
1993	London	Donegal
1992	Monaghan	London
1991	Clare	London
1990	Wicklow	London
1989	Dublin	Clare
1988	Leitrim	London
1987	Mayo	Wexford
1986	Waterford	Wexford
1985	Galway	Cork

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Do you have an unsung hero in your club whose efforts you think needs to be recognised?
Then nominate them in one of the categories below by
closing date of Friday **26th November 2021** to be entered in this year's Awards.



For more information on the Awards visit
<https://ladiesgaeltic.ie/the-lgfa/national-volunteer-awards/>

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