



FREE GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

Watching GAA Legally in Ireland

Who shows what, what it costs, and how to get it on your TV

The short version

Most GAA on Irish television is free. RTÉ and TG4 show well over 100 live games a season between them. A block of championship matches is only on GAA+, the GAA's own paid streaming service. You never need an unofficial stream or a “fully loaded” box to follow your county.

35 live championship games free on RTÉ in 2026	45+ live Allianz League games free on TG4 in 2026	40 exclusive championship games on GAA+	€95 GAA+ 2026 Season Pass (Ireland)
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Where each game is shown

Coverage is decided competition by competition and round by round, not by county. Use this as your map, then check the weekly TV listings (see the match-day checklist on page 7) to confirm a specific match.

Competition	Free-to-air	Paid / streaming	Notes
Allianz Football & Hurling Leagues	TG4 (45+ live games in 2026), TG4 Player	—	BBC Northern Ireland streams up to 10 league games involving Ulster teams
Provincial championships	RTÉ (RTÉ2 / RTÉ Player)	GAA+ (19 exclusive games in 2026, including Munster and Leinster hurling)	Ulster football also on BBC Northern Ireland
All-Ireland football series	RTÉ	GAA+ (14 exclusive games in 2026)	Quarter-finals onwards mostly on RTÉ
All-Ireland hurling series	RTÉ	—	
Tailteann Cup	RTÉ (semi-finals and final)	GAA+ (7 games in 2026)	
All-Ireland semi-finals and finals	RTÉ	—	BBC simulcasts the semi-finals and finals
Minor and U20 championships	TG4	—	Plus third-level and schools competitions
Camogie	RTÉ (at least 9 live games, incl. the final)	—	TG4 Monday-night highlights
Ladies football	TG4	—	Including the All-Ireland finals

Sources: GAA broadcast statement 2023–2027; RTÉ and TG4 2026 coverage announcements; GAA+ 2026 Season Pass. The current broadcast deal runs to the end of the 2027 season.

The GAA season at a glance

The inter-county year runs in two halves: the Allianz Leagues from late January to early April, then the championships from April to the finals in July. Here's where to look at each stage.



2026 dates for reference. Hurling final 19 Jul · Football final 26 Jul · Camogie final 9 Aug.

Figure 1. Where to watch through the inter-county season (2026 dates).

How many games are live

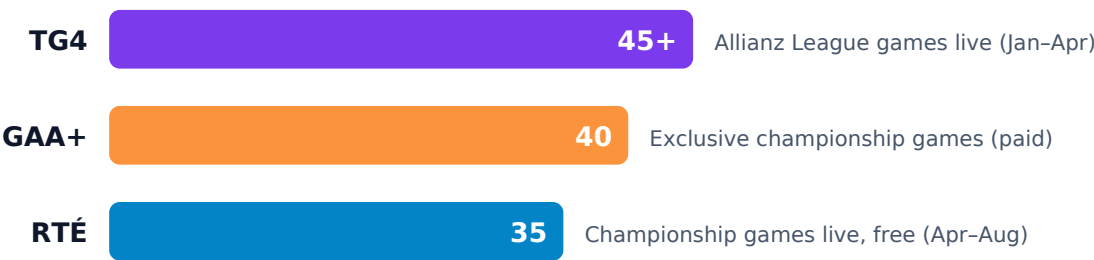


Figure 2. Live games by broadcaster in 2026. The TG4 figure covers the leagues; RTÉ and GAA+ cover the championships.

Irish-language and radio coverage

From May to August, RTÉ offers Irish-language commentary on All-Ireland championship games. On radio, RTÉ Radio 1 carries live commentary, and **Raidió na Gaeltachta** covers games in Irish. BBC Radio Ulster and around two dozen local radio stations also have live commentary rights — handy in the car or when your broadband is struggling.

The free options: RTÉ and TG4

RTÉ

RTÉ is the home of the championships. In 2026 it showed **35 live championship games** between 12 April and 9 August, across football, hurling and camogie, including every provincial final, the All-Ireland semi-finals and all the All-Ireland finals.

- **The Sunday Game Live** — live games on Sundays on RTÉ2 and RTÉ Player.
- **The Saturday Game** and **The Sunday Game** — highlights and analysis on Saturday and Sunday nights at 9.30pm.
- **RTÉ Player** — every live game streamed free, plus on-demand replays. You need a free RTÉ account.
- Highlights also go up on RTÉ.ie, the RTÉ News app and YouTube.

TG4

TG4 owns the spring. In 2026 it broadcast **more than 45 live Allianz League games** across every football division and hurling Divisions 1A, 1B and 2, plus the league finals and multi-screen “Super Saturday” and “Super Sunday” final rounds.

- Minor and U20 championships, third-level and schools competitions, and the **Ladies Football** championships.
- **GAA 2026** highlights on Monday nights at 8pm during the leagues.
- **TG4 Player** — live and catch-up, free. Some games stream on TG4 Player with a deferred TV broadcast.

Do I need a TV licence?

If you watch on a TV set that can receive broadcast channels, yes — the licence is €160 a year. If you only stream on devices that can't receive a TV signal (a laptop, phone or tablet), Citizens Information says you don't need one. See our TV licence guide on onairireland.ie for the details.

GAA+ explained

GAA+ is the GAA's own streaming service (it replaced GAAGO). It carries championship games that aren't on free-to-air TV, streams live in Ireland and in more than 180 territories worldwide, and keeps games on demand afterwards.

GAA+ option (2026)	Price	Best for
Season Pass	€95	Following your county through the whole championship
Season Pass for GAA members	10% off, via Foireann	Registered club members
Single match	€15	One or two big games
3-for-2 bundle	€30	A short run of games
Club Pass	€150	Showing games in a clubhouse
Commercial premises pass	€300	Pubs, hotels and other businesses

The 2026 Season Pass covered 40 exclusive games: 19 provincial championship games, 7 Tailteann Cup games and 14 games from the All-Ireland football series. Care homes get free access through a partnership with the HSE and Nursing Homes Ireland.

Which devices GAA+ works on

Type	Supported
TV apps	Amazon Fire TV, Google TV, Apple TV, Roku, LG TVs, Samsung TVs (2021 models and newer)
Phones and tablets	iOS and Android apps (current OS version or the one before)
Casting	Chromecast and Apple AirPlay from the mobile apps
Computers	Any modern browser at gaaplus.ie; or connect a laptop to the TV with an HDMI cable
Not supported	Web browsers built into smart TVs and games consoles

Tip: buy the pass before throw-in

Sign up and log in on your TV app the day before a big game. Payment problems and forgotten passwords at 3.25pm on a Sunday are the most common reason people miss the start.

Getting GAA on your TV

There are four ways to get RTÉ Player, TG4 Player and GAA+ onto the big screen. Most homes use the first two.

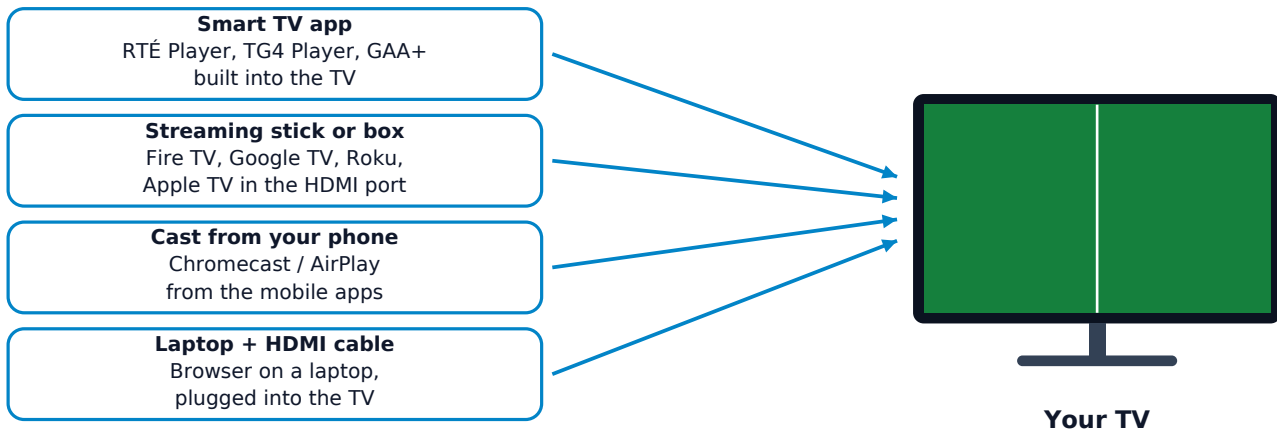


Figure 3. Four ways to get GAA streams onto your television.

Setting up on a streaming stick (Fire TV, Google TV or Roku)

1. Plug the stick into a free HDMI port and its power adapter into the wall (not the TV's USB port, which can underpower it).
2. Switch the TV to that HDMI input and follow the on-screen setup to join your Wi-Fi.
3. Open the app store (Fire TV: **Find** → **Search**; Google TV: **Apps**; Roku: **Streaming Store**) and install **RTÉ Player**, **TG4 Player** and **GAA+**.
4. Open each app and sign in. RTÉ Player and GAA+ usually show a short code — enter it on your phone to log in quickly.
5. Play something before match day to make sure everything works.

Casting from your phone

1. Connect your phone and your TV (or Chromecast / Apple TV) to the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Start the game in the GAA+ or RTÉ Player app on your phone.
3. Tap the cast (Chromecast) or AirPlay icon and choose your TV.

Menu names can change slightly between app and software updates.

Match-day checklist

Check	Why it matters
Confirm the channel on Monday or Tuesday	RTÉ and GAA+ announce their picks round by round, and big games get moved
Test your stream the day before	Catches expired passes, logged-out apps and app updates that need installing
Aim for at least 5 Mbps for HD	Netflix, for example, recommends 5 Mbps for HD and 15 Mbps for 4K; live sport needs a steady connection
Use a wired connection if you can	An Ethernet cable to your stick, box or TV removes most Wi-Fi buffering
Pause big downloads	Game consoles and phone backups can swallow bandwidth at throw-in
Restart the stick and router if it buffers	Unplug for 30 seconds — it fixes most mid-game freezes
Keep the radio as a backup	RTÉ Radio 1, Raidió na Gaeltachta and local radio all carry live commentary

Watching from abroad

GAA+ streams live in more than 180 territories, so it's the simplest option for Irish people abroad. In Northern Ireland and Britain, BBC Northern Ireland covers Ulster championship games and simulcasts the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals, and BBC iPlayer carries them in the UK. RTÉ Player's live sport is usually limited to viewers in Ireland because of rights agreements.

Why we don't recommend VPNs or unofficial streams

Unofficial GAA streams and “fully loaded” IPTV boxes are illegal in Ireland, often carry malware, and cut out without warning — usually at the worst moment. Using a VPN to get around geo-restrictions breaks most services' terms of use. Every option in this guide is licensed, and the money from GAA+ and TV rights goes back into the games.

More free guides from On Air Ireland

Everything on our site covers licensed, legal services only. Good places to start:

- **Where to watch GAA legally in Ireland** —
onairireland.ie/streaming-services/where-to-watch-gaa-legally-ireland/
- **GAA+ not working? Try these fixes** —
onairireland.ie/troubleshooting/gaa-not-working-try-these-fixes/
- **How to set up GAA+ on an Apple TV** —
onairireland.ie/installation-guides/how-to-set-up-gaa-on-an-apple-tv/
- **Every legal streaming service in Ireland, with prices** —
onairireland.ie/streaming-services/legal-streaming-services-ireland-2026/
- **Why is my streaming app buffering?** —
onairireland.ie/troubleshooting/why-is-my-streaming-app-buffering-common-fixes/

Sources

GAA, “GAA Broadcast Statement 2023–2027” (gaa.ie); GAA, “GAA+ launches 2026 Season Pass” (gaa.ie, 24 March 2026); RTÉ, “The GAA Championships on RTÉ” (about.rte.ie, 7 April 2026); TG4, “TG4 Unveils Extensive Allianz Leagues Coverage” (tg4.ie, 2026); GAA+ Support, “On what devices can I watch GAA+?” (help.gaaplus.ie); Citizens Information, “TV licences”; Netflix Help Centre, “Internet connection speed recommendations”.

This guide reflects information available in September 2026. Broadcast picks, GAA+ prices and app features change between seasons — always confirm current details with RTÉ, TG4 and GAA+. On Air Ireland is independent and not affiliated with the GAA, RTÉ, TG4 or the BBC.