

2017

Ard Stiúrthóir's Report,
Financial Statements and
Motions to 2018 Congress



Tuarascáil an Ard Stiúrthóra 2017, Cuntais Airgid agus na Rúin don Chomhdháil 2018



**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Annual Congress - Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2018

Congress Agenda - An Clár

Friday April 6th 2018

6.30pm - 7.30pm	Registration
8.00pm	Fáilte
8.15pm	Adoption of Standing Orders
8.20pm	Adoption of 2017 Annual Congress Minutes
8.30pm	Coaching Matters: Presentation from Niall Williams, Coach Education and Development Co-ordinator
8.45pm	Establishment of Voting Strength
8.50pm	Consideration of Playing Rules Motions
10.00pm	Congress Adjourned

Saturday April 7th 2018

9.00am	Registration
9.30am	Reports: Provincial, International Units, CCAO, Post-Primary Council and Ard Chomhairle Sub-Committees
10.00am	Consideration of Audited Accounts of Ard Chomhairle and Provincial Councils
10.30am	Consideration of Ard Stiúrthóir's Report
11.00am	Break
11.15am	The Club Players' Welfare: Presentation by Paul O'Donovan, Player Welfare Co-ordinator, on findings from the Club Player Welfare Survey and Research by Camogie Association
11.30am	Establishment of Voting Strength
11.35am	Consideration of Motions
12.30pm	Address by Uachtarán Catherine Neary
1.00pm	Lunch
2.15pm	Young People in Gaelic Games: Presentation by representatives from the GAA Youth Forum
2.30pm	Consideration of Motions
4.00pm	Adoption of Venue for Congress 2019
4.05pm	Installation of an Uachtarán nua agus óráid an Uachtarán nua, Kathleen Woods
4.15pm	National Anthem
4.20pm	Críoch
7.15pm	Mass in The Loft, Hunter's Yard, Mount Juliet
8.15pm	Congress Banquet in the Conference Room, Hunter's Yard, Mount Juliet

Buanordaithe/ Standing Orders

1. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak for five minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment may not exceed five minutes.
3. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote. No other delegate may speak a second time to the same resolution or amendment.
4. An Cathaoirleach may, at any time s/he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the proposer for a reply. When that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. An Cathaoirleach may consider any subject not listed on An Clár provided s/he receives the consent of the majority of the delegates present.
6. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on An Clár except with the consent of a majority equal to two thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
7. An Cathaoirleach may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

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OUR VISION

Inspire to play, empower to stay

OUR MISSION

To provide opportunities to enjoy and play Camogie as a vibrant part of the Gaelic Games family





Réamhrá an Uachtarán

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte speisialta a chur romhaibh go léir chuig an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2018. Bhí bliain iontach againn i 2017 agus is féidir le gach éinne atá bainteach le Camógaíocht bheith fíorbhródúil as ucht imeachtaí na mbliana.

In my final Congress as President of the Camogie Association it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2018 Annual Report to you. This report to Congress along with the reports from our National Committees, Provincial, Education and International Units relate the story of Camogie and the work undertaken over the course of the past 12 months.

During 2017 we continued the implementation of the Association's National Development Plan *Our Sport, Our Future 2016-2019*. This plan provides all of us with clear direction and the pathway for the Association to continue to grow, while ensuring that we continue to develop and consolidate our game across every county and beyond our country through the development of our players and our members.

The year just gone had many highlights. Cork moved to the top of the Roll of Honour when they secured their 27th title and Rena Buckley lifted the O'Duffy Cup. Who will forget the wonderful excitement of watching Westmeath lift the Premier Junior title while Meath and Cork left us all breathless with excitement when at the final whistle they could not be separated. Meath went on to win the replay in what was another fantastic Intermediate All-Ireland Final.

I am delighted that in 2017 the inaugural Camogie All-Stars Tour took place – it was a long time in the making but its importance should not be underestimated. The All-Stars Awards and the All-Stars Tour are a fitting acknowledgement of the commitment of our players to playing Camogie. The introduction in 2017 of the Soaring Stars team has generated great excitement and highlighted the skills and commitment of players across the Intermediate and Junior Championships.

During the course of my time as President of the Camogie Association I have had the honour and privilege to meet Camogie players, mentors and members involved in Camogie and the games from the wider GAA family. I gained a greater insight into the work that is undertaken across Clubs and Counties both at home and internationally by individuals who truly make me feel humble. I can only admire the work they do to promote Camogie by bringing our game to an ever wider and diverse community.

On a personal level it is a privilege to witness first-hand the commitment and passion that people everywhere have for Camogie and its continued promotion and development. Each of you are truly the heroes of our organisation and our game and I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge all our members and our players for your support and loyalty to our sport.

On behalf of the Association I want to put on record my thanks for the tireless and valuable work that outgoing officers and volunteers have contributed over the past 12 months, at different levels both at home and internationally and I look forward to meeting you again over the coming years at games and other Camogie related functions.

Ard Chomhairle members Fiona Hamilton (Connacht Chairperson) and John Foley (Munster Chairperson) conclude their membership of Ard Chomhairle and I offer them my thanks and gratitude. I am delighted that this Congress will see Kathleen Woods a proud Armagh native take up the role of President of the Camogie Association. I wish Kathleen every success during her term of office.

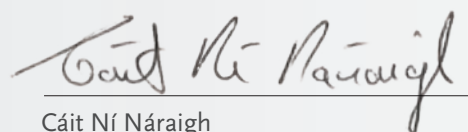
To the members who have served on Ard Chomhairle Committees over the term of my presidency I thank them for their time, expertise, loyalty and commitment to promoting Camogie at national level throughout their time as representatives on our National Committees.

I also thank the Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn and the staff of the Association for their continued support and dedication to advancing our game.

In our everyday administration of Camogie at Club, County, Provincial or National levels, our relationships with the GAA and the LGFA are key. I am pleased that the strong relationships we enjoy continues to prosper and I thank my fellow Presidents in the GAA and LGFA, Aogán Ó Fearghail and Marie Hickey, for their support and co-operation throughout the term of my presidency.

The strength of this relationship is evidenced by the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Camogie Association and the GAA. This MoU provides the basis for closer collaboration to make more effective use at national level of both Associations' resources, knowledge and expertise, and to strengthen the whole family inclusion in Gaelic Games. Both associations share a joint vision for a new overall governance model at national level within which the games, ideals and aspirations of both Associations are equally developed, promoted and governed. Ultimately however any final decision on governance change will rest with the Annual Congress of each Association.

I have no doubt that the Camogie Association is heading in the right direction and I look forward to the new vision for the future being realised through the continued implementation of the National Development Plan and the further discussions which will follow the signing of the MoU between the Camogie Association and the GAA.



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

2017 in Numbers



253

2017

259

2016

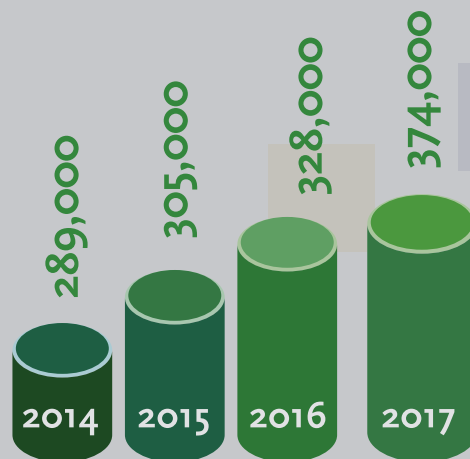
250

2015

240

2014

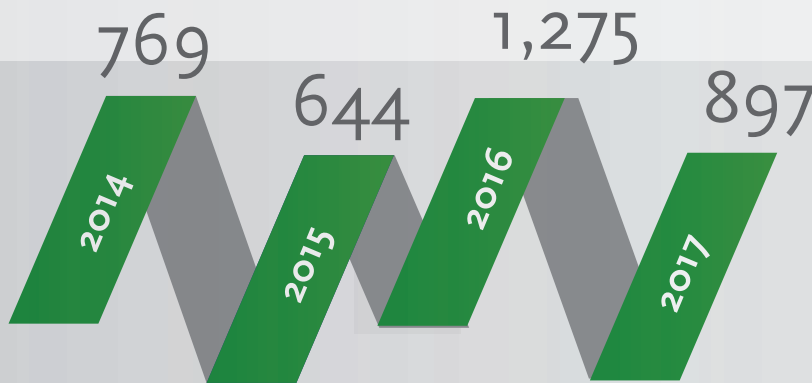
253 intercounty games played at national level in 2017 compared to 259 in 2016, 250 in 2015 and 240 in 2014



14% increase in peak TV viewing of the Senior Camogie Final, from 328,000 in 2016.



This was the **fourth highest** attendance for Camogie All-Ireland Finals since 1932.



897 coaches accredited at Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 in 2017 compared to 1,275 in 2016.



Facebook is the favoured Camogie social media platform showing 18.5% growth to 32,910 currently from 27,787 this time last year.



Increase in the number of registered clubs from 549 in 2016 to 567 in 2017.



Twitter grew from 15,215 followers in 2016 to its current following of 17,223.



Completed Referee training courses in 2017

Tuarascáil an Ard Stiúrthóra 2017

ARD STIÚRTHÓIR'S REPORT 2017



Today, there is more recognition of Camogie than ever.

Coaching standards are better. Technical skill and entertainment value are better.

Financial investment is greater.

Participation rates are better and are highest when females are younger.

Media exposure is better with more live TV and streaming than ever.

Awards and recognition are better.

Attendances are better.

The evolution of the game and the standard of the game at all levels drives this.

All-Ireland Championship

The All-Ireland Senior Championship is the pinnacle. 2017 proved to be the most competitive Senior Championship ever.

Each game in the Senior Championship group stages mattered. In the last round of the group stages, each of the 10 teams could have progressed to the knockout stages of the Championship depending on the results.

It was the ideal outcome in a Championship format involving two groups - when the final scores of the final round of the group stages determined progression into the knockout stages. This group format has served Camogie very well at all grades in the All-Ireland series.

The competitiveness of the Championship stayed true to the second Sunday in September. Cork and Kilkenny met in their third national final in two years over League and Championship. They brought us to the edge in the All-Ireland Final with Cork getting over the line with dramatic last-minute scores.

Cork now top the National Roll of Honour with 27 Senior All-Ireland titles.



The live broadcasting of all the knockout stages of the All-Ireland Senior Championship for the first time in 2017 is another step in the direction of improving the profile of the game. This involved the broadcasting of six live games from the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals through to the Final on primetime RTÉ television. It reflects our mission to bring the game to larger and new audiences and we are planning to continue in this vein in 2018.

The Intermediate and Premier Junior Championships were also very successful and impressive in 2017 with notable breakthroughs for Meath, Westmeath and Dublin.

Meath achieved their first All-Ireland Intermediate title in a replay against Cork who were losing finalists for the second year in-a-row.

Westmeath's inaugural success at Premier Junior level was at Dublin's cost. Westmeath made their debut in Croke Park while the Dubs made their first appearance in a national final there since 2005.

The Midland teams are striking a blow for the progression of the game in Leinster. Their success follows the previous successes of Carlow, Kildare and Offaly all of whom are playing at Senior or Intermediate levels and have progressed up the grades since Offaly won their first All-Ireland Junior Championship in 2010.

Rena Buckley

Individual achievement can be sometimes considered an anomaly in team sport where the ethic and underlying philosophy is about the collective. Yet every so often, a person's unique feat or contribution is such that it warrants recognition and appreciation.

On the second Sunday of September, when Cork captain Rena Buckley climbed the Hogan Stand steps to collect the O'Duffy Cup on behalf of her teammates, she was doing so in the knowledge that she became the only player in Gaelic Games' field sports to collect 18 All-Ireland medals. Seven of these are Camogie All-Ireland medals.

Rena is amongst an elite group of Gaelic Games' players to captain her county in both codes, with Mary Geaney (Cork in Camogie and Kerry in Football) being her only female predecessor as an All-Ireland winning captain in two codes.

Rena's historic achievement was appropriately honoured when the Camogie Association and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association jointly hosted a recognition event in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork in January 2018.

Inaugural All-Stars Tour

For many years, the absence of a Camogie All-Stars Tour has been a long-held frustration for players and administrators alike.

That frustration was finally put to bed by the hosting of the Inaugural Camogie All-Stars Tour in 2017, with investment by Ard Chomhairle, commercial partners Liberty Insurance and logistical support from Madrid Harps GAA.

The core concept of the Tour is to recognise and reward players and to continue to improve the profile of the game and its premier players.

The inaugural Tour to Madrid was a significant step forward in advancing the parity of Camogie players with others.

Thirty of our best players were selected from the 2016 and 2017 All-Stars winners and nominees and were managed by the 2016 Manager of the Year Ann Downey and 2017 Manager of the Year Paudie Murray.

On a very chilly November evening, Hortaleza Stadium in Madrid was an unlikely microcosm of the Camogie world. It was the venue for the culmination of the Tour in an 11-a-side game, with rolling substitutes, under lights, refereed by Owen Elliot. The fervour of the game was equal to any championship game and served as a powerful indicator of the continuously increasing technical skill, capability and athleticism of Camogie players.

The Tour is intrinsically linked to the Camogie All-Stars selection which is in place since our Centenary Year, 2004.



“ From our experience, there would be a value to education, health and sports policy interests, school managements, teachers and sports governing bodies if there was a regular national report on the overall state of sport in schools (primary; post-primary and at third level).

National League

The National League has taken on a new prominence over the past few years. The Division 1 competition has a higher profile since its final has been scheduled as a regular double-header with the Division 1 Hurling Final, and also since 2011 when it has been broadcast live on TG4.

The 2017 Final was played in Limerick where Kilkenny retained their Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 1 title against a Cork side who struggled to work out how to better the Cats.

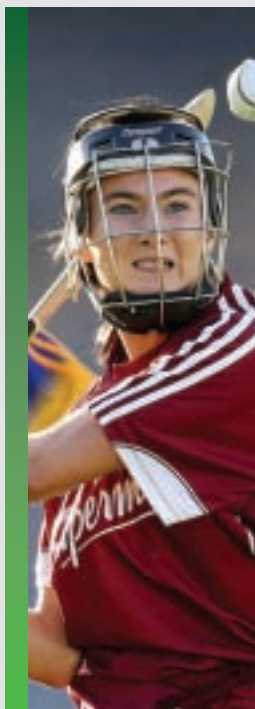
The Division 2 Final was a red and white one with Cork and Derry the combatants. Derry, formerly a Senior and Division 1 graded team were overpowered by a second half performance by Cork saw them win the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 2 title.

Dublin collected their first national silverware in the adult grades for several years when they bettered Roscommon who fell short at this stage for the second consecutive season. The Rossies can take some inspiration from Dublin however, who lost three finals in succession from 2013 to 2015 after claiming Division 4 honours. Dublin's success enlivened their season and this positivity carried into the Championship season across Senior and Premier Junior grades.

Ard Chomhairle agreed in 2017 that relegation would be introduced into the National League in 2018.

Under the system prior to relegation, newly promoted teams had the comfort of knowing that they had some years where they could adjust to and consolidate their position in a higher graded league, without the threat of a yo-yo effect where they may end up going back to the lower division immediately. This opportunity to play a higher graded league often benefited teams when they played Championship.

Under the new system, competition on the field determines league positions and if teams finish



last in their groups, their relative strength is determined via a relegation play-off.

It will be interesting to see the impact of this over a couple of years and whether it aids or impedes the intercounty pathway for teams at lower levels.

Inaugural Player of the League Awards

A new player recognition initiative, *Player of the League Awards*, was inaugurated by the Association last year. The awards, were selected by opposition managers to highlight the outstanding performances of players through the 2017 Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues.

Waterford's Beth Carton scooped the Division 1 Player of the League Award by topping the nominations list ahead of Kilkenny trio Anne Dalton, Denise Gaule and Miriam Walsh as well as Limerick star Niamh Mulcahy.

Karen Kielt from Derry was selected as the Division 2 winner, selected from a list of nominees that included Cork's Sarah Buckley, Down's Niamh Mallon, Siobhán Hurley of Kildare and Laois star Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald.

Dublin's Caragh Dawson was chosen as the winner for Division 3 from nominees Patrice Diggin of Kerry and Shauna Fallon of Roscommon.

Education Sector

For children and young people, accessibility to high quality and age appropriate physical activities and sporting opportunities through play, and structured (in-school) and unstructured (extra-curricular and informal education) learning is very important. This starts at the earliest stage for children. Their first engagement with or in sport needs to be positive, through coaching in the fundamentals of movement and hand/eye co-ordination.

The Association links with Cumann na mBunscol in its vital work supporting Gaelic Games at primary school level.

Teachers have made an enormous contribution to the sporting lives of thousands of young people over many years.

The All-Ireland Post-Primary Council and Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard Oideachais are the Units of the Association who control and administer Camogie competitions at second and third level education levels. They are supported in this by Ard Chomhairle through staff and financial support.

In recent years, both Units have expanded the range of competitions they run to cater for more players of differing abilities.

Multi-graded competitions and Shield competitions are commonplace now and this provides for a greater number of schools/colleges and teams to be engaged in meaningful competition.

A list of 2017 finalists in post-primary and third level competitions is outlined in Appendix 4.

As well as administering the traditional competitive model of schools' Camogie at post-primary and third level, we are increasingly looking at ways to support students to engage with less/non-competitive Camogie. This is with the aim of supporting them to a healthier well-being and lifestyle at school and to encourage them away from sedentary inactive lifestyles.

From our experience, there would be a value to education, health and sports policy interests, school managements, teachers and sports governing bodies if there was a regular national report on the overall state of sport in schools (primary; post-primary and at third level).

This could focus on participation levels (including by gender and geography); the availability of different types of sport; the quality of sports provision; partnerships with local clubs; training for teachers; how sport in schools is funded; and facilities type and usage (in and out of school hours).



There are not enough superlatives to describe the Club Championships. They are phenomenal competitions.

This regular data would assist in further discussion of what is the appropriate model for sport in schools including consideration of the balance between participative and competitive models of sport.

Club Championships

There are not enough superlatives to describe the Club Championships. They are phenomenal competitions.

It is the Camogie Association's privilege that we can genuinely provide to clubs the opportunity to progress from the first round of a County Championship to an All-Ireland Final in Croke Park at Intermediate and Senior levels and to an All-Ireland title at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

Following an initial approach for a Club in 2017 to consider a new All-Ireland Club competition at Junior B level, this will be inaugurated in 2018. Many more clubs will now have the opportunity to compete and progress to an All-Ireland title through the inaugural Junior B All-Ireland Club Championship.

Last year, Slaughtneil set a high standard that epitomised the value of clubs in Gaelic Games. Winning the 2016 All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Camogie title for the first time in March 2017 was huge and their approach, ethic and support was equally impressive. The 2017 finalists are now known and the re-match with Galway's Sarsfields, a club with their own very proud and strong tradition, is on the horizon.

Part of the reason we enjoy sport is the emotion that it creates. Myshall's win against Eglishe caused ecstasy and heartbreak in equal measure with Myshall adding the Intermediate All-Ireland club title to their previous Junior Club All-Ireland. The 2017 finalists are both debutants in Croke Park and competition will be keen between Athenry and Kildare's Johnstownbridge.

Kilmessan (Meath) became AIB All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club champions for the second time after a replay was required against a resolute Clanmaurice (Kerry) in November 2017. This was



Clanmaurice's first appearance in a final and a great achievement given their relatively short history.

The Welfare of Club Players

Supporting players and promoting player inclusion in decision making are two key projects of our National Development Plan. This is reflected in the Association's new investment to appoint our first full-time Player Welfare Co-ordinator who commenced work in May 2017. The player welfare role is to develop and manage player welfare support initiatives at Club and County levels within Camogie.

This initiative is a statement of intent about our commitment to have the player and the player's welfare at the heart of everything we do.

One of the primary initial concerns was to identify and understand from the club players' perspective what they feel are the biggest priorities for the Association. The first club player welfare survey by the Camogie Association was published in 2012 as part of the previous Development Plan (2010-2015). A new survey was conducted in 2017 as a follow-on from this. A research advisory group supports this work comprised of: Paul O'Donovan, Player Welfare Co-ordinator Camogie Association; Melanie Ní Dhuinn, Camogie Association Player Welfare Committee; Dr. Siobhán O'Connor, DCU School of Health and Human Performance; Gearóid Devitt, Player Welfare Officer, GAA; Elizabeth Doyle, Sport Ireland; Jenny Duffy, former intercounty Camogie player and GAA Development Officer in NUI Maynooth.

664 respondents fully completed the questionnaire:

- ☛ **58.3% of the respondents to the survey were aged 18-24**
- ☛ **30.4% were aged 25-34**
- ☛ **11.3% were aged 35 over older.**

Most of the respondents were from Tier 1 Counties as outlined in the National Development Plan (2016-2019).

- ☛ **68.1% respondents from Tier 1**
- ☛ **23% respondents from Tier 2**
- ☛ **8.9% respondents Tier 3 (or played Camogie internationally).**

A summary of the research finding include.

Satisfaction with Club Camogie

- ☛ **68.5% rated their satisfaction with Club Camogie during the 2017 season as 7/10 or greater. 9% rated their experience as less than 5/10. Interestingly playing age was not associated with differences in satisfaction rating across the respondents.**

Burnout

- ☛ **34.6% of the players surveyed felt that they often or always had three or more symptoms of burnout. These symptoms included, "feelings of intense fatigue", "felt vulnerable to infection" and "felt detached from family and friends".**
- ☛ **A higher burnout risk (often or always had three or more symptoms) was associated with the number of teams that players played on.**

- ☛ **62.4% of those playing with three teams during 2017 often or always experienced three or more symptoms of burnout.**

- ☛ **71.4% of those playing with more than three teams often or always experienced three or more symptoms of burnout.**

Further analysis showed that there

- ☛ **potentially was an association between those players that were at risk of burnout and those that felt their manager did not encourage balance in their lives.**

- ☛ **45% of those at risk of burnout either disagreed or strongly disagreed that their club coach encouraged balance in their players lives, outside of Camogie.**



“

When asked who players felt comfortable approaching for mental health support, the major finding was that 68.2% stated that they felt comfortable approaching their own teammates.

Access to Supports

☛ **78.6% stated that they seldom, hardly ever or never had access to a strength and conditioning coach and 68.3% stated that they seldom, hardly ever or never had access to a physio.**

Mental Health Support

☛ **When asked who players felt comfortable approaching for mental health support, the major finding was that 68.2% stated that they felt comfortable approaching their own teammates. Further analysis is ongoing to see if this was significantly different to other people within their club.**

It is interesting to note that some of the major findings of the qualitative section of the report, which asked, “What support/resources would you like to see the Camogie Association make available to club players?”, was that players said that they would like to see more done to provide mental health support. Some of the quotes include:

“Some form of counselling services...”

“Health and wellbeing officer in the club or at least have one to contact in our area...”

The full research findings will be available in due course. The findings will be instrumental in shaping the Association’s future work on player welfare education initiatives and programmes.

Further details on other aspects of our player welfare work in 2017 is outlined in the second report of work under the National Development Plan (2016-2019).

Government Grants Scheme for Intercountry Camogie and Ladies Football

A focus on improving player welfare for intercounty players is an important element of the first ever Government Grant Scheme for Camogie and Ladies Football.

The inaugural tranche of funds from the €1m allocation by the Irish Government was paid in 2017 and the second tranche of funds will issue in 2018.



In the first collaboration of its kind, the grants scheme is jointly administered by the Camogie Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association and the Women's Gaelic Players Association, supported by Sport Ireland and the Department of Sport.

The Scheme Implementation Group (SIG) comprises Joan O'Flynn (CEO) and Paul O'Donovan (Player Welfare Co-ordinator) (formerly Mary O'Connor, Director of Technical Development and Participation) from the Camogie Association; Aoife Lane (Chairperson) and Gemma Begley from Women's Gaelic Players Association and Helen O'Rourke (CEO) and Lyn Savage (National Development Officer) from the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Sinéad McNulty, Head of Sport, Dublin Institute of Technology acts as the Independent Chairperson of the SIG.

What was the funding for?

The grants to Counties provided new financial supports for intercounty teams in the areas of:

- Medical Cover & Injury Prevention;
- Player & Team Performance and
- Training Facilities.

Grant applications are agreed upon by players, management and county board officials and representatives from each are required to be in attendance for their squad to be eligible for the funding in the coming year.

What was the funding for?

The main supports applied for in Area 1 - Injury prevention and Medical Cover, have been categorised under 9 support headings:

Area 1 - Injury prevention and Medical Cover	
1	Physiotherapy at training
2	Physiotherapy at games
3	Physiotherapy at training and games
4	Cryotherapy
5	Health and movement screening

6	Medical Support
7	Athletic Coaching
8	Sports Massage
9	Injury Prevention

The grant amount applied for in Area 1 equated to 42% of the total grant amount.

The main supports applied for in Area 2 - Maximising Player and Team Performance, have been categorised under 10 support headings:

Area 2 - Maximising Player and Team Performance	
1	Strength and Conditioning
2	Specialised Coaching
3	Nutrition
4	Performance analysis
5	Sports Psychology
6	Fitness Testing
7	Player Recovery
8	Swimming
9	Spinning
10	Individualised gym sessions

The grant amount applied for in Area 2 equated to 39% of the total grant amount.

The main supports applied for in Area 3 - Access to Training Facilities, have been categorised under 6 support headings:

Area 3 - Access to Training Facilities	
1	Gym Access
2	Indoor Hall Access
3	Floodlit Pitch Access
4	Wall Ball Access
5	Astro Pitch Access
6	Running Track Access



The grant amount applied for in Area 3 equated to 19% of the total grant amount.

To ensure the provision of quality services to players, service providers under the Scheme were required to be compliant with professional accreditation where available. The grants were awarded and they were widely welcomed as a means of supporting county teams and recognising players as elite athletes and acknowledging their contribution to Irish communities.

23 grants to Camogie County Boards were paid in 2017 equalling a total investment of €153,938.94. See Appendix 7.

Scheme Promotion

The SIG oversaw the scheme promotion for the 2017 grant in February with two workshops attended by representatives from each County Board as well as player representatives and team managers. 55 county boards attended the workshops in Dublin and Meath with further face-to-face meetings taking place to ensure that counties understood the scheme's purpose and to help them with the application process.

These workshops took place again in November 2017 and January 2018 for the 2018 grant round in Enniskillen, Limerick and Dublin. The aim of the workshops was to promote the Government Grant Scheme to County Boards, players and team management so that there is adequate planning for teams to get the best from the grant and offer an enhanced playing and training environment for players.

Attendance at these events was mandatory for all counties and the attendance comprised the County Board Secretary, a member of the County Team Management and player representatives.

Finding out what works – evaluating the Grants Scheme

The SIG is very keen to maximise and share learning from the introduction and implementation of the Funding Scheme and an independent evaluation of the scheme commenced in November 2017.



Camogie in the Public Eye

The ongoing improvement in the extent and type of coverage of Camogie across the print, broadcast and social media is very welcome. Television remains the most popular media form to access sport with live streaming of games becoming more increasingly common.

Free to air TV designation

During the year, the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final was designated free to air TV by the government as an 'event of major importance to Irish society'.

The Camogie Association made representations on this change to public policy for many years and made a written submission on it again when the opportunity to review the legislation arose. The recognition of the sport through this designation is a very welcome and positive endorsement of its cultural and social value.

Investing in live broadcasting

The Camogie Association itself has increased its investment in broadcasting the sport and there was an increased broadcast output in 2017.

For the first time, this investment facilitated RTÉ television to broadcast live the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals for the first time.

The All-Ireland Semi-Finals were broadcast for the third consecutive year and will continue to be broadcast as part of a rights deal with RTÉ, with the Intermediate and Senior All-Ireland Finals also continuing to be broadcast live.

The Division 1 National Camogie League Final has been a double-header with the Division 1 Hurling Final since 2011. The 2017 League Final was again broadcast by TG4 for the 7th year in succession.

The Intermediate All-Ireland Final Replay of Cork v Meath in Limerick was also broadcast on TG4 last year for the first time.

The live streaming of Camogie has provided a fruitful way of expanding the audience for the game. In 2016/17 the three All-Ireland Club Finals

at Senior, Intermediate and Junior levels and one of the Division 1 National Camogie League Semi-Finals were all live streamed for the first time.

In February 2018, this expansion of live Camogie output continued with the first live streaming of the Ashbourne Cup, the pinnacle of the sport across third level educational institutions.

Games' attendances

Games' attendances are an important measure of the position within sport. All sports governing bodies want to maximise the number of spectators who engage with the sport either from the sideline or the sofa.

The All-Ireland showpiece in Croke Park in September is a peak for Camogie fans, generating the highest number of spectators annually.

Attendances at the Finals have been steadily improving since the Finals moved to a Camogie triple-header in 2010. From 2006-2009 the Senior Camogie Final was held as a curtain raiser to the All-Ireland Under 21 Final.

In the Club Championships, the 2016 finals held in March 2017 were the best attended since the games moved to Croke Park in 2011.

The table overleaf summarises the attendances' data since the All-Ireland Premier Junior, Intermediate and Senior Camogie Finals were hosted as a triple-header. It shows a 25% increase in attendances between 2015 and 2016; this was consolidated in 2017 with a small increase. It also highlights attendances at All-Ireland Senior and Intermediate Club Championships Finals since they moved to Croke Park, in 2010.

Attendances at All-Ireland Camogie Intercountry and Club Championships Finals 2010-2017

	All-Ireland Premier Junior, Intermediate and Senior Finals, Croke Park, September	All-Ireland Intermediate and Senior Club Finals, Croke Park, March (previous year's finals held in March of the following year)
2010	17,920	-
2011	14,974	4,724
2012	15,900	3,179
2013	15,063	Held as double header with NFL Fixture – no separate Camogie data available
2014	12,476	2,418
2015	16,610	2,315
2016	20,037	2,703
2017	20,793	6,123

The ambition now is to increase and improve the promotion and marketing of our games; to be innovative and creative in attracting new supporters to our games and to engage more with our already loyal supporters. This will be a priority in 2018 and beyond.

Club growth - 18 new clubs

For Camogie, expanding the playing base of the game must remain a priority. A strategy of waiting for people to discover the game is bettered by a strategy of creating the opportunity to play the game. The net gain of 18 additional club registrations by the end of 2017 has been our strongest growth yet in any single year.

Ten of these clubs are in Leinster, four in Ulster (all in Antrim) and four in Munster (see Figure 1 Clubs by County 2017).

A tiering system classifies counties at different levels in Camogie. When classifying club growth by tiers, there were 10 additional clubs registered in Tier 1 counties. Seven clubs were newly registered in Tier 2 counties and two clubs additionally registered in Tier 3 counties.

The necessity to consolidate the game where it is already strong remains important but I would contend that there is untapped potential to expand the game further and future club growth in Tiers 2 and 3 will be a focus for 2018.

International growth

There was also growth in clubs at international level. Europe, and Germany in particular is seeing an increase in Camogie/Hurling activity.

Across the US, including in New York, there is an increasing interest and emphasis in Camogie/Hurling growth at adult and underage levels which is also reflected in Australasia (also at underage).

The reports from the International Units, published separately as part of the Congress papers documents this, along with further details in this report.

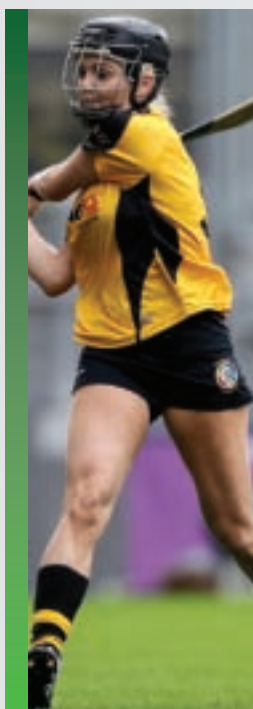
Capital Developments

The level of growth in Camogie increases the demand for facilities to train and play games. The GAA is the primary provider of these facilities and that relationship is a vital and integral part of our game.

Across the country, the development of facilities is well supported by Camogie members' contributions to fundraising efforts at local Club and County level. It is also properly supported by statutory sources including the significant support of the Sport Capital grants programme.

During 2017, Cork, Clare, Galway and Dublin Camogie Boards made significant strides in enhancing the portfolio of Camogie grounds around the country.

Dublin Camogie and St. Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh have long standing connections with the Camogie grounds in the Phoenix Park. These were further strengthened in June 2017 with the opening of the new dressing rooms, referees' rooms, kitchen and ancillary rooms. The Camogie pitch in the Phoenix Park was officially opened in October 1933 and this recent development is another milestone in its story.



Cork Camogie has continued during the year with finalising the building of a new pavilion that includes dressing rooms, meeting rooms, media room, referee and medical rooms at the Cork Camogie Grounds also while Galway Camogie are working to enhance their county facility in Kilrickle.

In December, Clare Camogie Chairperson, Joe Robbins, remarked at the official opening of the Club House at Fr. McNamara Camogie Park that “In Clare Camogie nothing is beyond us”. He couldn’t have spoken truer words as the work of the current and previous Executives of the Clare Camogie Board was so evident in the pride and standard of facility that is now newly home to Clare Camogie.

I pay tribute to the vision and hard work that these initiatives require and I heartily congratulate all involved in the incredible outcomes that are the result of such hard work. These initiatives and

new facilities are a strong statement of confidence in the future of the game.

There is huge voluntary fundraising involved in any capital development at community level.

In recent years this has been significantly boosted by capacity at Club and County Board levels to draw down capital funding via the government’s Sports Capital Fund. Camogie benefits from much of the capital funding allocated to GAA units for pitches, hurling walls, dressing rooms and so on.

It is now heartening to see that support being deepened to the value of nearly half a million euro, by the range of funding allocated directly to Camogie (or expressly with GAA and/or LGFA) in 2017 from the Sports Capital Fund allocations, including for equipment.

The table below indicates Sports Capital Funding allocated in 2017 specifically to Camogie Units.

Unit	County	Amount of capital funding allocated through Sport Capital Fund in 2017 €
Corofin Camogie Club	Clare	1,200
Kilmaley Camogie Club	Clare	2,000
Scariff-Ogonelloe Camogie Club	Clare	2,600
Sixmilebridge Camogie Club	Clare	850
Wolfe Tones Camogie	Clare	2,400
Clare Camogie Board	Clare	64,500
Castlelyons Camogie Club	Cork	13,000
Coursey Rovers Camogie and LGFA	Cork	4,000
St. Colum’s Camogie Club	Cork	3,000
Cork Colleges Camogie Council	Cork	39,000
Cork Camogie Board	Cork	71,000
Crecora Camogie Club	Limerick	1,000
Granagh Ballingarry Camogie Club	Limerick	3,629
Carrick Swans Camogie	Tipperary	72,500
St. Kevin’s Hurling and Camogie Club	Dublin	121,208
Galway Camogie Board	Galway	48,500
Aughrim Camogie Club	Wicklow	2,500
Kilcoole Camogie Club	Wicklow	3,000
Graigie-Ballycallan GAA & St. Brigids Camogie	Kilkenny	6,500
		462,387

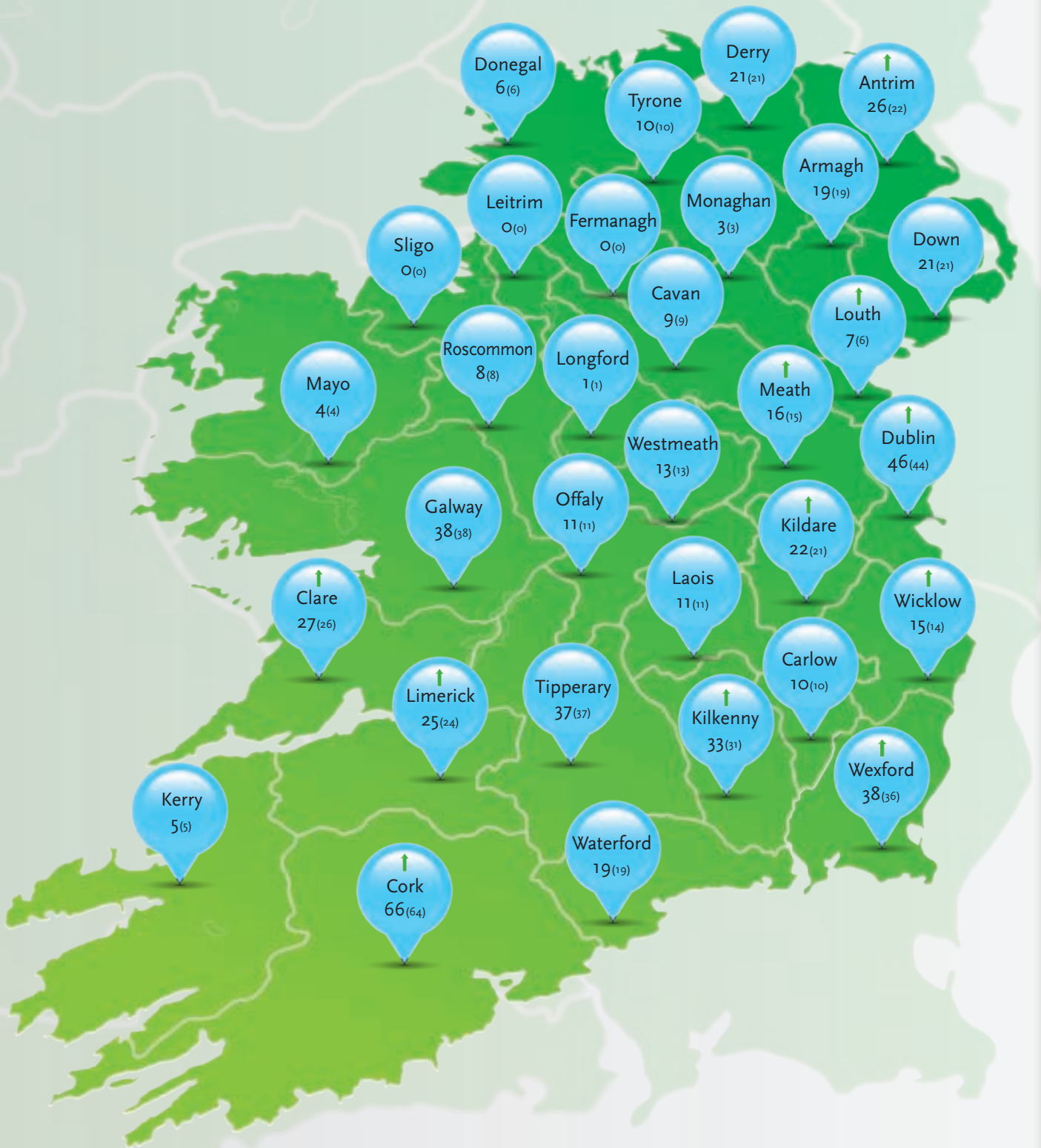
Camogie Counties by Tier

Counties - Support the Game (Tier 1)	Counties - Nurture the Game (Tier 2)	Counties - Grow the Game (Tier 3)
Clare	Antrim	Britain
Cork	Armagh	Cavan
Derry	Carlow	Donegal
Dublin	Down	Fermanagh
Galway	Kildare	Kerry
Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim
Limerick	Meath	Longford
Offaly	Roscommon	Louth
Tipperary	Westmeath	Mayo
Waterford		Monaghan
Wexford		Sligo
		Tyrone
		Wicklow

Figure 1:

Clubs by County 2017

(2016 Data in Brackets)





Relationship with GAA

The Camogie Association and the GAA signed a draft Memorandum of Understanding in February 2018, following over six months of discussions.

The proposed Memorandum seeks to establish stronger links between our organisations. The Memorandum will become effective only when it has been approved by the governing body of each organisation (Ard Chomhairle).

In the case of the Camogie Association, a proposal to approve the Memorandum will be discussed at our Ard Chomhairle (Central Council) meeting on Wednesday March 14th 2018.

In the case of the GAA, a proposal to approve the Memorandum will be discussed at its Ard Chomhairle meeting on Saturday March 24th 2018.

The Memorandum reflects the shared vision of both organisations for a new overall organisational model within which the games, ideals and aspiration of our Associations are equally developed and promoted.

The Memorandum recognises areas of common interest and the Camogie Association will have representation on GAA national committees, and vice versa.

While the proposals in the Memorandum aim to strengthen the links within the family of Gaelic Games at national level only, it also commits us to explore a framework for further integration at Provincial, County and Club level.

I would like to record my thanks to Feargal McCormack for his role and contribution in chairing the discussions that led to the Memorandum.

The Camogie Association and the GAA's relationship is a longstanding one. The effort to bring Camogie and the GAA together is also longstanding.

In 1972, Jo Golden writing in the Winter edition of the Camogie magazine wrote:

'It is unnatural that two such similar organisations, with similar historical backgrounds, should work separately to attain similar goals, when our aims could be realised more easily and made more effective by a united effort'

What was true 46 years ago remains word-perfect true today.

The context today for a more united effort is more compelling than ever.

Camogie would contribute to this united effort from a position of strength.

A more united effort brings greater focus to making Camogie an integral part of Gaelic Games activities and programmes.

A more united effort more favourably reflects the community and family focus of Gaelic Games.

A more united effort brings the values of mutual respect, inclusion and equality to the fore in Gaelic Games.

The position of women in sport in society is changing. There is growing recognition and respect for the talent, contributions and achievements of sportswomen.

It is important to acknowledge that that change includes the greater inclusion and recognition by the GAA of women in Gaelic Games.

That said, there is a way to go, not least when social research reminds us that, in Ireland

(i) people with daughters are less likely to participate in sport with their children than people with sons and

(ii) parents of daughters have a less favourable opinion of their child's sporting ability than parents of sons (Irish Sports Monitor 2015).

The Joint Memorandum is a statement on the future of Gaelic Games and a statement about the future of young people in Gaelic Games.

Implementing the Memorandum through building a united entity for our mutual benefit, in a way acceptable to both, is an idea whose time has come and is a sensible next step to strengthen the experience, profile and wellbeing of our game, and Gaelic Games overall.

The next section of this report overviews and summarises progress in the second year of implementing our National Development Plan Our Sport Our Future 2016-2019.



“

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Implementing the Memorandum through building a united entity for our mutual benefit, in a way acceptable to both, is an idea whose time has come and is a sensible next step to strengthen the experience, profile and wellbeing of our game, and Gaelic Games overall.

National Development Plan

OUR SPORT OUR FUTURE 2016-2019

Second Progress Report to Annual Congress 2018

The National Development Plan puts change firmly on the agenda including organisational and structural changes that are designed, ultimately, to benefit clubs and players.

There are four key strategies in the plan relating to:

- On the Pitch – supporting players, coaches and match officials
- In the Public Eye – raising the profile of Camogie
- Off the Pitch – building sustainable organisational structures
- Aontas – strengthening relationships, particularly with the GAA and LGFA

The next sections report progress under these headings.







Section 1: On the Pitch

Supporting players, coaches and match officials is a key strategy of the National Development Plan. There are 7 action areas under this strategy as follows:

- a) Supporting players
- b) Player retention
- c) Technical direction plan
- d) Participation and growth plan
- e) Fixtures planning
- f) Referee development programme and
- g) Coach development

Progress in 2017 in these areas is now considered.



1.1 Supporting Players

1.1.1 Player Welfare – Anti-Doping Report

One of the key supports provided to players is anti-doping education. All members of county panels taking part in the Senior Championship are subject to testing in competition (i.e. at any Senior Championship match). The Camogie Association forbids the use of substances or methods that are generally considered to be doping in sport. We agree that doping is contrary to the ethos on which our sport is built and it is the responsibility of all members, who are subject to anti-doping regulations, to make themselves aware of the banned list and the anti-doping rules as set down by Sport Ireland.

The Association's Player Welfare Co-ordinator acts as our Anti-Doping Officer and is the primary liaison between us and the Anti-Doping Unit of Sport Ireland.

In 2017 one of the primary roles of the Anti-Doping Officer was to provide access, to all relevant information associated with anti-doping, to all our Senior intercounty teams. The Anti-Doping Officer also distributes wallet cards to our members which provide information on the banned list and anti-doping rule violations. An anti-doping workshop was facilitated and available to all counties. In 2017 five of the Senior intercounty panels attended these workshops and there are five more of these workshops planned for 2018. The availability of anti-doping information via www.camogie.ie was also reviewed and updated during the year.

In an era where supplementation and sports nutrition is an ever-growing trend it is important to realise that there are several risks associated with supplementation. Food supplements are designed to complement a well-balanced diet. We believe that a 'food first' approach is a much better method for achieving nutritional goals. Supplements should never be a substitute for good nutrition. Supplementation should only be considered where consumption of a nutrient is not possible during regular dietary food intake. Any supplementation should be considered with extreme caution and only with the support of a qualified dietician/nutritionist.



During the 2017 intercounty season there were four 'in-competition' tests carried out. These tests were completed by Doping Control Officers on behalf of Sport Ireland. All four tests were negative.

1.1.2 Player Welfare Research

The Association's first Player Welfare Co-ordinator was appointed in May 2017. One of the primary concerns for the Co-ordinator was to create a research project to assess what players felt were the biggest priorities for the Association from a Player Welfare perspective. To this end it was decided to carry out a Player Welfare Survey which would be made available to all adult Camogie players (over 18 years old). To help design this survey the Player Welfare Co-ordinator, assisted by the Chair of the Player Welfare Committee, facilitated a focus group meeting with a small group of club players. A research advisory group was also formed, comprising of members with expertise across a variety of subject areas, to help identify questions that were relevant to the research. In October, the Camogie Association went live with its Player Welfare Questionnaire. The questionnaire got a great response and, by close, 664 respondents had fully completed it. Data analysis of the results is ongoing.

Interim analysis of the Player Welfare Questionnaire has emphasised the need to provide better supports for mental health issues in all clubs nationwide. One of the major priorities for the Player Welfare Co-ordinator going forward is to identify how the Association can respond to this and other identified Player Welfare needs. Some key interim findings from the research are documented on page XX of this Report. The final report will be available later in 2018.

Epidemiological study of injuries in Camogie

We also commenced a partnership with DCU School of Health and Human Performance to research the epidemiology of injuries in Camogie. This is the first Camogie injury epidemiological research since 1989. The 1989 research looked at Camogie-related admissions to an emergency department. Most of their injuries were more serious traumatic injuries

such as hand (33% of all injuries) and facial injuries (28%). The 1989 research was also carried out before mandatory helmet wearing (2011) so this may have affected the number of facial injuries noted (helmets with facial protection have been shown to reduce eye injuries in hurling).

There have been several epidemiology studies on hurling injuries (including prospective studies), but only one on Camogie injuries, so the research findings from the DCU study will be completely new. Establishing injury epidemiology is the first step in injury prevention models, therefore the study findings will be important in the development of injury prevention interventions.

The DCU injury questionnaire is based on a previously validated questionnaire used in Australian Rules female footballers. 498 Camogie players responded to the questionnaire with an average age of 25 years old. Interim results from the study will be available later in the Spring.

1.1.3 Player Welfare Initiatives

Protection from injury

Within Camogie, players can put themselves at injury risk by not complying with several playing rules that are in place to ensure their safety. The practice of players removing bars from their helmet faceguard or wearing helmets that are non-compliant with safety standards requirements is an unnecessary risk. Players, of all ages, wearing jewellery while training or in games are also putting themselves at an unnecessary risk.

Over the course of 2018 we will roll out a player education initiative highlighting players' responsibility on these matters.

There are several motions for consideration at this year's Annual Congress that seek to clarify and strengthen our playing rules on these matters. The motions clarify the sole responsibility of the player on the wearing of standard, compliant helmets and of the requirement to not wear jewellery.

Asthma and Concussion Awareness

The Player Welfare Co-ordinator has maintained contact with the Asthma Society of Ireland (ASI) to re-establish the link initiated in 2016. Discussions with the ASI are continuing and it is hoped that the Asthma Friendly Clubs Project will be re-modelled and launched in 2018. The project was initially started in 2016.

Concussion is another other area of concern for the Association. The Player Welfare Co-ordinator attended the GAA Concussion Symposium in 2017. Currently we adopt the GAA protocols related to concussion. It is recognised that there is a need to expand these protocols to include gender specific protocols for female players. In 2018, the Camogie Association will strive to include amendments to the GAA concussion protocols that specifically relate to female athletes.

1.1.4 Player Recognition

At national level, the Annual All-Stars event is a wonderful recognition of the excellence and achievement of intercounty players.

This event was sponsored by Liberty Insurance and 15 Senior players received coveted All-Stars Awards, and 15 players from across the Intermediate and Premier Junior grades were honoured with Soaring Stars Awards. This was an increase of 11 Soaring Stars Awards from 2016.

Additionally, three Players' Players of the Year Awards were awarded across the Championship grades in association with the WGPA and Liberty Insurance. Paudie Murray of Cork won the Manager of the Year Award.

A full list of winners is outlined in Appendix 5.

As mentioned earlier in the report, the inaugural Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Tour took place in Madrid. The tour comprised of the All-Stars winners from 2017 and 2016, along with Manager of the Year Paudie Murray and his predecessor Ann Downey, 2017 All-Ireland Final Referee Owen Elliott, officials from the Camogie Association (headed by President Catherine Neary and Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn) and

Liberty Insurance, and members of the media. This was a commitment from our National Development Plan and proved to be a great success.

The inaugural Camogie Association Player of the Leagues Awards took place in May of 2017 and were a great success. (See Appendix 5.)

1.1.5 Government Grants Scheme for Intercounty Camogie and Ladies Football

Work on the collaboration between the Camogie Association, LGFA and WGPA Grants Scheme 2017, to administer the government funding via Sport Ireland, is outlined in the preceding section of this report on page XX. This funding was newly introduced last year and has made a very significant impact in its first year. Work on administering the 2018 funding is actively underway.

1.2 Fixtures Planning

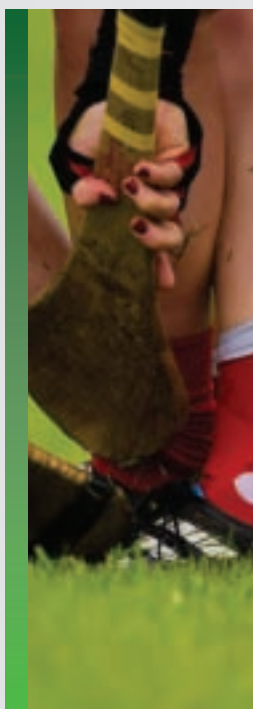
It remains vital that all club players have access to a meaningful and age appropriate games programme.

At national level we have set an interim target to have in place a minimum of 12 games per year at Club level for players at single age level up to the age of 16.

We conducted research in 2017 to establish a baseline and to get a sense of how well the Association provides a Club games programme for players.

There is no exact science to establishing the number of games a Club player should get a year at their own grade for many reasons:

- Number of Clubs in a county
- Number of Clubs in each age group or at adult level
- The number of clubs in each grade
- Structure of competitions e.g. knock-out, round robins, Semi-Finals etc.
- The dependence on some players to play across two or three age groups/grades
- The wide ranging intercounty fixtures at key playing transition age groups.



The tables below are drawn from Under 16 fixture results in 2016 from a sample of counties across tiers 1, 2 and 3.

The first table presents selected data from Tier 1 counties. It highlights the maximum and minimum number of games played by Under 16s at various grades within these counties in 2016.

Tier 1 County	A		B		C		D		E		F		G	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
U16A	8	3	7	4	12	9	11	9	7	5	7	9	15	12
U16B	5	3	8	4	10	8	11	6	7	5	5	10	15	09
U16C	8	5	8	5	-	-	12	10	7	5	5	10	17	11

This next table illustrates the games programme that was implemented for Under 16s at club level in Tier 2 counties. This data is available from Under 8 to Adult level for every county. During 2018, we will work with Clubs, County Boards

and Provinces to examine the issues arising from these findings and to explore how to improve the number of meaningful games available to all players.

Tier 2 County	A		B		C		D		E		F		G	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
U16A	9	7	17	14	5	5	12	11	11	10	12	10	6	4
U16B	10	8	17	11	5	5	17	15	11	10	8	7	5	4
U16C	10	8	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The next table presents data from a selected range of Tier 3 counties.

Tier 3 County	A		B		C		D	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
U16A	9	7	6	5	4	3	11	9
U16B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U16C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Some counties in Tier 1 and Tier 2 are reaching the target of 12 games per year at Under 16. The target of 12 games per year is being exceeded in a small number of instances. It is exceeded more often in Tier 2 counties.

This data and the full set of information on fixtures will require us to think differently about aspects of our fixtures.



The scope to put in place a Club games programme across County boundaries, in regional clusters, within or across Provinces or in other new formats may need to be explored.

This is so we can meet one of our primary purposes as a sports body, to ensure that players get a chance to do what they do best and what they want to do – simply play matches.

1.3 Player Retention

A focus on player retention is an explicit priority under our National Development Plan.

A Player Retention Co-ordinator was newly designated at staff level in 2017. Over the course of the past 12 months a number of key player retention projects commenced and are summarised below.

1.3.1 Working Group on Player Retention

A working group on player retention was established comprised of Liam Ryan (Kildare), Ronan Toner (Antrim), Cormac Ginty (Offaly), Mary Grehan (Roscommon), Peter Casey (Clare) and Caroline Murray (former Player Retention Co-ordinator).

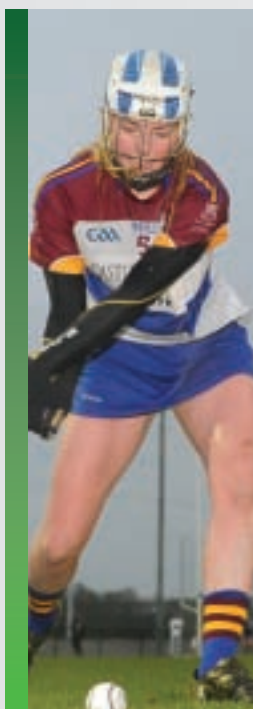
The terms of reference for the group were established as:

- Use Camogie specific research in the area of player retention and drop-off to formulate a working group plan on player retention
- Pilot player retention initiatives as outlined in working group plans to identify what works for the sport of Camogie
- Use findings from pilot to formulate key actions for subsequent player retention plans/initiatives

A research study *Where is She Now?* was undertaken to investigate current drop-out rates in the sport. The study comprised of two parts.

(i) Players on Under 14 intercounty squads in 2012 and 2013

The first was an analysis of players who were on Under 14 intercounty squads in 2012 and 2013. These were tracked to determine if they were



playing with their club and county in 2016 when they were Under 18 and Under 17 respectively.

1,144 girls were tracked from 28 counties. 633 players were from 2012 panels and 511 were from 2013 panels.

- Overall 80.3% were still playing with their Club in 2016. This is a 19.7% drop-off.
- 84.3% from the 2013 squads were still playing Club Camogie in 2016 when they were Under 17.
- 77.1% from the 2012 squads were still playing Club Camogie in 2016 when they were Under 18. This shows a further drop-off between Under 17 and Under 18 groups of 7% (84% to 77%).
- Overall 40.3% were still playing Camogie with their County in 2016 and 59.7% were no longer on County panels.

The main reasons reported by clubs for drop-out were lack of interest, other sports/interests, study/exams.

The second part of the study focused on players who were involved in Camán to Croker, National Camogie participation initiatives for Under 12s from 2013 to 2015.

(ii) Under 12 Camán to Croker Players

Players on their club teams that attended the Camán to Croker events in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were tracked to see if they were still playing in 2017 when they were Under 16, Under 15 and Under 14.

2,214 girls were tracked from 28 Counties. 509 players were from 2013, 856 players were from 2014 and 849 players were from the 2015 Camán to Croker initiative.

- Overall 78.6% were still playing with their club in 2017. This is a 21.4% drop off of players involved in Camán to Croker Under 12 events in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

There was a further 10% drop-off when players reached the Under 16 age group with nearly 30% not playing at this stage. This highlights

that a key age for implementing an intervention to prevent drop-off is when players move from Under 15 to Under 16 age groups.

The main reasons reported by clubs for drop-out of this age group included: other sports/interests, lack of interest/enjoyment, friends not playing, not feeling good enough/skilful enough to continue playing.

The implications of these findings will be reflected in player retention projects to be initiated in 2018.

An awareness programme on communication and building rapport with players, for coaches working with young players, and speed leagues for teenagers was developed and implemented in 2017.

1.3.2 Communication & Building Rapport with Players

Coaches are one of the key influencers that interact with players in our Clubs. The impact of a coach is one of many contributing factors influencing player retention in the game. If coaches can think about the influence they have and how they communicate with players this may lead to changes in behaviour that have a positive effect on player retention.

Developed by Player Retention Working Group member, Peter Casey, a pilot workshop took place in Kildare (Naas GAA) and in Offaly (Birr). 25 coaches completed the workshop in Naas with 18 attending in Birr. Following this, several workshops were delivered during the year and these are continuing in 2018.

1.3.3 Floodlit Speed Leagues for Teenagers

'Speed Leagues' were implemented in 2017 on a pilot basis in a number of counties. The Speed League concept has been implemented in Antrim for the past number of years with excellent results. Teams play small-sided games at speed on Astro pitches (often floodlit) getting as many touches as possible to develop their Camogie skills and speed. The games continue with no sidelines or wides and there is quick puck-out after scores to keep the speed of the game up.



Teams are rotated every 7-10 minutes. Girls who are not playing take part in games-based coaching and stretching until their team is back on the Astro.

The structure was very popular for teenagers when run as a pilot during the Halloween break (and off-season) in Galway and Offaly with over 180 players participating across the two counties. It is a simple idea to keep teenagers active in the sport and one that counties can easily implement during breaks from school or over a number of weeks under lights. Galway also ran a Speed League programme for Under 11 girls and 140 players participated.

1.3.4 Camogie4Teens

Camogie4Teens was rolled out extensively in 2017. Return visits to clubs who participated in this initiative were completed in Wexford and Wicklow and new programmes commenced in Antrim. The return visit included nutrition and lifestyle workshops. Across 2017, 111 girls participated in Camogie4Teens from 34 Clubs.

1.3.5 Under 16 and Minor 7s Blitzes in Connacht and Leinster

To ensure playing opportunities for players a Blitz for Under 16 Club teams was organised in both Connacht and Leinster, 37 teams from 11 counties participated with 423 players and 20 referees involved. Leinster also ran a Minor Club 7-a-side competition with 9 teams from across 5 counties and 90 girls attending.

1.3.6 The Legends Tournament

Social or recreational Camogie is a key element of player retention. For the past number of years this approach, through the annual Legends Tournament has continued to support the retention of older players in the game.

The 7th year of the annual Legends Tournament for past players who have retired from Intercounty Camogie was held in na Fianna GAA Club, Dublin in April. A postponement from the original date on All-Ireland Club Finals weekend (March 4th) due to adverse weather saw a decrease from 9 to 4 in the number of participating teams. Dublin won the Bidy





Winning is not always the best indicator of a young player's enjoyment

of their sport or of their experience of being engaged and learning their sport or of their likelihood of staying involved in sport.

Phillips Cup with Galway winning the Shield competition.

In a review of the tournament conducted in 2017 there was resounding support for the tournament from the counties and players that participated in the last number of years.

The Roll of Honour for the Legends Tournament is listed in Appendix 6.

1.4 Technical Development

1.4.1 Go Games and Intercountry Underage Academies Policy

Go Games have become an integral part of playing our sport for young people aged Under 12. The Go Games philosophy is to support players to develop at their own pace and to be exposed to the game in a positive, participative and progressive way. In 2017 the Association reviewed and renewed its commitment to Go Games through a policy review.

Unfortunately, the Go Games message can sometimes be contested. Winning can be valued more than fun, engagement and the graduated development of young players' skill, ability and tactical awareness.

Competing is part of the game of course, but an over-emphasis on winning can leave a mixed legacy. Winning is not always the best indicator of a young player's enjoyment of their sport or of their experience of being engaged and learning their sport or of their likelihood of staying involved in sport.

The Camogie Association's Go Games policy and our revised policy on Intercountry Underage Academies, also reviewed in 2017 and again in February 2018, are both grounded in the philosophy of positively developing players and of developing them as people. The structure and context of the Intercountry Underage Academies (for players aged from Under 14 to Under 17) are different to Go Games but that philosophy of player and person development remains central.



1.4.2 Intercountry underage development

The annual National Under 14 Blitz took place in Dublin in September. 1,300 girls from 54 teams and 28 Counties took part across five divisions. The players from this competition paraded in front of the crowd in Croke Park at half-time of the All-Ireland Intermediate Final on Sunday September 10th.

The National Under 15 Blitz Phase 1 and Phase 2 took place in Dublin in July. 19 teams from 14 Counties took part in the competition. Kilkenny were victorious in the Division 1 Cup defeating Dublin. The Division 1 Shield was won by Antrim defeating Kilkenny B. The Division 2 Cup went to Clare who defeated Tipperary B and in the Division 2 Shield Final Kerry defeated Tyrone.

The Under 17 Competition took place in August. Eight teams from seven counties took part in the competition. In the Cup Kilkenny, Clare and Cork participated and Kilkenny defeated Cork in the Final.

In the Shield competition Antrim, Carlow, Kerry, Meath and a Cork divisional team Imokilly, took part with Meath defeating Antrim in the Final.

1.4.3 Progress to Success U16 All Ireland Development Competition

Tier 3 counties are designated in the National Development Plan as areas to grow the game.

In 2016 the Camogie Association inaugurated a development programme – the *Progress to Success* Championship challenge for Under 16 County squads to support their transition into national competition. Its aim is to provide meaningful games development opportunities for players and coaches.

2017 was the second year of this initiative and Donegal, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, and Wicklow participated in the programme. Each county participated in two Championship Blitz days and progressed from there to Quarter and Semi-Finals and to the Finals. Mayo were victorious over Wicklow in the Final. In 2018 Mayo have graduated to national competition and have

entered the Under 16C All-Ireland Championship along with 2016 *Progress to Success* winners Tyrone.

1.4.4 Strike for Glory Under 18 All-Ireland Development Competition

In 2017 we inaugurated *Strike for Glory*, also for Tier 3 counties. Donegal, Kerry, Mayo, Monaghan, and Wicklow participated in the programme. Each county participated in two Championship Blitz days and progressed from there to Quarter and Semi-Finals and to the Finals. Kerry were victorious over Wicklow in the Final.

The Association's focus on the player pathway for young players was prioritised by newly designating a staff member in 2017 as our Youth Development Co-ordinator.

1.5 Talking Camogie – a national debate on Camogie playing rules and competition structures

Over the Summer last year, 120 people, from 79 Clubs and 19 Counties participated in a national consultation called *Talking Camogie*. The consultation focused on people's views about how the game is played and feedback was sought on three recommendations on rule changes arising from the National Fixtures Review undertaken in 2016.

The three recommendations were:

- (i) That a player must be aged Over 16 to be eligible to play Adult Club Camogie (currently the age is Over 15)
- (ii) That a player must be aged Over 18 to play Adult Intercountry Camogie and that the move towards this would be phased in (currently the age is Over 16)
- (iii) That the All-Ireland Minor Championship structure would change from its current national open draw structure to a Provincial Championship structure acting as a qualifying competition with Connacht counties to be accommodated in an equitable system.



Ard Chomhairle reflected on the feedback from the *Talking Camogie* series. It has not proceeded with a motion to implement a change to age eligibility for players at Adult Club level; although Clare Camogie has separately submitted such a proposal.

The proposal to amend the structure of the All-Ireland Minor Championship was considered at Ard Chomhairle and it was decided that the current structure would prevail without change.

Ard Chomhairle has a motion before Annual Congress to increase the age eligibility for players at Adult Intercounty level from 16 to 17. This approach reflects the overall feedback from the *Talking Camogie* series that in the long-term could be good for player retention and player pathway development.

Participants in the *Talking Camogie* series were also invited to discuss playing rule changes (as Annual Congress 2018 will consider these). Circa 20 playing rule changes were discussed.

Overall there was a lot of comment about the interpretation of the Rules, and the inconsistency of refereeing, with views that some referees use hurling rules. There was some debate about there not being enough referees and the referees not being respected, with suggestions to counter this including inviting Transition Year students to referee at nursery level, and also obliging clubs to provide a referee.

1.6 Participation and Growth in schools and clubs

1.6.1 Club School Links Programme

A programme to strengthen club school links was piloted in eight clubs last year. Two clubs from each province were involved in a 7-week programme that involved developing coaching sessions for the school and creating the local club link. The clubs involved were Clonkill (Westmeath), Mountbellew (Galway), Moylough (Galway), Newport (Tipperary), Patrickswell (Limerick), Portglenone (Antrim), St. Cillian's (Offaly), St. Patrick's Cullyhanna (Armagh) and Tulsk (Roscommon).



In Leinster, the initiative was conducted in Adamstown, Clonard and New Ross Clubs in Wexford.

In Connacht, all three Mayo clubs received coaching into their respective feeder schools. 12 schools and over 400 children were catered for with this initiative. Roscommon received support in primary schools in the Tusk and Boyle Camogie Clubs with over 200 children coached.

1.6.2 Camogie participation and growth in schools

A range of new schools' coaching initiatives were supported in primary and secondary schools that either require support with their existing clubs, or want to start up a new club. Coaching was also carried out in areas of significant population growth or all-girls schools that would not have had access to GAA coaching. The coaching initiatives were accompanied by a games programme using blitz formats.

In Munster, schools coaching was supported in Killarney and Listowel involving primary schools and 200 girls. In Limerick city three all-girls primary schools were supported involving a further 220 girls. Five secondary schools and 125 girls were engaged in Ennis, whilst coaching in three secondary schools in Clonmel engaged 100 girls.

In Leinster, post-primary schools coaching took place in four Kilkenny schools and three schools in Carlow. An integrated club, primary schools and post-primary schools' initiative is currently running in South Offaly.

In Connacht, in addition to work through the club/schools' link detailed above, Galway schools' coaching was delivered in the primary schools in Ballygar and Loughrea with over 100 girls receiving coaching.

At post-primary level, an inaugural 1st year Camogie Blitz was held in Carnmore, Galway with over 250 participants on the day. Blitzes were 7-a-side and 15-a-side at A and B levels.

13 schools and over 250 girls participated across all levels.

In Leinster/Ulster, a new Camogie Under 16 Development school initiative was run amongst six schools in Monaghan (4 schools), Louth (1) and Tyrone (1).

The initiative aimed to support players in schools to participate in a targeted competitive development league as a pathway for them to move forward to compete in official post-primary competitions in season. Our Lady's Monaghan were the overall winners of a very successful school programme.

A further initiative was run in Monaghan in partnership with the Monaghan GAA Hurling Development Administrator. This was a blitz for first and second year students with four participating schools.

In Donegal, several school-focused blitzes were held in 2017. Schools from Abbey Vocational Donegal Town, Carndonagh College, Crana College, Killybegs, Loreto Letterkenny, Scoil Mhuire Buncrana, and St. Columbas College participated in these throughout the year.

In Derry city, two secondary school coaching programmes were held involving St. Brigid's Derry and St. Mary's Secondary School in conjunction with Na Magha Camogie and Hurling Club.

In Cavan, preparatory work was undertaken in 2017 in advance of running a Foundation Coaching Course in Cavan. This will aim to increase the coaching numbers to support the increase in Camogie participation in primary schools throughout the county. In March 2018, a Transition Year (TY) programme will be piloted in Virginia College. As part of the project the TY students will learn how to coach Camogie to first year's in the school and how to organise and referee blitz matches. The Cavan County Board has organised for blitzes for 1st year students to take place later this year as part of this initiative.

Several post-primary school blitzes took place in 2017 throughout the Provinces.



These catered for schools that were not participating in County, Provincial or All-Ireland post-primary or primary school competition. The post-primary school blitzes were held in each province and catered for students from first year to Leaving Certificate years. In total 1,721 players participated.

Profiling Post-Primary Camogie

Alongside this grassroots activity, research also commenced to establish the participation and playing opportunities across all post-primary schools who were either co-educational or all-girls schools. There are two phases to the study.

Phase one was completed in 2017. This produced baseline data on numbers of all schools who play Camogie and established the current playing activities of all schools involved at this level. Some of the findings from this phase are:

- ☛ **37% of all co-educational and girls' schools play Camogie**
- ☛ **31% of co-educational schools play Camogie**
- ☛ **48% of girls' schools play Camogie Provincially in terms of total schools who play Camogie**
- ☛ **Of the 164 schools (co-educational and girls) in Munster, 80 schools (49%) play Camogie**
- ☛ **Of the 155 schools in Leinster, 46 play Camogie (30%)**
- ☛ **Of the 133 schools in Dublin, 40 play Camogie (30%)**
- ☛ **Of the 66 schools in Connacht, 18 play Camogie (27%)**
- ☛ **Of the 123 schools in Ulster, 53 play Camogie (43%)**

The second phase of the research is currently underway. This involves surveying post-primary teachers for their views on how to strengthen and develop Camogie in future at post-primary level.

The Association's increased focus on Camogie in the education sector was prioritised by a newly designated staff member in 2017, the Club and Education Support Co-ordinator.



Munster (7)
Rockwell Rovers, Co. Tipperary
St. Mary's, Co. Tipperary
Tramore, Co. Waterford
Croagh/Kilfinny, Co. Limerick
Éire Óg Ennis, Co. Clare
Kildorrery, Co. Cork
Bandon, Co. Cork
Ulster (5)
St. Enda's Derrymacnash, Co. Armagh
Collegeland O'Rahillys, Co. Armagh
Newbridge, Co. Derry
Clontribet, Co. Monaghan
Brídíní Óga, Co. Antrim
Leinster (9)
Lough Lene Gaels, Co. Westmeath
Cooley, Co. Louth
Dunderry, Co. Meath
Thomas Davis, Dublin
Round Tower Clondalkin, Dublin
Erin's Own, Co. Killkenny
Round Towers, Co. Kildare
Naomh Eamonn, Co. Laois
Davidstown/Courtnacuddy, Co. Wexford
Connacht (3)
Athleague, Co. Roscommon
Moycullen, Co. Galway
Tuam, Co. Galway

1.6.3 Hurl with Me

For many years the Camogie Association has run many national participation initiatives such as Hurl with Me, Camán to Croker and related provincial events and Hurl Smart Week.

Hurl with Me supports the introduction of parents/guardians to Camogie at club level. 24 clubs took part in the national programme over four weeks in 2017. The programme concluded with a fun and participation day at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown. 400 parents/guardians and 450 daughters participated in the programme. The participating clubs are listed in the table (left).

1.6.4 Hurl Smart Week and Summer Camps

The annual Camogie Association Hurl Smart Week took place in June. 66 clubs participated in the week-long celebration of Camogie activities. Eight clubs received a training session from intercounty Camogie players as a prize for taking part in Hurl Smart Week.

Summer Camps were ran in Laois, Offaly and Roscommon with 250 girls in attendance.

1.6.5 Camán to Croker and Provincial Camán events

A Camán event for Under 12 club teams was hosted in each Province in 2017 as follows:

- Camán to Leinster - GAA National Games Development Centre Abbotstown, March 12th
- Camán to Connacht - Pearse Stadium, March 25th
- Camán to Ulster - Tyrone Centre of Excellence, March 25th
- Camán to Munster - Mallow GAA, April 1st

146 teams attended the Provincial Camán events in 2017. The breakdown was follows:

- Connacht (37): Galway (30), Roscommon (5), Mayo (2)
- Leinster (35): Dublin (14), Kildare (7), Carlow (3), Kilkenny (1), Offaly (2), Wexford (2), Wicklow (3) Laois (2), Meath (1)



- Munster (46): Cork (16), Tipperary (11), Limerick (9), Waterford (3), Clare (6), Kerry (1)
- Ulster (28): Armagh (7), Derry (8), Antrim (5), Tyrone (4), Donegal (2), Down (2)

The culmination of the Camán programme is the annual games day in Croke Park. This was held in April. 64 teams participated with the following representation from provinces and counties:

- Connacht (12): Galway (9), Roscommon (2), Mayo (1)
- Leinster (19): Dublin (8), Kildare (4), Carlow (3), Kilkenny (1), Offaly (1), Wexford (1), Wicklow (1)
- Munster (21): Cork (8), Tipperary (4), Limerick (3), Waterford (2), Clare (3), Kerry (1)
- Ulster (12): Armagh (3), Derry (3), Antrim (2), Tyrone (2), Donegal (1), Down (1)

In conjunction with Munster Camogie Council, additional Under 11 Camán blitzes were held with 47 teams from 40 different clubs and 700 players taking part.

1.6.6 Féile na nGael

The National Féile na nGael competition is the biggest participation event in Camogie. It took place in Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford in June 2017. This was the largest Camogie and Hurling Féile competition to date involving seven Camogie divisions. 112 Camogie teams took part in National Féile (56 host and 56 travelling). See Appendix 4. for the results of the Camogie Finals in the 7 divisions.

Four Regional Féile events also took place. 27 teams competed across the four regions. Results are listed in Appendix 4.

3,000 players aged Under 14 played Camogie as part of the National and Regional Féile na nGael games last year.

26 counties were represented in the Camogie National Skills Competition at Féile na nGael. Amy O'Sullivan (Kerry) won the competition with Alanna Fox (Clare) and Kate Gilchrist (Galway) joint-second and Rebecca Farrell (Tipperary) in third position.



1.6.7 Kildare and Meath

Growing the participation rates in both Kildare and Meath, where there are rapidly growing populations, is a key priority. This was led by a designated Kildare and Meath staff role.

The Under 12 and underage groups (primary school ages) were initially targeted, with focus also on areas of low or non-existent participation in both counties, particularly north Meath, and the greater Newbridge and south Kildare areas.

Initiatives took place throughout 2017, particularly through specific primary schools' initiatives and supporting growth strategies at linked clubs throughout both counties with club/school links established or strengthened. Novice cross-county secondary school leagues were also initiated very successfully (Carlow/ South Kildare and Meath/North Kildare) with schools participating who had not participated previously for some years or, in some cases, for their first time. 14 such secondary schools took part in these leagues and blitzes.

Aggregate growth in registration rates of 25% at Under 12s was achieved across both counties, contributing to an overall aggregate growth of 14%. New clubs commenced in the focus areas at Kilcullen (Kildare) and St. Colmcille's (Meath,) and with preparatory work put in place for further targeted club development to follow in 2018.

Coach Education levels were also increased considerably with two foundation courses and a Level 1 course running in each county in 2017. A total of 72 new coaches qualified at Foundation Coaching Level with 31 coaches qualifying at Level 1.

At developmental level, relations have been strengthened with these counties' GAA offices (particularly with hurling development) and with the counties' Local Sports Partnership offices. Other projects included a joint Referees' Foundation Level course (with 22 participants) and First Whistle courses in both counties. This approach to investing resources for a fixed-term to grow and develop the game in a targeted geographical area is proving a useful way to make a difference with limited resources.

Belfast/Derry

In 2018, we will expand this approach by investing in a targeted initiative, in Belfast/Derry, building on the experience of Kildare/Meath. An additional staff member will be recruited for this purpose.

1.6.8 International growth

Britain

The Association supported the first Hurl With Me programme in Britain in 2017 in conjunction with two participating clubs, Erin Go Brágh, Birmingham and Croydon, London.

A foundation referee course was also delivered. The annual All-Britain Championship (ABC) Games were also attended by a representative from the Association (see report from Camogie Board Britain in Committee Reports).

North America

A new recruitment initiative to engage students on visas to the USA as Camogie referees for the Continental Youth Championships (CYC) was completed. The Association was represented at the games themselves by the Uachtarán (see report from USGAA in Committee Reports).

Europe

The Association was represented at the annual Camogie and Hurling European Finals in Dresden and at a coaching initiative by Hamburg GAA. Building on this, it is hoped to deepen support to European Units over the coming months.

Aside from the above, many of our international units were supported through the dissemination of resources and links have been made with the relevant GAA officers to ensure that we can build on this support base into 2018 (see reports in Committee Reports).

More tailored support to international Camogie is now possible through the designated Club and Education Support Co-ordinator role.



Since the end of 2017 it is Camogie Association policy that all coaches involved with underage teams/ players must have a basic coaching qualification course (Foundation Level).

An underage player or team refers to those who are aged Under 18.

The Foundation Level coaching qualification refers to either a Camogie Association Foundation Accreditation or a GAA Hurling Foundation Accreditation only.

1.7 Referee Education and Development

There were 30 Referees on the National Referee Panel in 2017. Referees undertook twice-yearly fitness testing in Athlone IT and advice and guidance was provided on how to improve and maintain fitness pre-season and during competition.

In partnership with Cavan Institute our national referees benefited from the use of GPS units in several national competitions and finals. The data collected from this assists in improving referee fitness programmes and in supporting the referees to be more informed of how much ground is covered during a game, field positioning, intensity of effort, stamina and so on.

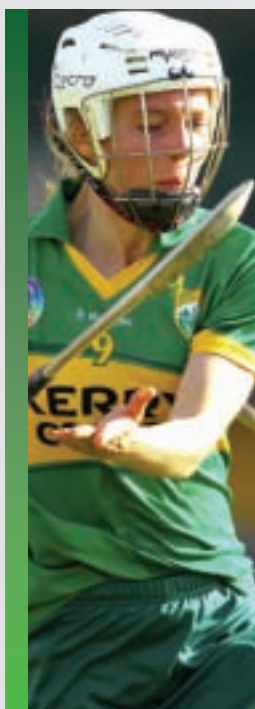
In 2017, tutor training took place in Dublin with five new tutors receiving training. Ulster Camogie also organised tutor training with a further nine tutors receiving training. There are 18 trained tutors and 11 were active in 2017.

During 2017, 13 referees participated in the Peter Downey Referee Academy, which was launched in March of 2017. Three training days were held in Croke Park with themes including work rate, positioning, communication, managing people and teamwork. In 2018, these referees will be assessed and mentored with the intention of utilising them at the National Under 14 All-Ireland Blitz in September, the Under 15 All-Ireland Blitz and Provincial & County Under 14 blitzes.

In preparation for the 2017 National Féile na nGael competition three Referee Foundation courses were specifically organised and run in advance. Further Referee Foundation courses took place in Antrim, Armagh, Cork, Derry, Galway and Meath with 179 referees completing and passing courses.

300 referees were trained in 2017.

The Association newly designated a staff member to lead on referee education and development. This provided for a significant increase in referee activity and liaison with the GAA in relation to referee education.



We commenced using technology-enhanced learning via the GAA E-learning website. For the first time, Camogie referee exams are now completed online following the conclusion of referee courses.

We hope to build on this in the future by making content available online for national referees initially and later rolling it out to Provinces, Counties and International units.

Referee education course content was reviewed and amendments and changes were made.

More relevant content was created in new areas such as conflict management/confrontation, communication and report writing during 2017.

1.8 Coach Education and Development

The Camogie Association strongly believes in having quality coaching structures in place aligned with a detailed player pathway for our sport.

In the last 10 years Camogie in conjunction with Sport Ireland Coaching have developed and reviewed our coaching structures to have Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 coach education courses that are conducted via our coach education tutors who qualified through Sport Ireland Coaching.

Coaching of teams/individuals by suitably qualified individuals impacts greatly on players' long-term enjoyment, participation and ability to play the sport.

1.8.1 Accrediting Coaches

The biggest challenge sporting organisations face is the recruitment of people to coach. We focus on recruitment through the administration of Foundation Level courses from which people progress to Level 1 (underage) and Level 2 (coaching of adult club teams and minor intercounty teams).

In 2017 897 Camogie coaches were accredited. The breakdown of accredited coaches per tier was:

- Tier 1 counties 491 coaches
- Tier 2 counties 212 coaches
- Tier 3 counties 194 coaches

These coaches were accredited through 34 Foundation courses and 11 Level 1 courses. One Level 2 course was ran in 2017 and 15 coaches attended from five counties; Clare, Cork, Kildare, Limerick and Waterford.

Since the end of 2017 it is Camogie Association policy that that all coaches involved with underage teams/players must have a basic coaching qualification course (Foundation Level).

An underage player or team refers to those who are aged Under 18.

The Foundation Level coaching qualification refers to either a Camogie Association Foundation Accreditation or a GAA Hurling Foundation Accreditation only.

The context for this is to ensure that all Units are best placed to give assurance that children are being coached in a safe environment. Under new legislation (Children First 2015) each Unit will be obliged to undertake a risk assessment on the safeguarding of children and the requirement to have accredited coaches is part of the process to minimise risk. This matter is again considered later in the report under the report on Off the Pitch and Governance Best Practice.

1.8.2 Coach Education Tutors

The Camogie Association in conjunction with Sport Ireland Coaching accredited 10 new coach education tutors who are all now actively tutoring.

1.8.3 Coaching resources and initiatives

An exciting year is planned for coach development in 2018. This will involve the development and accessibility of new resources to all club coaches. A new Player Pathway Development Workshop for all counties will be implemented to continue to develop our club and county players whilst creating and developing a clear pathway for all coaches from grassroots to elite levels. New coaching-themed briefings were initiated early in 2018 and these will continue along with the development of a coaching podcast.

The next section of the report reviews progress relating to the public profile of Camogie over the past 12 months.

Section 2: In the Public Eye

The focus of the second strategic area of the National Development Plan, 'Our Sport, Our Future 2016-2019' is to promote Camogie to a wider audience and to focus on the commercial development of the sport.

Several important and new communication and marketing initiatives were undertaken in 2017 under the following action areas:

- (a) Broadcasting of Camogie
- (b) Commercial business development
- (c) Positioning programme
- (d) Branding initiatives





2.1 Broadcasting of Camogie

2.1.1 Growing TV audiences

As well as an increased attendance on the day of September's All-Ireland Finals for the third year running, the Finals also drew in an increased television audience which saw 374,000 viewers tuning in at its peak for the Senior Final which was broadcast live on RTÉ 2.

This was an increase of 46,000 on the peak of 328,000 viewers who tuned in for the 2016 Finals. An average of 276,800 viewers tuned into the live coverage of both the Intermediate and Senior Final, representing a 30% share of the market.

These increases were assisted by an improved schedule of live matches and highlights packages both online and on television by the Association in 2017. Key to this improved schedule was the live television broadcast of both of this year's Senior Quarter-Finals for the very first time.

A significant investment was made by the Association and its commercial partners Liberty Insurance, to bring the All-Ireland Senior Quarter-Finals to as wide an audience as possible via a live broadcast. The addition of the Quarter-Finals to the Semi-Finals which were added in 2016 has been an outstanding success in ensuring regular, high-quality coverage of our game to a large audience.

In 2017 the Association once more commissioned highlight packages of feature matches throughout both the National League and All-Ireland Championships that were published online via Social Media as well as regularly being featured on the RTÉ Six One News and *The Sunday Game*. This was in addition to *The Sunday Game* also including their own feature match, therefore ensuring that footage from two matches per round of the Championship were covered weekly on *The Sunday Game*.

The longstanding relationship with RTÉ Sport is vital to the promotion of the game. The significant audience figures of RTÉ's *The Sunday Game* serves to bring the game to a

wider audience and our positioning on RTÉ's *The Sunday Game* along with the GAA Hurling highlights packages and games ensures that we are viewed at peak times.

In October, TG4 provided live coverage of the All-Ireland Intermediate Final Replay from the Gaelic Grounds which saw the Championship's television coverage stretch right into the Autumn. This was a welcome development and is an area where further opportunities to work with other broadcasters will be explored.

This year's Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 1 Final in May was broadcast live on TG4 as part of a double-header bill with the GAA Allianz Division 1 Hurling League Final in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick. It marked the fourth consecutive year of the broadcast of the Division 1 Camogie Final and by pairing the game with the Division 1 Hurling Final, it allowed the game to not only feature as part of a live broadcast but also brought it to a wider GAA audience, who were in attendance, and also to those who were viewing the game at home.

Positioning Camogie with Hurling games, is an important element in securing live broadcasts.

The strategy that the Association pursues to increase our broadcast output is an important consideration and is a key part of the National Development Plan.

The balance between committing to investing financial resources into securing increased broadcast coverage and investing resources into raising our attendance levels at our games, is one that needs to be struck, and sustainability, long-term, must be at the core of this.

2.1.2 Growing Online viewing audiences

Online resources, particularly social media are an important and continuously developing avenue for the Association to grow its audiences for viewing our games.

In March the All-Ireland Senior and Intermediate Club Championships Finals were broadcast live online from Croke Park for the first time

with thanks to support from the competition sponsor AIB. This unique initiative brought the Club Finals into homes across the world for the very first time and was a great boost to this competition.

In November, once more in conjunction with our sponsor AIB, the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final as well as its subsequent Replay a week later were both streamed live online. This was the second consecutive year that this Final was streamed live online.

Similarly, in April the National Camogie League Division 1 Semi-Final between Galway and Kilkenny was streamed live online from Semple Stadium once more thanks to support from the competition sponsor Littlewoods Ireland.

As this platform continues to provide new opportunities, particularly to collaborate with sponsors in a cost-effective manner it is a key area for the sport to explore to continue to secure greater coverage and bring Camogie to wider and new audiences.

During the summer's All-Ireland Championships, the Association provided funding to counties competing in the All-Ireland Intermediate and Premier Junior Championships to commission highlights packages for distribution on their own Social Media channels.

Five counties availed of this funding and provided highlights packages of 11 matches.

This was in addition to the Association's own commissioning of match highlights from a featured Senior Championship match during each round of the group stages which was then circulated online via social media as well as being used by RTÉ News and *The Sunday Game* each week.

Such online coverage is complimented and supported by other online videos and streaming features such as analysis packages and competition draws etc. and continues to grow the exposure of our sport to allow for more consistent and in-depth coverage.



Given the level of control and relative low-cost of providing online content compared to other options it will continue to be an avenue which the Association explores and builds upon.

2.2 Commercial Business Development

2017 saw Littlewoods Ireland introduced as a new top tier partner of both the Camogie Association and the GAA. The fashion, electrical and homewares retailer signed a three-year deal and the National Camogie Leagues rebranded as the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues.

This exciting partnership provided the Association with a great opportunity to work with this innovative brand, further boosting the profile of both the National League and Camogie in general. A strong and innovative marketing campaign supported the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues using the #StyleOfPlay hashtag, and further enhanced the profile of Camogie and the National League.

The Camogie Association continues to work closely with the All-Ireland Club Championships' sponsors AIB. In 2017, new opportunities for promoting Camogie were executed as part of the AIB All-Ireland Club Championships through the live streaming of Finals. Agreement was also reached with AIB to further extend their sponsorship of the Club Championships.

The All-Ireland Camogie Championships were successfully sponsored by Liberty Insurance. 2017 experienced further increased attendances, viewership numbers and live primetime TV coverage.

The Liberty Insurance Squad Goals campaign was a great success reaching out to the grassroots level of the Association. It encouraged Clubs across the country to enter their 'squad' into the competition with the opportunity of winning the top prize of €8,000 for their Club. The entry and voting process was done online via Facebook and a dedicated Squad Goals website. The Semi-Finals of the competition took place in Nowlan Park with four clubs showcasing their best Camogie skills and the Final between the two top clubs took

place in Croke Park at half-time of the All-Ireland Senior Final. Gailltír from Waterford were the winners, scooping €8,000 for the Club.

The involvement of our commercial partners in the promotion of our games is vital and the investment into respective promotional campaigns has served to portray Camogie in a new light and has been innovative in the way the sport is represented.

Maintaining strong relationships with current commercial partners but also attracting new brands to the Association is a key priority for the Association. In light of the wider discussion around women in sport and the heightened interest in increasing female participation in sport, there is now a greater interest demonstrated by commercial brands in female sport.

A new Commercial Manager was appointed in April 2017 as part of the new National Development Plan.

2.2.1 Licensing and Merchandising

The Association has signed licensing arrangements with Azzurri, Bodibro, Bourke Sportswear, Cuchulainn Sports, Intosport, Masita, and O'Neills in 2017 for the licensed reproduction of the Camogie Association logo on skorts and jerseys, as per the official rule in the Association Rule Book. Cúl Sliotars are licensed also for sliotars with the Camogie Association logo on them.

It is the responsibility of all county and club units to negotiate with the respective suppliers, in order to gain the best value for money, for their respective unit. All Units are also required to purchase playing gear from licensed suppliers only. There will be greater scrutiny of compliance with this again in 2018.

The Association has provided some event-led merchandising over the past number of years and this continued in 2017 at the Camán to Croker and Golden Ticket events.

2.3 Positioning Programme

2.3.1 Raise The Bar

A new promotional and marketing campaign *Raise The Bar* was introduced in 2017 to promote the summer's All-Ireland Championships. This replaced the previous incarnation *Our Game, Your Game*.

The new campaign featured several figures who are involved in the game in different roles; Cork player Amy O'Connor, former Wexford player Mags D'Arcy, *The Sunday Game* pundit and former Tipperary Manager Liam Sheedy and RTÉ Sports presenter Jacqui Hurley.

The aim of *Raise The Bar* was to continue to build on the positive PR of previous campaigns by disseminating strong visual imagery of the chosen players and interesting content across print and online platforms. The campaign differed however by aiming to have a specific 'ask' of people – that being to *Raise The Bar* in their own way, ultimately by coming out and supporting players by attending matches.

Weekly interviews with a chosen player were then featured in the national media in addition to photography while content was also disseminated across our online channels and other online outlets. Ensuring good media relationships and providing interesting, eye-catching content was key to the success of the campaign for the 2017 All-Ireland Series.

Raise The Bar presented the players and the sport, through words and imagery, as powerful, committed athletes, and the elite of their sport and therefore deserving of greater levels of support from fans of the game.

2.3.2 Growing Social Media Profiles

The social media profiles of the Camogie Association continue to grow, owing to the consistent dissemination of information across our platforms, relating to our players, games, events, development initiatives and also collaboration with other entities.



Twitter (17,223 followers) and Facebook (32,910 followers) are the two mediums, used most frequently by the Association. In 2017 the Association has also focused on growing its social media audiences to younger demographics via Instagram (4,011) and Snapchat. Our YouTube channel, also featured excellent video content, owing to launches and events throughout the year, in addition to highlights packages from matches throughout the year and match previews.

It was pleasing to see the level of activity that counties and clubs engaged in, on social media, in addition to various players and other involved in the game.

However, the area of social media is still underutilised by counties, clubs, players and supporters alike and it is an area where massive strides can be made for the promotion of the game with relative ease and at a low cost.

There will be a renewed focus on social media in terms of engaging County units to utilise this medium in 2018 with the support of County PROs being vital to progress being made in this area.

2.3.3 All-Ireland Sunday - Sunday Independent Supplement

In September for the second year in-a-row we once more linked up with the Sunday Independent to produce a 4-page pull-out on the morning of the All-Ireland Finals in conjunction with the All-Ireland Championship sponsor Liberty Insurance. This was a strategy to promote the Finals and their TV broadcasting to as many Irish households as possible on the day of the Finals in Croke Park.

Exclusive content was produced for this pull-out including content provided by some of the newspaper's leading sports journalists and the initiative was received very positively and helped to boost the profile of the All-Ireland Finals.

2.3.4 Developing Match Analysis - #CamogieTalk

As part of the overall communications strategy around the 2017 All-Ireland Championships we produced the second series of video packages for online distribution.



This is a serious contest with a serious edge and a lot at stake

NEWS **CROKE** **KILKENNY** **INSIDE**

YOU'VE been advised by some of the most respected and experienced camogie players in the country that the All-Ireland final is a serious contest with a serious edge and a lot at stake. The words of the players are not just empty rhetoric, but the reality of the game is that the All-Ireland final is a contest where the stakes are high and the pressure is intense. The players are not just talking the talk, they are living it. The All-Ireland final is a contest where the players are not just competing for a trophy, but for the pride of their county and the respect of their fellow players. The All-Ireland final is a contest where the players are not just competing for a trophy, but for the pride of their county and the respect of their fellow players.

INSIDE **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U21 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U18 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U16 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U14 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U12 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U10 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U8 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U6 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U4 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U2 CHAMPIONSHIP** **LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND U0 CHAMPIONSHIP**

Entitled #CamogieTalk, these packages featured analysis of the Championship by former players and journalists. Former Cork player Anna Geary was the host of these packages with former Wexford player Ursula Jacob and sports journalist Daragh Ó Conchúir as the regular analysts. Daragh Ó Conchúir also hosted specific packages for the Intermediate and Premier Junior Finals with current players Sarah-Anne Fitzgerald of Laois and Armagh's Gráinne Kelly contributing to these packages in 2018.

Five shows were produced in total and distributed across the Association's social media channels as well as being distributed to other online media outlets. This initiative received excellent feedback in terms of profiling Camogie and providing critical analysis of the season to a wide audience.

A key aim of the #CamogieTalk series was to create and encourage debate regarding the All-Ireland Championships through producing in-depth analysis of matches and the Championships as a whole delivered by Camogie experts.

In turn, this series helped to further inform both the Camogie public and the wider sporting public and media regarding the All-Ireland Championships and the sport in general.

2.4 Branding Initiatives

2.4.1 On The Ball Magazine and Annual Calendar

Two editions of the Association's Official Magazine 'On The Ball' were produced in 2017. The magazine was revamped in terms of design and content and received very positive feedback. The magazine is an important tool to look back at achievements within the Association as well as plans for the coming months but is also increasingly important in terms of raising the profile of the sport and of players in particular as well as focusing on new areas of content such as coaching, player welfare, voluntarism etc.

A 2018 Calendar promoting players and games' activity was also published and disseminated.



Section 3: Off the Pitch

Building sustainable organisational structures is the third strategic priority of the National Development Plan. Four areas were active in 2017 and these are reported on as follows:

- a) Creating a sustainable financial model
- b) Ensuring best practice in governance
- c) Resourcing Counties and Provinces
- d) Club officer support





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It may be timely and appropriate for Camogie Units to designate a serving Executive member or a sub-committee structure to have an overview of insurance provision for the Unit and its members and to ensure that the requirements around same are known to all concerned and are in place.

3.1 Creating a sustainable financial model

The Association's audited accounts for 2017 are presented later in this Report.

The Association's finances have improved year-on-year for several years now and continue to do so. We also have a prudent reserve in place to cover any financial risks.

For the first time, a two-year financial forecast to establish the costs of resourcing the completion of the National Development Plan (to end of 2019) was undertaken. This has been an instructive process and an aid to annual budget and work planning.

3.1.1 Indebtedness Review

Provincial and County Board Balance Sheets for 2016 were reviewed during 2017 and were examined for their procedural compliance in several areas such as (i) the accounts being prepared by an auditor or accountant and (ii) if a balance sheet was provided.

The level of indebtedness of some county units was noted. Units with substantial loans for capital developments on County Camogie grounds were obliged to submit details of their loan repayment plans.

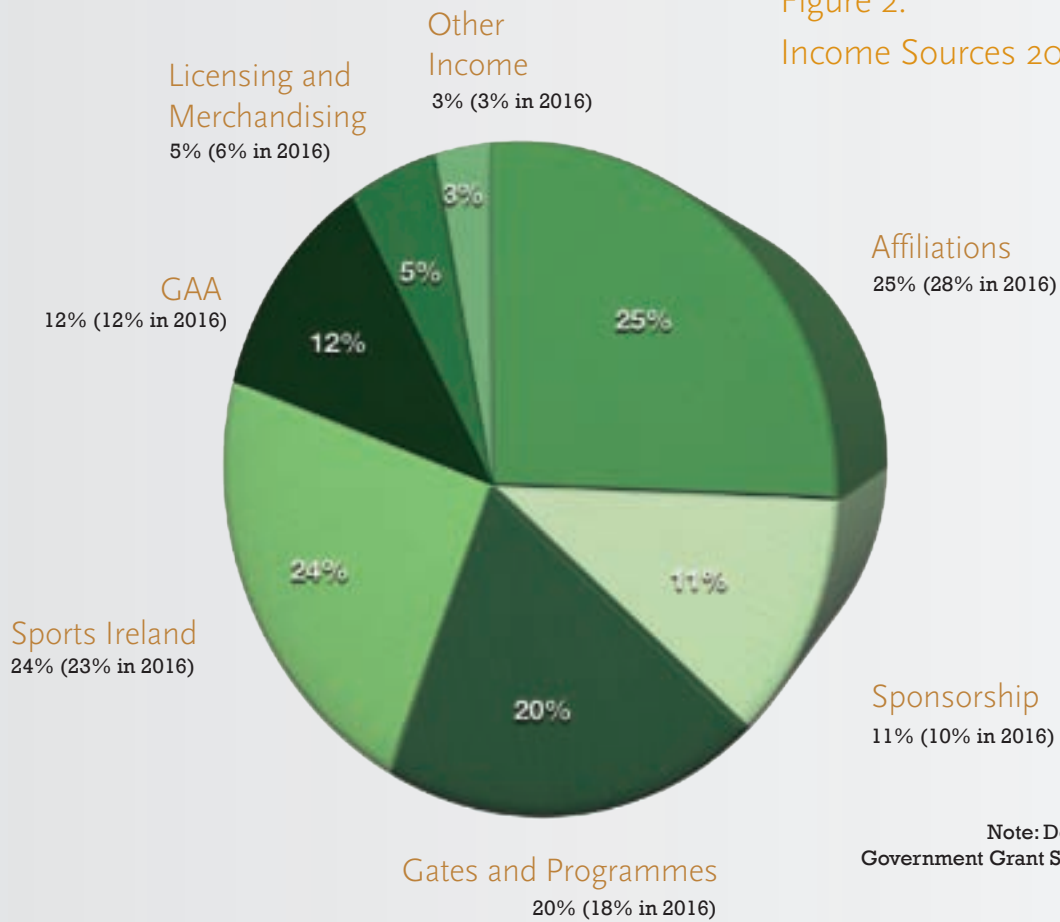
Each year, the Association's Resource Management Committee selects units to undertake a review, with them, of their financial procedures. In 2017 reviews of Munster Camogie Council and Dublin and Kilkenny County Boards were undertaken. Review findings are currently under consideration.

3.1.2 Insurance

The scoping work commenced in 2017 on developing common player insurance/injury fund schemes with GAA and/or LGFA counterparts remains active but did not significantly progress over the past 12 months.

Several other insurance issues were to the fore. This included appraising Units of their responsibilities to ensure that members are properly registered as Camogie Association

Figure 2:
Income Sources 2017



members and to be satisfied that players, people who officiate at games and mentors are covered by appropriate personal accident insurance.

The Camogie Association rules provide for players to go ‘on loan’ to play with team(s) from other clubs, in prescribed circumstances. The matter of insurance cover for those player(s) while on loan elsewhere arose frequently during the year.

At all times player welfare is paramount. The club where the player is playing and/or registered must always satisfy themselves that such players are insured and need to verify this with the relevant insurance provider.

During the year, briefings on public liability, product liability and employer’s liability were provided to Ard Chomhairle, Units and the Provincial and County Chairpersons and Secretaries Network.

The conditions pertaining to this cover under the auspices of the GAA are critically important for Camogie Units to understand and adhere to. These conditions include membership registration, incident reporting, compliance

with health and safety requirements, minimum relevant coaching standards, restrictions on events including awareness of what fundraising methods are excluded from the insurance cover.

It may be timely and appropriate for Camogie Units to designate a serving Executive member or a sub-committee structure to have an overview of insurance provision for the Unit and its members and to ensure that the requirements around same are known to all concerned and are in place.

3.1.3 Attendances and ticketing promotion

Section 3 of the National Development Plan highlights the commitment to consider a strategy to maximise attendance and revenue from national Semi-finals and Finals.

A bumper crowd of 20,793 people attended the All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals in Croke Park on Sunday September 10th.

This made it the fourth highest attendance for a Camogie All-Ireland Final since 1932 and the highest attendance since 2006 for a stand-alone Camogie Final when 20,685 spectators watched Cork complete a two-in-a-row against Tipperary.

The attendance saw an increase of over 25% on the 16,610 that attended the 2015 Final. This increase was the culmination of an integrated marketing strategy and communications campaign of #RaiseTheBar, which focused on promoting the attendance at this year's Finals.

Increasing attendances, not only at the All-Ireland Finals, but at games across all competitions throughout the year, is a priority for the Association and it is imperative that first and foremost members of the Association, come and support their own games. A good example of this was the significant increase in attendance at the All-Ireland Camogie Championship Quarter-Finals, with an increase of 135% on 2016 attendances.

3.2 Governance Best Practice

3.2.1 Child Safeguarding

Since December 11th 2017 the Children First Act commenced. All sectors and organisations, including the Camogie Association, had three months in which to comply with all aspects of the Act.

As part of the Act, Clubs and County Boards are obliged to appoint a Designed Liaison Person and to ensure that concerns about underage players have been reported to the relevant statutory bodies as per their reporting forms. This person can also report consistent poor practice to the National Designated Liaison Person.

At national level, the Ard Stiúrthóir is appointed as the Mandated Person. She must ensure that allegations of abuse are reported as per the Act to the relevant authorities and to assist in any investigations thereafter.

Vetting

Units are now required under legislation to have all coaches, mentors, volunteers and executives who have access to children vetted. These persons must also have completed a child safeguarding workshop. The Unit Children's Officer is responsible for the Unit's compliance on these matters.

E-Vetting, in accordance with the national vetting legislation was developed in 2017 and is in place for the Camogie Association since January 1st 2018. All clubs should have an official secretary. club.county@camogie.ie e-mail address which applications are processed through.

Any club who does not have access to this can contact us directly and we can organise the technical aspect of revalidating or new set-up of e-mail accounts. This process is currently underway for clubs that do not have an active account presently.

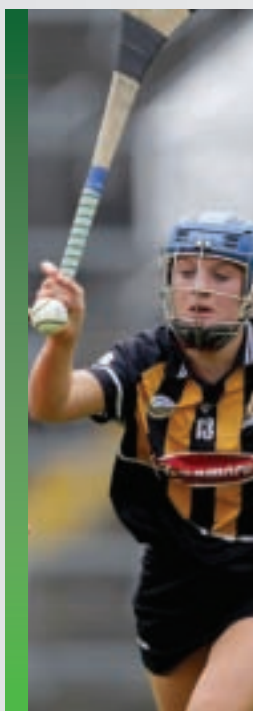
Access NI is the Northern Ireland equivalent currently in use by Ulster GAA for the six counties. This is a similar process used to undertake background checks on persons of responsibility within the Units. There is the same requirement to have all our coaches, selectors, mentors Access NI checked prior to taking up a role of responsibility with children.

When an enhanced disclosure (criminal record charges) is returned to the National Vetting Liaison Office a committee will be formed to risk assess the application and their suitability for their role of responsibility. This committee will constitute a member from our National Child Welfare Protection Committee, our Mandated Person and the Vetting Liaison Officer.

3.2.2 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Initial work commenced in 2017 on the development of a child safeguarding statement and risk assessment process as required under the Children First Act. The Camogie Association, with the GAA and LGFA will agree wording of a joint safeguarding statement which will be circulated to all Units in March. There will also be an update on the risk assessment document for Units.

Under new legislation (Children First 2015) each Unit will be obliged to undertake a risk assessment on the safeguarding of children and the requirement to have accredited coaches is part of the process to minimise risk.



Accredited coaches

Since the end of 2017, the Camogie Association has adopted a new mandatory policy that all coaches involved with underage teams/players must have a basic coaching qualification course (Foundation Level).

An underage player or team refers to those who are aged under 18.

The Foundation Level coaching qualification refers to either a Camogie Association Foundation Accreditation or a GAA Hurling Foundation Accreditation only.

The context for this is to ensure that all Units are best placed to give assurances that children are being coached in a safe environment. Under new legislation (Children First 2015) each Unit will be obliged to undertake a risk assessment on the safeguarding of children and the requirement to have accredited coaches is part of the process to minimise risk.

3.2.3 Unit Children's Officer – compliance with rule

Ard Chomhairle decided to strengthen the infrastructure for child safeguarding when it decided that from February 1st 2018 any unit who does not have a Children's Officer in place is automatically debarred from any underage activity until the Children's Officer position is filled.

Each Unit must notify the higher Unit of the Children's Officers details e.g. details of County Children's Officers must be notified to Provincial Children's Officers.

There is a motion to Congress to transpose this decision into rule.

I strongly commend this motion to Congress as I believe it is necessary for us to be as vigilant as we can to ensure that children have a safe and enjoyable environment to play our sport.

3.2.4 GAA Club Child Welfare and Safeguarding Audit

The results of the first GAA Club and County Child Welfare and Safeguarding Audit were launched at the Child Safeguarding Seminar in November 2017. The audit was cross-code and included Camogie Units. The audit enables us to gauge how the Child Safeguarding agenda has progressed in recent years and how compliant our Clubs and Counties were with our Codes and with statutory requirements.

14% of respondents identified as independent Camogie Clubs with a further 34% of respondents self-identifying as being part of a One Club Model.

3.2.5 Data Protection Policy

Ard Chomhairle considered an interim Data Protection Policy which will be reviewed again to take account of the new forthcoming legislative requirements under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR see below).

3.2.6 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In 2017 preparatory work was undertaken to meet compliance with the new EU General Data Protection Regulations coming into effect from May 25th 2018. All units will be expected to comply with the conditions set out in the legislation as data collectors and storers. The legislation encompasses the collection, storage and distribution of personal information collected by each Unit and the Association. Staff and some Units attended data protection awareness seminars in November 2017 in Croke Park and these were scheduled again in early 2018 in regional venues.

The legislation sets out rules about how this information (personal information) can be obtained, how it can be used and how it is stored. Every person must give their consent for their data to be collected and processed for a specific purpose which must be communicated to them at the time the data is obtained. They must specifically 'Opt-in' and must be allowed to 'Opt-out' at any time. They must also be



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given the opportunity to review the consent they have given on a regular basis (i.e. yearly).

Data must be kept safe and secure and must be kept accurate and-up-to-date. An individual can request a copy of all the personal information held about them (this is called a Subject Access Request) and must be allowed to have all data deleted or returned to them, if they so wish.

Briefings and awareness initiatives for Units will be implemented in the coming weeks to support compliance at every level of the Association.

3.2.7 Social Media Policy

In March 2017, Ard Chomhairle agreed a new Social Media Policy for the Association. This policy is designed to give players, coaches, administrators and officers, referees, mentors, employees, committee members and all other members of the Association direction to ensure that the Association's reputation is carefully managed.

3.2.8 Code of Conduct for All Officers of the Association

In January 2017, the Code of Conduct for All Officers of the Association was amended to also apply to members of Ard Chomhairle and members of its sub-committees. It was also amended to cover compliance by these persons with the Association's confidentiality policy.

3.2.9 Internal Financial Controls Policy Review

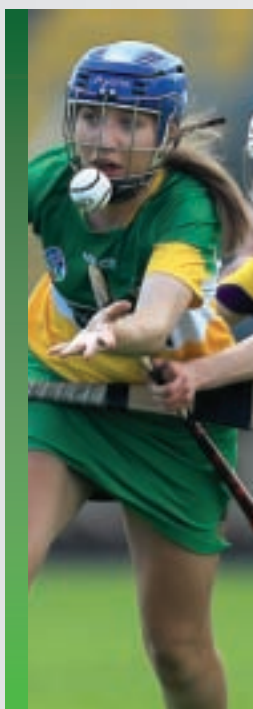
A review of our internal financial controls policy was conducted during the year and a revised policy is now in effect.

3.2.10 Recruitment and Selection Policy

Work commenced on a recruitment and selection policy for the Association. The finalisation of this policy is currently active.

3.2.11 Risk Management Committee

The Association agreed terms of reference for a new Risk Management Committee and also appointed the committee membership.



3.2.12 Lobbying

The Association complied with the requirement of the Regulation of Lobbying Acts 2015 and made returns on the lobbying register in 2017/18. This included a submission on the development of a new national sports policy framework and a Ministerial meeting on the implementation of the government grant scheme for Camogie and Football players.

Separately submissions were made to Sport Ireland on its next Strategic Plan and also on gender quotas for sports governing bodies.

3.2.13 Governance Review

Implementation action 4.3 (a) in the Governance Code stipulates that a board (in our case Ard Chomhairle) review process should be agreed which includes a review of:

- Ard Chomhairle
- The performance of the Chairperson
- The performance of individual members
- The Sub-Committees' performance, structure, size, make-up and
- Adequacy of information for board meetings

At the end of 2017, we commissioned an independent review to:

(i) establish current levels of satisfaction of effectiveness in meeting requirements of Rule 10.5 of the Official Guide Part 1 relating to the powers of Ard Chomhairle

(ii) explore how or if we can improve effectiveness in the incoming Ard Chomhairle which will commence its term post-Congress 2018

(iii) conduct an online self-assessment of individual board members and of board performance and

(iv) identify the gaps (if any) to meet the requirements of the Community and Voluntary Code of Governance by the end of 2018

The findings of the review have been reported to Ard Chomhairle and a follow up action plan is being put in place.

3.3 Resourcing of County and Province

The National Development Plan suggests that, in the interests of good governance by avoiding conflicts of interest, Provincial Officers should not hold County Officerships. A motion relating to this was defeated at last year's Congress.

Ard Chomhairle presents a modified motion to this year's Congress. This motion proposes that Provincial Council Chairpersons cannot simultaneously be County Chairpersons.

I would encourage Units to give this motion serious consideration. As a publicly funded body we are obliged to demonstrate good governance in how we run our sport. Good governance demands that potential conflicts of interest and collective responsibility in decision making are supported and reflected in our administrative procedures. This is the intention of the Ard Chomhairle motion.

3.3.1 Provincial Growth and Participation Co-ordinators

In 2017 the Association recruited three new posts to work in Munster, Connacht and Leinster. (Ulster Council separately employs two staff).

The key purpose of these roles is to develop, manage and support Camogie participation and growth initiatives that support clubs, schools and counties of the Provinces. These are new posts with a new remit to deliver on the national priorities around participation, growth, coaching, refereeing, officer development and the provision of adequate games' programmes.

The post-holders commenced in May 2017 and since then have worked to:

- Act as a communication point between National, Provincial and County structures
- Support national programmes and initiatives such as Camán to Croker at National and Provincial levels, Hurl with Me, Hurl Smart Week and officer development initiatives for counties and clubs

- Link with clubs and schools to ensure the effective promotion of Camogie through Club School links
- Identify the coach and referee education needs within the Province and support and facilitate delivery of courses and initiatives to meet these
- Monitor and report on active coach data and membership trends across the Province
- Review and administer development leagues and blitzes at Club and School levels
- With the Provincial Council Development Officer, co-convene a Provincial Network of County Development Officers
- Support designated counties in their development work including supporting local county development initiatives through funding of activities and personnel.

In the short time since their appointment, engagement has grown particularly with schools at both primary and post-primary levels and particularly these schools who are not playing Camogie. Details of these activities are summarised in section 1.6 of this report On the Pitch. This activity will continue in 2018.

3.4 Supporting Administrators

In 2015 we conducted research that profiled our volunteer administrators. The findings then showed that:

- 78% of respondents to the research were female with 22% male
- 65% of administrators were aged between 40 and 59 years of age
- In terms of time given to volunteering:
- 36% completed administration for Camogie daily with
- 43% spending 0-1 hours per day
- 37% spending 1-2 hours per day volunteering as an administrator

There are increasing expectations by wider society, by funders, by statutory bodies and others for greater compliance by volunteers with legislation, and with policies and procedures that promote best practice in governance.

In the context of the above, methods of volunteer recruitment are also in the spotlight. Certain requirements now expected of people in advance of or while volunteering in our sport include requirements regarding working with children, data protection, coaching and financial compliance.

With time being precious in everyone's life, we need to support volunteer administrators more so as that nobody feels over-burdened with tasks involved in their volunteering role.

To strengthen our capacity to do this we have recruited a Learning and Development Co-ordinator. The key purpose of this role will be to plan and oversee the development and delivery of learning, training and development initiatives in areas such as governance and compliance, leadership, planning and day-to-day administration of Units such as child safeguarding, data protection, membership registration, games development, fixtures planning, supporting players, communications, marketing and business development.

This post comes into effect in March 2018. In advance of this a programme of training was developed in 2017 that focused on specific officer roles. The Volunteer and Communications committees have been instrumental in putting this together for Chairpersons and Secretaries, Treasurers, Registrars, PROs and THDC Committees.

The programme is active in Spring 2018 across all four provinces. Workshops are being delivered by experienced officers within the Association and those with relevant expertise from outside organisations. This is just the beginning of more co-ordinated and appropriate supports that will also reflect different learning methods including e-learning and locally based training.

3.4.2 Volunteer Recognition - Volunteer and Media Awards

The Association has implemented a Volunteer of the Year Awards initiative since 2012 and Media Awards since 2007.

The 2016 winners were presented with their awards at a gala event in the Croke Park Stadium in February 2017. The recipients of the awards are detailed below and in the following table.

The 2016 Mick Dunne Memorial Media Awards recipients were:

Local Media: Wicklow People

Match Programme: Carlow Camogie Board

PRO of the Year: Shirley Moloney, Cork Camogie Board

The 2016 Camogie Association Media Awards recipients were:

Best Media Innovation: Sarah Leahy, Kerry

Digital Promotion: KCLR 96FM

Photography: Tom Fox, Limerick

Volunteer of the Year Awards 2016	
Antrim	Caoimhe McAleenan
Armagh	Jackie Donnelly
Britain	Joni Traynor
Carlow	Margaret Condell
Cavan	Michelle Dunne
Clare	Margaret Lafferty
Cork	Sheila O'Brien
Derry	Dympna Dougan
Donegal	Shirley Doherty
Down	Dolores Canniford
Dublin	Liz Baker
Galway	Gerry Dolan
Kildare	Karen Kelly
Kilkenny	Sheila Norris
Laois	Bernadette Fitzpatrick
Limerick	Olive Sheehan
Louth	Orla O'Connor
Mayo	Miriam Page
Meath	Jimmy Burke
Offaly	Eileen Corrigan
Roscommon	John Haughey
Tipperary	Marie Casey
Tyrone	Kelley Fay
Waterford	Liam Dobbyn
Westmeath	Michele Kirby
Wexford	Rose Breen
Wicklow	Amanda Butler
Special Merit Award	Sarah Jane Joy

Section 4:

Aontas – Strengthening relationships

Our goal under this National Development Plan objective is to show leadership working closely with the GAA to achieve our common aim of delivering Gaelic Games. By 2019 we want to have several shared activities and services that help promote Camogie and Hurling in an efficient way, while working towards achieving greater integration and protecting both codes for future generations.

We also want to promote and maintain close collaboration with others national bodies and organisations.







Within the Camogie Association, since the launch of the *One Club*

guidelines last year, there has been a keen interest from clubs across the country. Several clubs across all four provinces are at the later stages of the process of becoming a *One Club* while others are starting into 2018 commencing discussions on achieving this new model.

4.1 Aontas Programme

4.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding re: National Associations

At the time of writing, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Camogie Association and the GAA has been released.

The Memorandum seeks to establish stronger links between both Associations and is the result of over six months of separate discussion between us.

I would like to extend appreciation to Feargal McCormack who very ably chaired these discussions between the Uachtarán, Ard Stiúrthóir and Uachtarán-Tofa of both Associations.

The Memorandum will become effective only when it has been approved by the Ard Chomhairle (Central Council) of each organisation.

The earlier part of this report makes further comment on this initiative.

4.1.2 *One Club* Guidelines

The three Gaelic Games Associations regularly field questions from clubs on the practicalities of how to bring existing Camogie, GAA and Ladies Football clubs together to administer games through a unified club structure.

In June 2017, all three Associations; the Camogie Association, the GAA and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association jointly published guidelines to give practical assistance within a broad framework to achieve this.

The guidelines are not mandatory. The exact detail of a *One Club* implementation will differ based on the local circumstances of each club.

The guidelines are provided for the benefit of those clubs wishing to enter a *One Club* structure in a spirit of goodwill and for existing *One Clubs* seeking to apply best practice.

Notwithstanding our separate formal identities, the de facto integration of Camogie, GAA and Ladies Football is happening at club level



on a widespread basis around the country and amongst International units.

Each of the associations recognise the benefits of a *One Club* approach in promoting the playing of Gaelic Games at both juvenile and adult level.

Adopting a *One Club* approach facilitates catering for the whole family in an integrated fashion.

The guidelines demonstrate a commitment to encourage and support the *One Club* Model whereby clubs cater for all family members, both male and female.

Within the Camogie Association, since the launch of the guidelines last year, there has been a keen interest from clubs across the country. Several clubs across all four provinces are at the later stages of the process of becoming a *One Club* while others are starting into 2018 commencing discussions on achieving this new model.

Initial feedback from those engaged in the process has highlighted the need for a strong and unified Camogie Club committee to be in situ prior to discussions taking place. This will lead to more favourable outcomes for all involved.

4.2 ChildFund Ireland

The Camogie Association was a proud partner of ChildFund Ireland whose mission is to work internationally to develop an enabling environment where children's basic needs are met and their rights are promoted and respected.

The Dream Bike Campaign was a joint initiative, aimed at providing bikes to girls in countries across Asia and Africa where ChildFund works – in Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uganda. Camogie Association members contributed to the achievement of 137 bikes being provided to enable girls to attend school more easily and get the opportunity to realize their potential, through education.

The Association has continued to promote this initiative as well as ChildFund Ireland throughout 2017 at selected events as well as through online promotion.

Section 5: Appreciation and thanks





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Section 5:

APPRECIATION AND THANKS



Our sport has achieved much over the past 12 months.

This is testament to the endeavours of people at all levels - players, club members, referees, coaches, supporters, the media, sponsors and many more unseen contributions.

I would like to pay special tribute to the thousands of volunteers who are the backbone of the Camogie Association at all levels.

Thank you for all you do.

In 2017, the Association lost one such volunteer a former National President, through the death of Mary 'Ma' Lynch.

Mary Lynch, was the only Monaghan lady to hold the position of President of the Camogie Association. Mary served in many Camogie roles before assuming the highest office. Mary was a former All-Ireland winning player with Dublin in 1949, an intercounty referee, a county team coach, and a county and provincial chairperson.

Mary Moran, another former President recalled that Mary Lynch *"As President ... journeyed to the four corners of the country to promote Camogie. In addition to the normal heavy schedule, she supervised the initial Coischéim, Medical/Coaching Seminar and Youth Convention. At the direction of Congress, she appointed a commission to examine all aspects of the Association. She lent support and encouragement to the members in their efforts to plan the development of the organisation"*.

Mary Lynch served as Trustee of the Camogie Association from 1994 to 2004. Mary was a significant influence on the game in her various capacities and will always be fondly remembered.

Déanaim comhbhrón lena clann agus le daoine eile a chaill duine i rith na mbliana.

In this role there is constant and regular engagement with many people in our common mission to strengthen and promote Camogie.



The most frequent contact is with our Uachtarán Catherine Neary, members of Ard Chomhairle and its sub-committees, County Chairpersons and Secretaries, and Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries.

This Congress closes Catherine's term as Uachtarán and I thank her for her commitment, hard work and achievement over the past three years.

I would also like to wish incoming Uachtarán Kathleen Woods, every good wish for the next three years.

The investment and support of the GAA, of our commercial partners, Liberty Insurance, Littlewoods Ireland, AIB, the National Dairy Council and O'Neills; and our statutory partners, Sport Ireland and Sport NI is crucial to enabling us to drive the profile, reach, participation, professionalism and interest in the game.

Best wishes and thank you to iar-Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail for his active support during his tenure.

I would also take this opportunity to thank Paraic Ó Dufaigh, GAA Ard Stiúrthóir whose support to Camogie over the past 10 years is very much appreciated and valued. I wish him well in his retirement.

Thank you also to Marie Hickey, Helen O'Rourke and their colleagues in the LGFA, and Aoife Lane and Gemma Begley of the WGPA.

This year was a year of change with five new staff posts recruited during 2017. We also welcomed several new staff in various roles. These all remain relatively new still with less than a year's service to date, and they already have made substantial contributions with the achievement

of several projects and contributing new ideas, expertise and energy.

We also said farewell to colleagues who made very significant contributions over time. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and dedication during their tenure.

I am privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as Ard Stiúrthóir since 2013. In that period there have been opportunities, challenges, growth, development and change.

I have been part of an extremely committed staff team who do much unseen and unheralded work. The staff work tirelessly, determinedly, professionally and ambitiously on behalf of our sport.

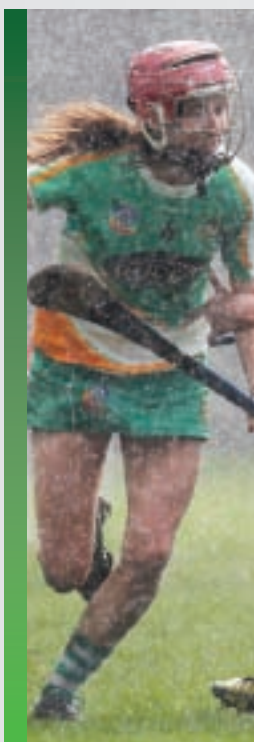
It's a truism that change can be scary but not as scary as staying the same forever. Our National Development Plan demands that we don't stay the same forever.

I believe that this Annual Report, my final to Annual Congress, points to the progressive change and new future that the Association is creating for our sport.

Our volunteer and staff team, combined, are a huge and vital resource that I wholeheartedly pay tribute to for their contribution.

Our passion for Camogie binds us together and that is a powerful force in growing and developing our sport.

Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir



Appendices





Foreword

Overview

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Section 5

Appendices

Accounts

Motions to Congress

Appendix 1:

Ard Chomhairle membership and meetings attended during 2017

Name	Position	Number of meetings attended
Catherine Neary	Uachtarán	8
Joan O'Flynn	Ard Stiúrthóir	8
Aileen Pierce *	Treasurer to Ard Chomhairle	4
Sheila O Donohoe	Secretary to Ard Chomhairle	8
Pat Martin	Leinster Chairperson	8
John Foley *	Munster Chairperson	2
Kathleen Woods	Ulster Chairperson	6
Fiona Hamilton	Connacht Chairperson	7
Hilda Breslin	Leinster Delegate	8
Kitty Morley	Connacht Delegate	8
Brighidin Heenan	Ulster Delegate	6
Marie Kearney *	Munster Delegate	7
Roberta Farrell *	PR & Communication Representative	7
Ailish Whitty *	Coaching and Games Representative	6
Phyllis Breslin	Trustee	5
Marion Graham	Trustee	6

A number of teleconferences were also held during the course of the year.

* From Annual Congress 2017.

Appendix 2:

Staff (As at March 5th 2018)

Position	
Ard Stiúrthóir:	Joan O'Flynn
Technical Development and Participation Manager:	Louise Conlon
Communications Manager:	Cian Nelson
Commercial Manager:	Mary O'Toole
Finance Manager:	To Be Appointed
Operations Co-ordinator:	Stephen Flynn
National Competitions Administrator:	Lizzy McGuinness
Office and Communications Administrator:	Sarah Stanley
Finance Administrator:	Mairéad Fortune
Participation and Growth Officer Kildare/Meath:	Brendan Kenny
Player Retention Co-ordinator:	To Be Appointed
Youth Development Co-ordinator:	Clare Dowdall
Learning and Development Co-ordinator:	Joanne McGlanaghy
Club and Education Support Co-ordinator:	Kathleen Egan
Referee Education Co-ordinator:	Lizzie Flynn
Coach Education Co-ordinator:	Niall Williams
Player Welfare Co-ordinator:	Paul O'Donovan
Connacht Participation and Growth Co-ordinator:	John Mullins
Leinster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator:	Sabrina Larkin
Munster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator:	Stuart Reid
Ulster Camogie Council Staff	
Administration Manager:	Julie O'Neill
Provincial Participation and Growth Co-ordinator:	Niall Jackman

Occasional Roles

Garda Vetting Officer: Ray Quigley

All-Ireland Post Primary Competitions Servicing Officer: Paul Beecher

Occasional Event Manager: Brónagh Gaughan

Intern Support in 2017: Rody Ryan, Jade Sheridan

Former National Staff (who left since Congress 2017)

Damien O'Connor, Ali Nolan, Caroline Fitzsimons, Mary O'Connor, Yvonne Byrne, Eve Talbot, Feena Hosford, Caroline Murray, Paula Bruen

Appendix 3:

Key Performance Indicators of National Development Plan

Key Performance Indicator - By Congress 2020		Report to Congress 2018 - Second Progress Report on National Development Plan
A.	Have in place a minimum of 12 games per year at club level for players at single age level up to 16 (outcome) (U8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 16) and/or each county set a minimum for itself in consultation with Provincial Council (given role re: cross county fixtures)	Desk top research from County Board games programme completed for all ages in 2017 (club fixtures only). Process to be decided for agreeing indicators for each county. Clarify if county specific targets are to be set locally or do Provincial Councils have a role in setting/monitoring as some targets may be achieved via cross-county games. Interprovincial Working Group to be established by end of May 2018 to progress, supported by Technical Development and Participation Manager.
B.	Two additional funding sources secured and one significant commercial partnership in place	Three new commercial partnerships achieved in 2017 including sponsorship of inaugural All-Stars Tour and implementation of sponsorship of National Leagues.
C.	Increased live TV games coverage	All-Ireland Quarter-Finals broadcast live for first time; All-Ireland Intermediate Final Replay broadcast live for first time. Both were in addition to live TV games coverage of 2016. Live streaming of All-Ireland Club Championships Finals and National League Semi-Final also achieved for first time in 2017.
D.	Increased TV viewing	Just under 50,000 additional peak views from 2016 on RTÉ for All-Ireland Finals in September 2017. 2,000 additional peak views from 2016 on TG4 for National League Final in 2017 and increase of 10,000 peak views for National League Final in 2015 on TG4.
E.	25,000 attendance at All-Ireland Finals	3.5% increase in attendance between 2016 and 2017 (20,037 and 20,793). 26% increase in attendance between 2015 and 2017 All-Ireland Finals (16,464 and 20,793)
F.	5,000 attendance at All-Ireland Semi-Finals	Increase of 400 persons at All-Ireland Semi-Finals between 2015 and 2017 (2,400 and 2,800)
G.	3,000 attendance at All-Ireland Quarter-Finals	Significant increase in All-Ireland Quarter-Finals between 2015, 2016 and 2017 (681, 700 and 1,877 respectively)
H.	The Association will be recognised by the Governance bodies and Sport Ireland as being fully compliant	Several governance policies agreed. Governance Review process commenced.

I.	<p>Increase Kildare clubs to 25 Clubs from 2015 base of 20. Increase number of Meath to 20 Clubs from 2015 base of 15. Increase registration levels to 10% of girls at primary and post-primary school age in these counties.</p> <p>A net increase of 14 Clubs in Tier 1 from base of 348 in 2015.</p> <p>A net increase of 4 Clubs Tier 3 from base of 62 Clubs in Ireland.</p>	<p>Kildare 22 Clubs Meath 16 Clubs</p> <p>8% of girls in schools registered to play Camogie in Kildare/Meath</p> <p>10 newly registered clubs in 2017 in Tier 1 counties</p> <p>In addition to Kildare and Meath, five newly registered clubs in Tier 2 counties in 2017</p> <p>Two newly registered clubs in 2017 in Tier 3 counties</p>
J.	A net increase of members aged over 21 nationally and/or in targeted area	Baseline and current data being finalised.
K.	All counties have a structured recruitment, education and training programme for referees from 1st Whistle Referee to Level 1 Club Referee	300 referees trained and completed Referee education courses in 2017.
L.	All Provinces have a Level 2 Provincial Referee education and training programme established	No work to date.
M.	A National Referee recruitment, education and training programme established	16 Referees (9 female) commenced in the Peter Downey Referee Academy in 2016. 13 Referees (9 female) continued in the Peter Downey Referee Academy in 2017.
N.	25% of National and Provincial Referee panels are female	There were two females on the national panel of 30 referees in 2017.
O.	All counties to have management teams at U14/15/16/18/Adult with at least one person with relevant accredited coaching standard in place with each county team	All counties had management teams with at least one person with Foundation level coaching accreditation.
P.	All counties to have management teams at U14/15 with at least two persons with Level 1 accredited coaching standard in place with each county team	Survey conducted post All-Ireland underage intercounty blitzes. Except for Dublin, Derry and Meath all counties submitted responses. At U14 level 55% teams had two persons with Level 1 accredited coaching in place. At U15 53% teams had two persons with Level 1 accredited coaching in place.
Q.	All officer roles filled at club level	Full data not available yet.
R.	All counties implementing an annual structured recruitment, education and training programme for club officers	All County and Provincial Children's Officers appointed.
S.	One Club Model Template established and operational on a voluntary opt-in model	One Club Guidelines agreed and published.
T.	Camogie Association and GAA to be integration ready with change management plan in place	Memorandum of Understanding drafted between Camogie Association and GAA and disseminated to Camogie Units, for consideration at March Ard Chomhairle meeting. Includes three-year framework for implementation.

Appendix 4:

Torthaí na gComórtas / Competition Results 2017 – National Competition Results

Competition	Winners	Runners-Up	Referee	Player Of The Match
All-Ireland Senior Championship	Cork 0-10	Kilkenny 0-09	Owen Elliot	Orla Cronin (Cork)
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship (Replay)	Meath 0-10	Cork 0-07	John Dermody	Amy Gaffney (Meath)
All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship	Westmeath 1-10	Dublin 1-06	Philip McDonald	Caoimhe McCrossan (Westmeath)
Minor A	Galway 4-14	Clare 0-06	Liz Dempsey	Leah Burke (Galway)
Minor B	Antrim 1-11	Kildare 2-05	Philip McDonald	Siobhán McKillop (Antrim)
Minor C	Carlow 4-10	Roscommon 0-12	Gavin Donegan	Ciara Kavanagh (Carlow)
U16A	Galway 2-16	Wexford 2-05	Cathal Egan	Niamh McPeake (Galway)
U16B (Replay)	Laois 3-06	Antrim 1-10	Peter Dowd	Molly O'Connor (Laois)
U16C	Armagh 2-09	Carlow 2-08	Alan Doheny	Ellie McKee (Armagh)
National League Division 1	Kilkenny 2-07	Cork 0-10	Owen Elliot	Julie Anne Malone (Kilkenny)
National League Division 2	Cork 2-16	Derry 1-05	John Dermody	Rachel O'Shea
National League Division 3	Dublin 0-12	Roscommon 0-07	Aiden O'Brien	Caragh Dawson (Dublin)
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Final 2016	Slaughtneil 1-10	Sarsfields 0-11	Ray Kelly	Shannon Graham (Slaughtneil)
All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship Final 2016	Myshall 1-10	Eglis 1-09	Fintan McNamara	Ciara Donnelly (Eglis)
All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final 2017 Final (Replay)	Kilmessan 0-09	Clanmaurice 0-05	Alan Doheny	Aileen Donnelly (Kilmessan)
Ashbourne Cup	University of Limerick 2-08	University College Cork 1-07		
Purcell Cup	Dublin Institute of Technology 1-08	Maynooth University 1-06		
Fr. Meaghair Cup	DCU St. Pat's 3-08	Athlone IT 1-03		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Senior A	Loreto, Kilkenny 6-19	Ursuline, Thurles 1-04		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Senior B	St. Joseph's Rochfortbridge 2-06	Coláiste Íosagáin, Dublin 0-03		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Senior C	Castleknock Community School 2-07	St. Patrick's, Keady 0-04		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Senior D	John the Baptist Community School 3-10	Scoile Mhuire, Trim 1-08		

Competition	Winners	Runners-Up	Referee	Player Of The Match
All-Ireland Post-Primary Junior A	Loreto, Kilkenny 3-11	Cross & Passion, Antrim 2-09		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Junior B	St. Angela's Ursulines, Waterford 3-16	Banagher College, Offaly 1-04		
All-Ireland Post-Primary Junior C (Replay)	Borrisokane Community College 2-08	Abbey Community College 2-08		
Junior Interprovincial Final	Ulster 3-11	Leinster 2-07		
Poc Fada	Susan Earner (Galway)			

Results of the Camogie Finals in National Féile na nGael

Division	Winners	Runners-up
Division 1 Cup	Sarsfields, Cork 2-13	Knockavilla, Tipperary 1-02
Division 1 Shield	Monaleen, Limerick 1-06	Gailltír, Waterford 1-01
Division 2 Cup	Dicksboro, Kilkenny 1-05	Kilcormac/Killoughey, Offaly 0-05
Division 2 Shield	Ballygalget, Down 6-02	Na Fianna, Meath 5-01
Division 3 Cup	Naas, Kildare 3-09	Salthill, Galway 1-01
Division 3 Shield	Myshall, Carlow 2-04	Oylegate/Glenbrien, Wexford 0-02
Division 4 Cup	John Locke's Callan, Kilkenny 6-04	Muinebheag, Carlow 0-01
Division 4 Shield	Duffry Rovers, Wexford 4-01	Drumsurn, Derry 0-01
Division 5 Cup	Na Brídeoga, Mayo 1-04	Rathgarogue-Cushinstown, Wexford 1-03
Division 5 Shield	Kiltegan, Wicklow 2-03	Danesfort, Kilkenny 1-02
Division 6 Cup	Cillard, Kerry 3-02	Rower-Inistioge, Kilkenny 0-04
Division 6 Shield	Westport, Mayo 2-01	St. Kevin's, Louth 1-01
Division 7 Cup	Windgap, Kilkenny 2-01	Knockananna, Wicklow 0-01
Division 7 Shield	Paulstown, Kilkenny 1-03	Laochra Óg, Cork 0-01

Results of the Camogie Finals in Regional Féile na nGael

Competition	Winners	Runners-up
Division 1	Athenry, Galway 4-11	Cahir, Tipperary 0-01
Division 2	Sarsfields, Galway 1-02	Kilkishen-Bodyke, Clare 0-01
Division 3	Sahmrocks, Galway 0-04	St. Jude's, Dublin 0-02
Division 4	Ballycastle, Antrim 6-04	St. Brenda's Ballymacnab, Meath 0-01

Appendix 5:

All-Stars, Soaring Stars, Manager and Players of the Year / Players of the League

All-Stars Awards, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Number	Names	County
1	Aoife Murray	Cork
2	Rena Buckley	Cork
3	Catherine Foley	Kilkenny
4	Laura Treacy	Cork
5	Gemma O'Connor	Cork
6	Anne Dalton	Kilkenny
7	Eimear O'Sullivan	Cork
8	Meighan Farrell	Kilkenny
9	Ashling Thompson	Cork
10	Katrina Mackey	Cork
11	Katie Power	Kilkenny
12	Orla Cotter	Cork
13	Aislish O'Reilly	Galway
14	Aisling Maher	Dublin
15	Aoife Donohue	Galway

Soaring Stars Awards, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Number	Names	County
1	Emily Mangan	Meath
2	Sarah Harrington	Cork
3	Claire Coffey	Meath
4	Niamh Ní Chaoimh	Cork
5	Emma Brennan	Carlow
6	Sarah Buckley	Cork
7	Laura Doherty	Westmeath
8	Emer Reilly	Kildare
9	Caoimhe McCrossan	Westmeath
10	Megan Thynne	Meath
11	Keeva McCarthy	Cork
12	Amy Gaffney	Meath
13	Aoife Minogue	Meath
14	Jane Dolan	Meath
15	Aoife Bugler	Dublin



Manager of the Year Award, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

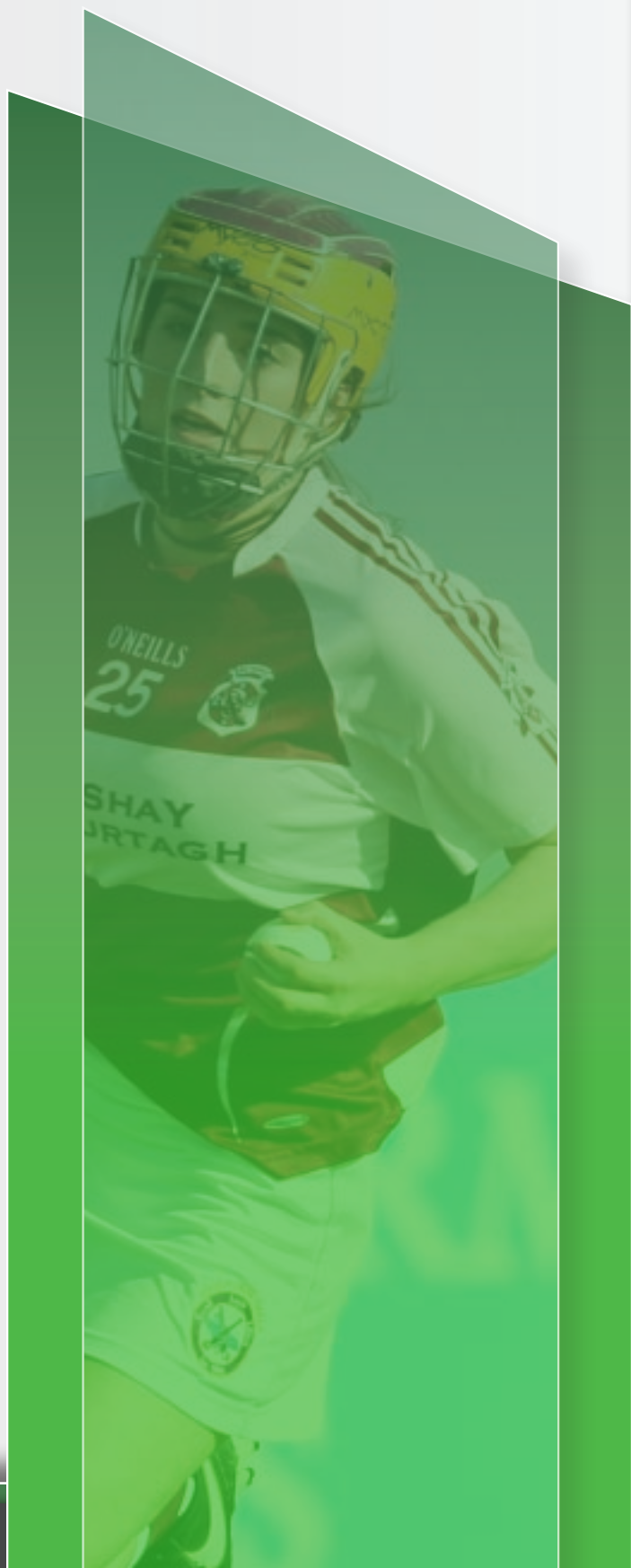
Name	County
Paudie Murray	Cork

2017 Camogie Association /WGPA Players' Player of the Year sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Names	County
Senior Players' Player Of The Year	
Rena Buckley	Cork
Intermediate Players' Player of the Year	
Claire Coffey	Meath
Junior Players' Player of the Year	
Aoife Bugler	Dublin

Camogie Association Player of the League Awards

Names	County
Division 1	
Beth Carton	Waterford
Division 2	
Karen Kielt	Down
Division 3	
Caragh Dawson	Dublin
Littlewoods Ireland #StyleOfPlay Award Winner	
Amy O'Connor	Cork



Appendix 6:

Legends Tournament Roll of Honour

Number	Names	County
Year	Cup	Shield
2011	Kilkenny	-
2012	Cork	-
2013	Cork	-
2014	Tipperary	-
2015	Tipperary	Antrim
2016	Galway	Antrim
2017	Dublin	Galway

Appendix 7:

Government Grant Scheme for Intercounty Camogie and Football: Grants paid to Camogie in 2017

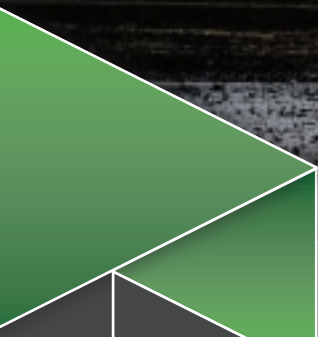
County	Grant paid in 2017
Antrim	€4,341.69
Armagh	€2,893
Carlow	€7,170
Clare	€7,986.85
Cork	€8,000
Derry	€5,867
Down	€6,677
Dublin	€8,000
Galway	€8,000
Kerry	€5,271.46
Kildare	€6,900
Kilkenny	€7,576.50
Laois	€7,840
Limerick	€7,415
Meath	€8,000
Offaly	€8,000
Roscommon	€4,140
Tipperary	€7,975
Tyrone	€3,905.44
Waterford	€8,000
Westmeath	€8,000
Wexford	€8,000
Wicklow	€4,000
23 counties	€153,938.94

Appendix 8:

Number of Intercounty fixtures by competition in 2017

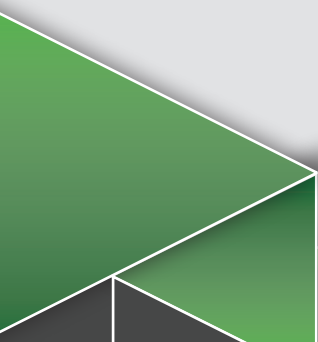
Championship	Number of teams entered	Number of fixtures played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
All-Ireland Senior	10	25	0
All-Ireland Intermediate	12	33	1 W/O
All-Ireland Premier Junior	9	19	0
Minor A	10	23	0
Minor B	8	14	1 W/O
Minor C	4	7	0
U16 A	9	19	0
U16 B	13	27	1 W/O
U16 C	6	12	1 Withdrawal 1 W/O
National League	Number of teams entered	Number of fixtures played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
Division 1	11	28	0
Division 2	12	33	0
Division 3	5	13	0
Club Championship		Number of fixtures played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
		11	0
Junior Interprovincial		Number of fixtures played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
		3	0

Total Number of National Fixtures	National Intercounty Fixtures	253 Completed 1 Withdrawal 4 Walkovers
	Club Championship Fixtures	11
	Junior Interprovincial Fixtures	3



2017 Cuntais Airgid





AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2017

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH,
ÁTH CLIATH 3.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31st December 2017**

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STATEMENT OF ARD CHOMHAIRLE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ard Chomhairle are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish Law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

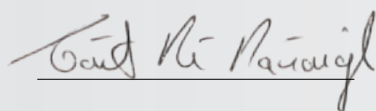
The Ard Chomhairle is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Association as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the Association for the financial year.

In preparing these financial statements the Ard Chomhairle is required to:

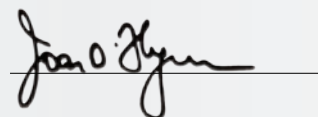
- (i) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- (ii) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- (iii) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue its activities.

The Ard Chomhairle is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Association, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Association to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited.

The Ard Chomhairle is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

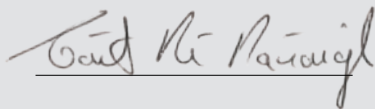


Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

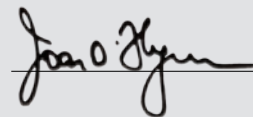
Date: 2nd February 2018

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	Page	2017 €	2016 €
INCOME			
Grants – Sport Ireland		395,000	395,000
Grants – Cumann Lúthchleas Gael		200,000	200,000
Other Income		1,259,413	1,096,532
		-----	-----
Total Income	6.	1,854,413	1,691,532
EXPENDITURE			
Total Expenditure	7.	1,835,485	1,626,294
		-----	-----
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			
		18,928	65,238
Exceptional Items (Note 14)		-	25,180
		-----	-----
		18,928	90,418
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			
		812,623	722,205
		-----	-----
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD			
		<u><u>831,551</u></u>	<u><u>812,623</u></u>



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

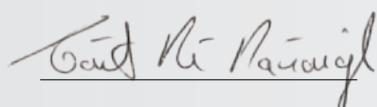


Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

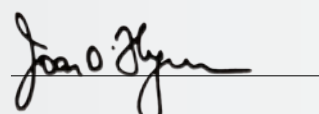
AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		€	€
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	6.	93,550	37,868
Stock		1,291	1,291
Cash at Bank and in Hand		971,227	981,146
		<u>1,066,068</u>	<u>1,020,305</u>
CREDITORS (amounts falling due within a year)			
Creditors and Accruals	7.	234,517	207,682
		<u>234,517</u>	<u>207,682</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		831,551	812,623
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		831,551	812,623
REPRESENTED BY:			
Revenue Account	8.	831,551	812,623
		<u>831,551</u>	<u>812,623</u>



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

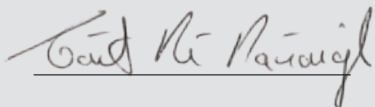


Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

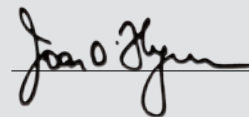
AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 €	2016 €
Affiliation Fees		426,991	473,315
Grants Sport Ireland	9.	395,000	395,000
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Grants	10.	200,000	200,000
Championship Gate Receipts	11.	299,173	271,133
National Leagues		15,582	16,364
Programme Sales		27,323	18,701
Fines/Appeals		3,325	3,950
Sponsorships		183,225	160,350
Deposit Interest		16,185	19,118
Course/Workshop Fees		32,775	30,892
Licencing Income		50,667	52,992
Merchandising Income	12.	30,160	49,382
Government Grant Support Scheme for Inter County Players	13.	173,923	-
Sundry Income		84	335
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL TO REVENUE ACCOUNT		1,854,413	1,691,532
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán



Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017		2016	
		€	€	€	€
Wages & Salaries	3.	715,572		635,048	
Staff Travel Expenses		<u>71,675</u>	787,247	<u>73,726</u>	708,774
On The Pitch					
Initiatives, Programmes, Grants & Player Welfare		64,805		84,462	
International Development		5,433		17,411	
Administration of Fixtures		245,216		231,375	
Coach Development	3.	56,395		40,461	
Referee Development		21,924		25,493	
All Ireland Participation Grants		17,400		16,300	
All Star Tour		42,751		-	
Government Grant Support Scheme for Inter County Players	13.	<u>173,923</u>	627,847	-	415,502
In the Public Eye					
All Star and Player of the League Awards		81,422		67,410	
Marketing and Public Relations		91,602		109,254	
Promotional Material		12,242		16,161	
Merchandising Costs		17,549		38,593	
Website		<u>(5,463)</u>	197,352	<u>9,780</u>	241,198
Strategic Grants					
Provincial Council Development Grant		(46,426)		10,000	
Development Grant Aid		11,732		-	
Club Equipment Grants			(34,694)	<u>(23,657)</u>	(13,657)
Governance and Organisational Development					
Congress and Ard Chomhairle and Sub-Committee Expenses		92,068		82,594	
Volunteer Leadership: Club and County		19,590		14,693	
National Fixture Grants to Counties		20,500		18,000	
Child Protection Administration	3.	8,991		8,310	
Audit Fees		4,920		4,305	
Bank Interest and Charges		2,990		2,707	
Legal Fees and Professional Fees	4.	12,671		53,649	
Information Technology		204		20,802	
Stationery and Office Expenses		21,959		19,546	
Office Renovations		15,244		-	
Telephone		9,248		9,174	
Postage		10,089		7,266	
Performance Management and Team Development		9,932		9,407	
Membership and Sundry Expenses		5,165		3,994	
National Development Plan Consultancy & Consultation		6,232		5,067	
Registrations Transaction Costs		13,766		14,467	
Foreign Exchange Adjustment		<u>939</u>	254,508	<u>496</u>	274,477
Aontas Programme				<u>3,225</u>	
TOTAL TO REVENUE ACCOUNT			<u>1,835,485</u>		<u>1,626,294</u>

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland giving a true and fair view are those issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

FIXED ASSETS

Trophies

The cost of trophies are expensed when they are acquired.

The following trophies were valued during the year:-

1. O'Duffy Cup €35,000
2. Ashbourne Cup €10,000

PENSIONS

An Cumann Camógaíochta operates a defined contribution pension scheme for a number of its employees. The contributions are charged to the expenditure account in the period in which they are paid and are included in the wages and salaries expense line.

GRANTS

In line with a directive from the Sport Ireland, grants underspent by An Cumann Camógaíochta are treated as deferred income and accounted for separately in the balance sheet.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2017

1. INCOME

The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport is the sponsoring Department for all Sport Ireland grant income.

2. TAXATION

An Cumann Camogaiochta is tax compliant

3. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

	2017	2016
The average number of employees during the year was	18	16
	====	====
Staff Costs comprise of:		
	2017	2016
	€	€
Staff Wages and Salaries	642,015	559,454
Employers PRSI Costs	64,818	58,149
Employers Pension Contributions	8,739	17,445
	-----	-----
	715,572	635,048
	=====	=====
Other Payroll Costs:-		
	2017	2016
	€	€
Coaching and Tutors	37,397	28,051
Child Protection	5,505	5,141
Employers PRSI	3,011	2,231
	=====	=====

3. STAFF NUMBER AND COSTS (CONT'D)

Number of employees earning €60,000 (including pro rata) or above:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Salary of €60,000 to €69,999	1	0
Salary of €70,000 to €79,999	0	0
Salary of €80,000 to €89,999	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,291	1,291
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

4. LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL

	2017 €	2016 €
Legal Fees	958	12,106
PR & Marketing	-	22,687
Professional Fees	4,382	-
Staff Advertising Costs	3,036	-
Staff Recruitment Costs	4,295	17,118
Sundry	-	1,738
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,671	53,649
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

5. STOCKS

	2017 €	2016 €
Kay Mills Replica Cups	-	668
Merchandising Goods	1,291	623
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,291	1,291
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

6. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2017	2016
	€	€
Sponsorship	41,500	14,500
Licencing Income	19,211	16,143
Other Debtors and Prepayments	32,839	7,225
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	93,550	37,868
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**7. CREDITORS
(amounts falling due within one year)**

	2017	2016
	€	€
Creditors	72,141	46,502
Grants	4,600	49,340
Government Grant Deferred	70,077	-
Accruals	56,410	96,580
PAYE, PRSI & USC	16,756	11,449
Pension	-	3,811
Deferred Licencing Income	13,333	-
Sundry Creditors	1,200	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	234,517	207,682
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2017	2018
	€	€
Opening Balance	812,623	722,205
Surplus for year	18,928	90,418
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing Balance	831,551	812,623
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9. SPORT IRELAND

The core grant funding received from Sport Ireland was €395,000. This was wholly expended during the year for the purpose for which it was intended by Sport Ireland.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

10. CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

	2017 €	2016 €
Ard Chomhairle	200,000	200,000
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>

11. CHAMPIONSHIP GATE RECEIPTS

	2017 €	2016 €
Inter County	241,110	228,890
Club	58,063	42,243
	<u>271,133</u>	<u>271,133</u>

Intercounty receipts include prepaid All Ireland tickets purchased by clubs of €28,200 (2016 €27,750).

12. MERCHANDISING INCOME/EXPENDITURE

	2017 €	2016 €
Merchandising Income	30,160	49,382
Merchandising Expenditure	(17,549)	(38,593)
	<u>12,611</u>	<u>10,789</u>

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

13. GOVERNMENT GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME FOR INTER COUNTY PLAYERS

	2017	2016
	€	€
Grant Received	244,000	-
Grants Allocated	(173,923)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Merchandising Income	70,077	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

14. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Prior year provisions of Player Welfare Fund €13,500 and Insurance Rebates €11,680 were written back to the revenue account as they were no longer required.

15. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at 31st December 2017.

16. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts were approved by Ard Chomhairle on 3rd February 2018.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To the Ard Chomhairle An Cumann Camógaíochta

We have audited Financial Statements of An Cumann Camógaíochta for the year ended 31st December 2017 which comprise the Revenue Account, Income and Expenditure Accounts, Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely for the Ard Chomhairle, An Cumann Camógaíochta. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Ard Chomhairle those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Ard Chomhairle, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Ard Chomhairle and Auditors

The Ard Chomhairle of An Cumann Camógaíochta is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable accounting policies.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practising Board in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We report to you as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the accounting policies. In addition we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether An Cumann Camógaíochta's Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure account are in agreement with the accounting records.

Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to An Cumann Camógaíochta's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Ard Chomhairle ; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the reports and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2017 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

However the evidence available to us was limited as, An Cumann Camógaíochta, in line with other similar organisations derives a portion of its income from receipts which are outside its control until received and entered in the accounting records. The completeness of such income is therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT (cont.....)****To the Ard Chomhairle An Cumann Camógaíochta****Qualified Audit Opinion Arising from Limitation in Audit Scope**

Except for any adjustments that might have been found necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning income not subject to independent audit verification, in our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and the financial position of An Cumann Camógaíochta as at 31st December 2017 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.

In all respects, with the exception of the matters stated above we have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit and in our opinion the accounting records of An Cumann Camógaíochta were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.



Ronan Leech
For and on behalf of:
Ronan Leech & Company
Statutory Auditor

Hill House
26 Sion Hill Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9

Date: 19th February 2018

Motions to Congress





Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

Na Rúin/Motions

A new rule or proposed amendments to an existing rule are in red and/or demonstrated by a strikethrough. A strikethrough is used to denote the deletion of a word or words within a rule.

In accordance with Rule 12.7 amendments to playing rules become effective within one month from the date of Congress i.e. May 7th 2018 with one exception as follows:

In the case of competitions at any level of the Association, that commenced prior to May 7th 2018, these competitions will be administered under the playing rules effective at the commencement of the competition.

Official Guide Part 2 – Official Playing Rules

1. That Rule 4.1:

The time of actual play must be sixty minutes. A half-time interval of not more than ten minutes should be allowed. Teams must switch ends on resumption of the game after half-time.

Is amended to read:

The time of actual play must be sixty minutes. A half-time interval of not more than ten **15** minutes should be allowed. Teams must switch ends on resumption of the game after half-time.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

For motions numbered 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 below, please also refer to related motion number 19 and 20 re: new proposed Rules 41.13 and amendment to current Rule 41.2, Official Guide Part 1 Duties and Powers of the Referee.

2. That Rule 6 Playing gear

Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed.

Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:

- skirt/skort/divided skirt, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots.
A base layer ('skins') may also be worn.

Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.

The crest of An Cumann Camógaíochta must be displayed on the team jersey and skirt/skort/divided skirt.

Players may not wear jewellery of any kind while playing/training.

Penalty: If not complied with, the Referee will firstly caution the player/players for dissent. If the player/players continue to refuse to comply with Rule 6 as outlined above she/they will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (c) for dissent.

Is **amended** to read:

- a. Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed.
- b. Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:
 - skirt/skort/divided skirt, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots. A base layer ('skins') may also be worn. Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.
- c. The crest of An Cumann Camógaíochta must be displayed on the team jersey and skirt/skort/divided skirt.

Players may not wear jewellery of any kind while playing/training.

Penalty: If not complied with **in Camogie games**, the Referee will firstly caution the player/players for dissent. If the player/players continue to refuse to comply with Rule 6 as outlined above she/they will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (b) for dissent.

(Note: See Motion 5, proposed new Rule 7.5 re: Jewellery) **ARD CHOMHAIRLE**

3. That Rule 6 Playing gear

Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed.

Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:

- skirt/skort/divided skirt, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots. A base layer ('skins') may also be worn.

Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.

The crest of An Cumann Camógaíochta must be displayed on the team jersey and skirt/skort/divided skirt.

Players may not wear jewellery of any kind while playing/training.

Penalty: If not complied with, the Referee will firstly caution the player/players for dissent. If the player/players continue to refuse to comply with Rule 6 as outlined above she/they will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (c) for dissent.

Is **amended** to read:

Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed.

Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:

- ~~Skirt/Skort/divided skirt~~, shorts, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots. A base layer ('skins') may also be worn.

Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

The crest of An Cumann Camógaíochta must be displayed on the team jersey and skirt/skort/divided skirt.

Players may not wear jewellery of any kind while playing/training.

Penalty: If not complied with, the Referee will firstly caution the player/players for dissent. If the player/players continue to refuse to comply with Rule 6 as outlined above she/they will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (c) for dissent.

AN CHLÁR

4. That Rule 6 Playing Gear

Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed. Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:

- skirt/skort/divided skirt, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots. A base layer ('skins') may also be worn.

Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.

Is amended to read:

Teams are required to wear distinctive colours. In all instances all members of the same team must be uniformly dressed. Playing gear must be of Irish manufacture if possible. It must consist of:

- skirt/skort/divided skirt, sports jersey with long or short sleeves, knee socks and boots. A base layer ('skins') may also be worn.

Goalkeepers may wear the team tracksuit in all competitions other than national finals.

In all games, the goalkeeper shall wear a jersey which is distinctive from her own team's and the opposing team's colours.

LUIMNEACH

5. Add a new Rule 7.5 Jewellery

In all Camogie games and training sessions, it shall be mandatory for, and the responsibility of each individual player, not to wear jewellery of any kind while playing and/or training.

Penalty: If not complied with in Camogie games the Referee will firstly caution the player for dissent. If the player continues to be in breach of Rule 7.6 she will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (b) for dissent.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

6. That Rule 7 Equipment and 7.1 Hurley (Hurl/Camán)

A player may play with a hurley which is bound with a metallic substance if covered with adhesive tape, but not with a hurley deemed dangerous by the Referee. A player may not play with a hurley the bas of which exceeds 13 cm in width with the exception of the Goalkeeper. Should a player, who has already been warned by the Referee, persist in playing with a hurley

which does not comply with the above, she shall be dismissed from the field of play in accordance with Rule 41.9 (c).

Is **amended** to read:

- a. A player may play with a hurley which is bound with a metallic substance, with adhesive tape (“covered hurley”). In all Camogie games and training sessions, the use of a “covered hurley” shall be the player’s sole responsibility except where it is deemed dangerous by the Referee.
- b. In all Camogie games, a player must ~~may not~~ play with a hurley the bas of which cannot exceed 13 cm in width except for the goalkeeper when on goalkeeping duties. A goalkeeper engaging in outfield roles such as free taking outside the large parallelogram; taking a sideline, 45 or a penalty is defined as set play and the 13 cm restriction applies to the hurley she must use in these or similar outfield set plays.

Penalty: If not complied with in Camogie games, the Referee will firstly caution the player for dissent. If the player continues to breach 7.1a or 7.1b she will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9(b) for dissent.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

7. That Rule 7.2 Helmet/Facial guard

In all Camogie games and training sessions it is mandatory for all players to wear an approved, i.e. NSAI Standard IS355, helmet with facial guard.

Penalty: If not complied with in Camogie games the Referee will firstly caution the player for dissent. If the player continues to refuse to wear a helmet she will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9(c) for dissent.

Is **amended** to read:

In all Camogie games and training sessions it shall be mandatory for **and the responsibility of, each individual player to use and** wear an approved, i.e. NSAI Standard IS355, helmet with facial guard. **Such helmets shall not be modified from their original manufactured state in any circumstances.**

Penalty: If not complied with in Camogie games the Referee will firstly caution the player for dissent. If the player continues to refuse to wear a **an approved** helmet she will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9 (b) for dissent.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

8. That Rule 7.4 Protective gear

Protective gear such as shinguards, gumshields and hand protection may be used.

Is **amended** to read:

Protective gear such as shinguards, gumshields and hand protection may be used **by a player while playing or training.** In all Camogie games, such additional, protective gear shall be the player’s sole responsibility except where it is deemed dangerous to others by the Referee.

Penalty: If not complied with in Camogie games the Referee will firstly caution the player for dissent. If the player continues to wear protective gear deemed dangerous by the Referee she will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 41.9(b) for dissent.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

9. That Rule 9.2

The Referee, facing the players, will commence or recommence play in each half by throwing the sliotar along the ground on the halfway line between the four centre-field players who must stand one behind the other on their own defensive sides of the half-way line. All other players must remain in their respective positions at least 10 metres from the Referee until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.

Is amended to read:

The Referee, facing the players, will commence or recommence play in each half by **blowing the whistle and** throwing the sliotar along the ground on the halfway line between the four centre-field players who must stand one behind the other on their own defensive sides of the half-way line. All other players must remain in their respective positions at least 10 metres from the Referee until an attempt to strike the sliotar has been made.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

10. That Rule 9.4

When play is stopped due to an injury away from play to an opposing player the team in possession of the sliotar retains possession when play recommences by being granted an indirect free.

Is amended to read:

If in exceptional circumstances play is stopped by the referee to enable a seriously injured player to be treated on the field or removed from the field of play, the play shall resume on the following manner:

- i. If a team is in possession when the play is stopped, the play shall resume with a free puck to that team from the position at which the play was stopped, unless the play was stopped inside the opponent's 20m line in which case the free shall be awarded from the 20m line opposite the point where the play was stopped. A score may not be made directly from such free.**
- ii. If neither team is in possession when the play was stopped, a throw-in shall be given at the position where the play was stopped.**

CORCAIGH

11. That Rule 9.6

A player may:

- a. Strike the sliotar with the hurley on the ground or in the air
- b. Lift the sliotar off the ground with the hurley or with the feet or with a combination of hurley and foot
- c. Catch the sliotar with one hand
- d. Catch the sliotar twice
- e. Hand-pass the sliotar with one hand
- f. Drop the hurley
- g. Carry the sliotar in the hand for a maximum of four consecutive steps or hold the sliotar in the hand for no longer than the time needed to take four steps
- h. Kick the sliotar
- i. Hand-pass the sliotar to score.

Is **amended** to read:

A player may:

- a. Strike the sliotar with the hurley on the ground or in the air
- b. Lift the sliotar off the ground with the hurley or with the feet or with a combination of hurley and foot
- c. Catch the sliotar with one hand
- d. Catch the sliotar twice
- e. Hand-pass the sliotar with one hand
- f. Drop the hurley
- g. Carry the sliotar in the hand for a maximum of four consecutive steps or hold the sliotar in the hand for no longer than the time needed to take four steps
- h. Kick the sliotar.
- i. ~~Hand-pass the sliotar to score.~~

CEATHARLACH

12. That Rule 9.7

A player may tackle an opponent who is in the act of playing or in possession of the sliotar by:

- a. Blocking an aerial or ground puck
- b. Play the opponent's hurley with minimal force (flick) from the ground or in the air with own hurley
- c. Hooking an opponent's hurley with own hurley
- d. Playing with minimal force (tap) the underside of the bas of an opponent's hurley while she is carrying the sliotar on it
- e. Shadowing the player without deliberating interfering with the hurley or body of an opponent

Is **amended** to read:

A player may tackle an opponent who is in the act of playing or in possession of the sliotar by:

- a. Blocking an aerial or ground puck
- b. Play the opponent's hurley with minimal force (flick) from the ground or in the air with own hurley
- c. Hooking an opponent's hurley with own hurley
- d. Playing with minimal force (tap) the underside of the bas of an opponent's hurley while she is carrying the sliotar on it
- e. Shadowing the player without deliberating interfering with the hurley or body of an opponent

Provided that she has at least one foot on the ground, a player may make a shoulder to shoulder charge on an opponent –

1. Who is in possession of the sliotar, or
2. Who is playing the sliotar, or
3. When both players are moving in the direction of the ball to play it.

When she is within the small rectangle, in accordance with Rule 10.2c the goalkeeper may not be charged but she may be challenged for possession of the sliotar and her puck, kick or pass may be blocked. Incidental contact with the goalkeeper while playing the sliotar is allowed.

(Rule affected 10.2 below)

LUIMNEACH

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

13. That Rule 10.2 Rough Play and Dissent

A player must not:

- a. Deliberately shoulder an opponent
- b. Trip, catch, hold or pull down an opponent
- c. Charge (pushing or moving into an opponent's body or failing to avoid full frontal contact with an opponent), back into or obstruct an opponent
- d. Reach from behind with the hurley or around the body of an opponent which is not consistent with an attempt to play the sliotar
- e. Throw the hurley
- f. Engage in any form of rough play
- g. Show dissent with any decisions of the Referee and/or match officials
- h. Attempt to strike an opponent with or without hurley
- i. Attempt to kick an opponent
- j. Play without a helmet
- k. Use a hurley of incorrect size
- l. Use the hurley to obstruct an opponent.

Is **amended** to read:

A player must not:

- a. ~~Deliberately shoulder an opponent and re-number accordingly~~
- ba.** Trip, catch, hold or pull down an opponent
- cb.** Charge (pushing or moving into an opponent's body or failing to avoid full frontal contact with an opponent), back into or obstruct an opponent
- dc.** Reach from behind with the hurley or around the body of an opponent which is not consistent with an attempt to play the sliotar
- ed.** Throw the hurley
- fe.** Engage in any form of rough play
- gf.** Show dissent with any decisions of the Referee and/or match officials
- hg.** Attempt to strike an opponent with or without hurley
- ih.** Attempt to kick an opponent
- ji.** Play without a helmet
- kj.** Use a hurley of incorrect size
- lk.** Use the hurley to obstruct an opponent.

LUIMNEACH

14. That Rule 10.2 Rough Play and Dissent

A player must not:

- a. Deliberately shoulder an opponent
- b. Trip, catch, hold or pull down an opponent
- c. Charge (pushing or moving into an opponent's body or failing to avoid full frontal contact with an opponent), back into or obstruct an opponent
- d. Reach from behind with the hurley or around the body of an opponent which is not consistent with an attempt to play the sliotar
- e. Throw the hurley
- f. Engage in any form of rough play
- g. Show dissent with any decisions of the Referee and/or match officials
- h. Attempt to strike an opponent with or without hurley
- i. Attempt to kick an opponent
- j. Play without a helmet
- k. Use a hurley of incorrect size
- l. Use the hurley to obstruct an opponent.

Is **amended** to read:

A player must not:

- a. Deliberately shoulder an opponent
- b. Trip, catch, hold or pull down an opponent
- c. Charge (pushing or moving into an opponent's body or failing to avoid full frontal contact with an opponent), back into or obstruct an opponent
- d. Reach from behind with the hurley or around the body of an opponent which is not consistent with an attempt to play the sliotar
- e. Throw the hurley
- f. Engage in any form of rough play
- g. ~~Show dissent with any decisions of the Referee and/or match officials~~
- g. **Challenge the authority of a referee/match official**
- h. Attempt to strike an opponent with or without hurley
- i. Attempt to kick an opponent
- j. Play without a helmet
- k. Use a hurley of incorrect size
- l. Use the hurley to obstruct an opponent.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

15. That Rule 10.1 Technical Fouls

A player may not:

- a. Pick up the sliotar from the ground with the hand
- b. Touch the sliotar on the ground with the hand, except when the player with the sliotar in her hand falls to the ground and the sliotar touches the ground
- c. Throw the sliotar away from her
- d. Throw the sliotar up and catch it
- e. Pass the sliotar from one hand to the other
- f. Hop the sliotar on the hand
- g. Catch the sliotar with two hands
- h. Over-carry or over-hold the sliotar
- i. Take the sliotar out of play by covering or lying on it
- j. Catch the sliotar more than twice
- k. Be prevented from playing the sliotar by being sandwiched by two or more opponents
- l. Chop, i.e. strike downwards on an opponent's hurley
- m. Hold opponent's hurley or pull it from her hands
- n. Tap an opponent's hurley other than as permitted in 9.7(d)
- o. Place a hand(s) on an opposing player's back
- p. Deliberately interfere with the hurley or body of an opponent
- q. Retaliate, between the awarding of a free to her team and the free puck being taken.

Penalty: A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred. If foul occurs inside the 20m line the free will be given on the 20m line closest to where the foul occurred; except for breaches of 10.1(q) when the following penalty applies: the free puck is cancelled and the Referee throws in the sliotar where the original foul occurred but not within the 20 metre line.

Is amended to read:

A player may not:

- a. Pick up the sliotar from the ground with the hand
- b. Touch the sliotar on the ground with the hand, except when the player with the sliotar in her hand falls to the ground and the sliotar touches the ground
- c. Throw the sliotar away from her
- d. Throw the sliotar up and catch it
- e. Pass the sliotar from one hand to the other
- f. Hop the sliotar on the hand
- g. Catch the sliotar with two hands
- h. Over-carry or over-hold the sliotar
- i. Take the sliotar out of play by covering or lying on it
- j. Catch the sliotar more than twice
- k. Be prevented from playing the sliotar by being sandwiched by two or more opponents
- l. Chop, i.e. strike downwards on an opponent's hurley
- m. Hold opponent's hurley or pull it from her hands
- n. Tap an opponent's hurley other than as permitted in 9.7(d)
- o. ~~Place a hand(s) on an opposing player's back~~
- o. **Push an opponent**
- p. Deliberately interfere with the hurley or body of an opponent
- q. Retaliate, between the awarding of a free to her team and the free puck being taken.

Penalty: A free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred. If foul occurs inside the 20m line the free will be given on the 20m line closest to where the foul occurred; except for breaches of 10.1(q) when the following penalty applies: the free puck is cancelled and the Referee throws in the sliotar where the original foul occurred but not within the 20 metre line.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

16. That Rule 10.3. Aggressive Fouls, Dangerous Play and Abusive Language

A player must not:

- a. Strike an opponent with the hurley
- b. Strike an opponent with the arm, elbow, hand, knee or head
- c. Punch an opponent
- d. Kick an opponent
- e. Stomp on an opponent
- f. Spit at an opponent or official
- g. Contribute to a melee
- h. Assault any official
- i. Interfere with the faceguard of an opponent's helmet
- j. Use abusive or threatening language or gestures to a
- k. Referee, match officials, players or mentors
- l. Use the hurley to 'dig' an opponent
- m. Interfere with an opponent's helmet.

Penalty: A player has her name and jersey number taken by the Referee and issued with a red card and dismissed from the field of play (see Rule 41.9, 41.10 and 44). A free is given to the opposing team where the foul occurred. If foul occurs inside the 20m line the free is given on the 20m line closest to where the foul occurred.

Is amended to read:

A player must not:

- a. Strike an opponent with the hurley
- b. Strike an opponent with the arm, elbow, hand, knee or head
- c. Punch an opponent
- d. Kick an opponent
- e. Stomp on an opponent
- f. Spit at an opponent or official
- g. Contribute to a melee
- h. Assault any official
- i. Interfere with the faceguard of an opponent's helmet
- j. Use abusive or threatening language or gestures to a
- k. Referee, match officials, players or mentors
- l. Use the hurley to 'dig' an opponent
- m. Interfere with an opponent's helmet.
- n. Behave in any way which is dangerous to an opponent.

ROS COMÁIN

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

17. That Rule 12.3

Should the sliotar strike anyone other than a player at or near the side-line, and if the Referee adjudges that in so doing the sliotar was prevented from going out of play, a free ground puck must be awarded against the team of the player who last touched the sliotar.

Is amended to read:

Should the sliotar strike anyone other than a player at or near the side-line, and if the Referee adjudges that in so doing the sliotar was prevented from going out of play, a free ground puck must be awarded against the team of the player who last touched the sliotar. **A ball that strikes a sideline flag or corner flag shall be treated as having crossed the sideline and a free ground puck must be awarded against the team of the player who last touched the sliotar.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

18. That Rule 14.3

In the event of a free, no player of the attacking team will stand outside the end-line behind the small parallelogram.

Is amended to read:

In the event of a free, no player of the attacking team will stand outside the end-line behind the small parallelogram.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Official Guide Part 1 related Playing Rules

19. Add a new Rule 41.13

A referee shall not be held liable for: any kind of injury suffered by a player, official or spectator, any damage to property of any kind or any other loss suffered by any individual, club, company, association or other body, which is due or which may be due to any decision that s/he may take specifically under Rule 39 (in respect of the normal procedures required to hold, play and control a match) and Rule 41 (Duties and Powers of Referees) of the Official Guide of the Camogie Association. Such decisions may include but not be limited to:

- a decision that the condition of the field of play or its surrounds or that the weather conditions are such as to allow or not to allow a match to take place;
- a decision to abandon a match for whatever reason;
- a decision to allow or not to allow a player to use and or wear certain gear or equipment (as per Official Guide Part 2 Playing Rules 6, 7);
- a decision as to the suitability of the sliotar used during a match (as per Official Guide Part 2 Rule 7.3) and or the equipment or pitch (as per Official Guide Playing Rules 7 and 8);
- a decision to stop or not to stop a match due to spectator interference or any problem in spectator areas;
- a decision to stop or not to stop play to allow an injured player to be removed from the field of play for treatment;
- a decision to require an injured player to be removed from the field of play for treatment;
- any other decision that the Referee may take in accordance with Official Guide of the Camogie Association (Part 1 and 2).

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

20. That Rule 41.2

The Referee will:

- Decide whether ground or other conditions are suitable for play; (Also see Rule 33.5.)
- Deal with the intrusion of unauthorised persons on to the playing pitch;
- Record and report the names of players or officials interfering during the course of a match;
- Take the name of the offender and request him/her to go outside the pitch area, when a team mentor or known team partisan is adjudged by the Referee to have been abusive or behaving in a threatening manner to any Match Official. The nature of the abuse must be included in the Referee's Report;
- Ensure the game starts on time and report teams that fail to comply (Also see Rule 39.2);
- Temporarily suspend play for a serious injury to a player, sudden deterioration in the weather, broken goalposts, pitch invasion or for any other matter/incident that s/he feels warrants such a decision.

Play should be temporarily suspended for a maximum of 15 minutes. If the issue cannot be resolved during this period, then the match should be abandoned. The Referee, having decided to temporarily suspend play, should simultaneously inform team officials from both teams that play is being suspended. Teams may retire to their dressing room and if the issue is resolved within the specified period, play will be resumed within 5 minutes of the team managers of both teams being informed by the Referee that the issue has been resolved.

As the Referee so instructs team officials from both teams, the sideline official should inform the public announcer (PA) of this, where operable, so that spectators may be informed what is happening.

Is **amended** to read:

The Referee will:

- Decide whether ground or other conditions are suitable for play; (Also see Rule 33.5.)
- **Inform players, through the team captains, of their obligations under Official Guide Part 2 Playing Rules 7**
- Deal with the intrusion of unauthorised persons on to the playing pitch;
- Record and report the names of players or officials interfering during the course of a match;
- Take the name of the offender and request him/her to go outside the pitch area, when a team mentor or known team partisan is adjudged by the Referee to have been abusive or behaving in a threatening manner to any Match Official. The nature of the abuse must be included in the Referee's Report;
- Ensure the game starts on time and report teams that fail to comply (Also see Rule 39.2);
- Temporarily suspend play for a serious injury to a player, sudden deterioration in the weather, broken goalposts, pitch invasion or for any other matter/incident that s/he feels warrants such a decision.

Play should be temporarily suspended for a maximum of 15 minutes. If the issue cannot be resolved during this period, then the match should be abandoned. The Referee, having decided to temporarily suspend play, should simultaneously inform team officials from both teams that play is being suspended. Teams may retire to their dressing room and if the issue is resolved within the specified period, play will be resumed within 5 minutes of the team managers of both teams being informed by the Referee that the issue has been resolved.

As the Referee so instructs team officials from both teams, the sideline official should inform the public announcer (PA) of this, where operable, so that spectators may be informed what is happening.

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

21. That Rule 41.6

The Referee must extend time in each half:

- For delay, deliberate or incidental, in that half. In the case of injury to a player, play may be stopped at the discretion of the Referee. Such stoppages must not exceed two minutes at which time the player will be required to leave the field for treatment. The exception to the two minute Rule above is when an injury is so serious as to require treatment in place or where a stretcher is required to remove player from the field of play.
- To allow for a free to be taken. A score will result from such a free only when no player from the attacking team other than the freetaker touches the sliotar. Should the defending team commit a further foul before the Referee whistles for the end of the half, she/he must further extend the time to allow for an additional free to be taken.

Is **amended** to read:

The Referee must extend time in each half:

- For delay, deliberate or incidental, in that half. In the case of injury to a player, play may be stopped at the discretion of the Referee. Such stoppages must not exceed two minutes at which time the player will be required to leave the field for treatment. The exception to the two-minute Rule above is when an injury is so serious as to require treatment in place or where a stretcher is required to remove player from the field of play.
- To allow for a free to be taken. A score will result from such a free only when no player from the attacking team other than the freetaker touches the sliotar. **If a score results from this free it will be allowed.** Should the defending team commit a further foul before the Referee whistles for the end of the half, she/he must further extend the time to allow for an additional free to be taken.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions

A new rule or proposed amendments to an existing rule are in red and/or demonstrated by a strikethrough. A strikethrough is used to denote the deletion of a word or words within a rule.

In accordance with Rule 12.7, amendments to Rule become effect within one month from the date of Congress i.e. May 8th 2018 unless otherwise stated below.

Official Guide Part 1

1. That Rule 3.4

Each Unit under Ard Chomhairle must have an Executive Committee to run its affairs. The members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Unit's Annual General Meeting or Convention.

The Executive Committee at club, county and provincial levels, must be comprised of the following core Officers: Cathaoirleach (Chairperson), Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice-Chairperson), Rúnaí (Secretary), Cisteoir (Treasurer), Cláráitheoir (Registrar), Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí (P.R.O.), Oifigeach na bPáistí (Children's Officer), Oifigeach Forbartha (Development Officer) and Delegate(s) to the higher Unit. The Children's Officer must be appointed by the Executive Committee. All Officers must be members of the Association and are entitled to vote at meetings by virtue of that office. No delegate to the higher Unit is required for National Education Councils or International Units.

If a Unit fails to elect a full complement of Executive Committee members at an AGM, and following at least one re-convened AGM (see also Rule 18.9) the Unit may make interim arrangements and must notify these to the higher Unit

is amended to read:

Each Unit under Ard Chomhairle must have an Executive Committee to run its affairs. The members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Unit's Annual General Meeting or Convention.

The Executive Committee at club, county and provincial levels, must be comprised of the following core Officers: Cathaoirleach (Chairperson), Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice-Chairperson), Rúnaí (Secretary), Cisteoir (Treasurer), Cláráitheoir (Registrar), Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí (P.R.O.), Oifigeach na bPáistí (Children's Officer), Oifigeach Forbartha (Development Officer) and Delegate(s) to the higher Unit. The Children's Officer must be appointed by the Executive Committee **of each Unit and be in place throughout the season. The name and contact details of Club Children's Officer must be notified to the County Children's Officer; County Children's Officers' details must be notified to the Provincial Children's Officer. Details of Provincial and Education Council Children's Officers must be notified to the National Children's Officer.**

Should a Unit fail to comply with the requirement to have an appointed Children's Officer at any time, all underage Camogie activities within that Unit will be suspended immediately until such requirements are complied with. All Officers must be members of the Association and are entitled to vote at meetings by virtue of that office. No delegate to the higher Unit is required for National Education Councils or International Units.

If a Unit fails to elect a full complement of Executive Committee members at an AGM, and following at least one re-convened AGM (see also Rule 18.9) the Unit may make interim arrangements and must notify these to the higher Unit.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

2. That Rule 7.2

Each Provincial Council will be comprised of the Executive Committee, the delegate to Ard Chomhairle and two voting delegates of each affiliated County Board within the Province

Is **amended** to read:

Each Provincial Council will be comprised of the Executive Committee, the delegate to Ard Chomhairle and two voting delegates of each affiliated County Board within the Province. **The Chairperson of a Provincial Council cannot simultaneously be Chairperson of a County Board.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

[If this motion is passed, it is proposed that it would take effect from January 1st 2019 to allow implementation at Provincial AGMs in January]

3. That Rule 18.4

At least five weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention the Unit Secretary will forward to all eligible persons/ Units:

a. a nomination form on which to return the proposals for Officers and other elected personnel, motions and bye-laws. For Provincial Council Executives the nominating bodies are County Boards. For County Board Executives the nominating bodies are Clubs. For Club Executives the nominators are paid up Club members subject to Rule 18.3.a. For Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas the nominating bodies are affiliated colleges. For Comhairle na nIarbhunscoileanna the nominating bodies are provincial councils and for international camogie boards the nomination bodies are clubs.

The name, and Unit name if applicable, of each outgoing office-holder will be shown on the form, together with the latest date for the receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws which will be at least three weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention.

b. Nomination forms will be acceptable only if;

- lodged with the Unit Secretary by the stated date
- signed by the Unit Secretary, or if applicable by the Club member in the case of a Club AGM

Is **amended** to read:

At least five weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention the Unit Secretary will forward to all eligible persons/ Units:

a. a nomination form on which to return the proposals for Officers and other elected personnel, motions and bye-laws. For Provincial Council Executives the nominating bodies are County Boards. For County Board Executives the nominating bodies are Clubs. For Club Executives the nominators are paid up Club members subject to Rule 18.3.a. For Comhairle Chamógaíochta um Ard-Oideachas the nominating bodies are affiliated colleges. For Comhairle na nIarbhunscoileanna the nominating bodies are provincial councils and for international camogie boards the nomination bodies are clubs.

Each Unit Executive may propose a motion to its own AGM/Annual Convention only.

The name, and Unit name if applicable, of each outgoing office-holder will be shown on the form, together with the latest date for the receipt of nominations, motions and bye-laws which will be at least three weeks prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention.

b. Nomination forms will be acceptable only if;

- lodged with the Unit Secretary by the stated date
- signed by the Unit Secretary, or if applicable by the Club member in the case of a Club AGM.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

4. That Rule 18.5

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

- a. an Agenda for the AGM/Annual Convention, showing date, venue and time of same;
- b. minutes of previous year's AGM/Annual Convention;
- c. Unit Secretary's Report for year;
- d. Unit accounts compliant with Rule 22.3 and prepared by a member of a Professional Accountancy Body (PAB), except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:
 - (i) Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
 - (ii) Units that have employees
 - (iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies. All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.
- e. nominations for the Executive Committee and other elected personnel as relevant, indicating proposer
- f. notices of motions and bye-laws, indicating proposer.

Is **amended** to read:

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

- a. an Agenda for the AGM/Annual Convention, showing date, venue and time of same;
- b. minutes of previous year's AGM/Annual Convention;

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

c. Unit Secretary's Report for year;

d. Unit accounts compliant with Rule 22.3 **Club accounts prepared by a member of a Professional Accountancy Body (PAB), and County Board, Provincial/Educations accounts** prepared by a member of a Professional Accountancy Body (PAB) and compliant with Rule 22.3 except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:

(i) **Any** Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding

(ii) **Any** Units that have **has** employees

(iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies. All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.

e. nominations for the Executive Committee and other elected personnel as relevant, indicating proposer

f. notices of motions and bye-laws, indicating proposer.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

5. That Rule 23.1

Each Unit must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members who officiate at games and members involved in managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance. Any member not insured may not play, officiate at games or manage/coach teams

Is **amended** to read:

All persons who train with teams and all persons who coach teams are required to be registered members of the Camogie Association. Each Unit must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members who officiate at games and members involved in **training**/managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance. Any member not insured may not play, officiate at games or manage/coach teams

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

6. That Rule 23.3

In order that all fixtures other than official fixtures are recognised for insurance purposes notification must be given on the following basis:

- To the County Board when both teams are within the County;
- To the relevant County Boards and Provincial Council when teams are from different Counties;
- To the relevant County Boards, Provincial Council and National Fixtures Administrator when teams are from different Provinces or International.

Notification to hold or participate in fixtures other than official fixtures must be sent by email by the relevant Secretaries prior to the date of the proposed fixture.

Approval to host inter-county underage blitzes will be provided by the Director of Camogie Development.

Permission must be requested by a date specified by the Ard Stiúrthóir each year.

Is **amended** to read:

In order that all fixtures other than official fixtures are recognised for insurance purposes notification must be given on the following basis:

- To the County Board when both teams are within the County;
- To the relevant County Boards and Provincial Council when teams are from different Counties;
- To the relevant County Boards, Provincial Council and National Fixtures Administrator **designated Camogie Association staff member** when teams are from different Provinces or International.

Notification to hold or participate in fixtures other than official fixtures must be sent by email by the relevant Secretaries prior to the date of the proposed fixture.

Approval to host inter-county underage blitzes will be provided by the Director of Camogie Development **a designated Camogie Association staff member**.

Permission must be requested by a date specified by the Ard Stiúrthóir each year.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

7. Add a new Rule 23.4

Referees, coaches and team officials must not wear jewellery of any kind while engaged in games/training.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

8. That all references to ***Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport When Working with Underage Players Our Games Our Code*** in Section 5 and elsewhere in Official Guides

are **amended** to read:

Code of Behaviour (Underage)

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

9. That Rule 28.1

Before taking part in competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. A player may play in a competition three days after her registration has been received by the Committee in charge or by the person nominated by the Committee in charge to accept registrations.

Is amended to read:

Before taking part in competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. **For a player to play in inter county competitions, she must be registered through a club.** A player may play in a competition three days after her registration has been received by the Committee in charge or by the person nominated by the Committee in charge to accept registrations.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

10. That Rule 28.4

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16.

'Under' means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

'Over' means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

In the event of competitions, and their qualifying rounds, running over two calendar years, a player who was ineligible based on the age criteria in the first of the calendar years remains ineligible to play in games that run on to the next calendar year.

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

Is amended to read:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over ~~16~~ 17.

‘Under’ means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

‘Over’ means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

In the event of competitions, and their qualifying rounds, running over two calendar years, a player who was ineligible based on the age criteria in the first of the calendar years remains ineligible to play in games that run on to the next calendar year.

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

11. That Rule 28.4

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16.

‘Under’ means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

‘Over’ means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

In the event of competitions, and their qualifying rounds, running over two calendar years, a player who was ineligible based on the age criteria in the first of the calendar years remains ineligible to play in games that run on to the next calendar year.

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

Is **amended** to read:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

~~Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16~~

Adult Be Over 16.

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

'Under' means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

'Over' means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

In the event of competitions, and their qualifying rounds, running over two calendar years, a player who was ineligible based on the age criteria in the first of the calendar years remains ineligible to play in games that run on to the next calendar year.

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

AN CHLÁR

12. That Rule 30.1

Any player who plays a higher graded Championship is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower grade championship or national league. Grading of players for Inter-County competitions will be defined as follows:

Senior

- Any player who plays senior championship is only eligible thereafter to play Division 1 national league and senior championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has played senior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has not played senior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2

Intermediate

- Any player who plays intermediate championship is only eligible thereafter to play Divisions 1 and 2 national league and intermediate championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has played intermediate championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2
- An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has not played intermediate championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2

Junior

- Any player who plays at a higher level in the All-Ireland junior championship is only eligible thereafter to play higher level junior championship or higher level national leagues. For re-grading see Rule 30.2
- An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has played junior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading to a lower junior graded for a further two years. For re-grading see Rule 30.2
- An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has not played junior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.

Minor (Under 18)

An Under 18 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Minor Championship. She may participate in adult competitions, including the All-Ireland Senior Championship, without prejudice to her eligibility for Minor competition.

Under 16

An Under 16 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Under 16 Championship and Minor Championship.

Is **amended** to read:

Any player who plays a higher graded Championship is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower grade championship or national league **except when inter county competitions involve relegation, or where a team is re-graded by the Unit in charge.**

When an inter county competition involves relegation or where a team is regraded by the Unit in charge, there is automatic regrading to the lower grade of players on the relegated/regraded panel at the end of the competition from which they are being relegated or regraded. In these instances, a submission for individual player regrading is not required.

Otherwise, grading of players for Inter-County competitions will be defined as follows:

Senior

- Any player who plays senior championship is only eligible thereafter to play Division 1 national league and senior championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has played senior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For regrading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland senior medal winner who has not played senior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.

Intermediate

- Any player who plays intermediate championship is only eligible thereafter to play Divisions 1 and 2 national league and intermediate championship. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has played intermediate championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading for a year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland intermediate medal winner who has not played intermediate championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.

Junior

- Any player who plays at a higher level in the All-Ireland junior championship is only eligible thereafter to play higher level junior championship or higher level national leagues. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has played junior championship will not be eligible to apply for re-grading to a lower junior graded for a further two years. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.
- An All-Ireland junior medal winner who has not played junior championship will be eligible to apply for re-grading for the following year. For re-grading see Rule 30.2.

Minor (Under 18)

An Under 18 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Minor Championship. She may participate in adult competitions, including the All-Ireland Senior Championship, without prejudice to her eligibility for Minor competition.

Under 16

An Under 16 player will be eligible to represent her County in the All-Ireland Under 16 Championship and Minor Championship.

(Rule 30.2 affected)

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

13. That Rule 30.2 is amended with the following deletion

A player must apply to Ard Chomhairle to be regraded in the following year by a date specified by Ard Chomhairle. Ard Chomhairle must delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to Ard Chomhairle for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful the player must be personally notified in writing within five days of the reasons.

~~When inter-county competitions involve relegation, or where a team is regraded by the Unit in charge, there is automatic regrading to the lower grade of players on the relegated/regraded panel at the end of the competition from which they are being relegated or regraded. In these instances, a submission for individual player regrading is not required.~~

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

14. That Rule 33.3

Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 33.2 of a fixture and fails to fulfil that fixture, the committee in charge of the competition must impose the following penalties:

- In all cases the match will be awarded to that team's opponents in the fixture
- In the case of leagues or championships run on a league basis the defaulting team(s) will be deducted two points

Is **amended** to read:

Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 33.2 of a fixture and fails to fulfil that fixture, the committee in charge of the competition must impose the following penalties:

- In all cases the match will be awarded to that team's opponents in the fixture
- In the case of leagues or championships run on a league basis the defaulting team(s) will be deducted two points **the equivalent to the points awarded for a win in that competition.**

LOCH GARMAN

15. That Rule 35.1.

County Champions will be eligible to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship(s), except where the winners are comprised of a representative or divisional team. In this event, the County Board must nominate the Club team which advanced furthest in the County Championship to represent the County.

Is **amended** to read:

County Champions will be eligible to play in the All-Ireland Club Championship(s), except:

- where the winners are comprised of a representative or divisional team. In this event, the County Board must nominate the Club team which advanced furthest in the County Championship to represent the County.
- Should a club win a county championship at more than one adult championship grade, where the champions of both adult grades progress to a Provincial championship as a qualifying competition for an All-Ireland club championship, only the highest graded club championship winning team will be eligible to represent the county in the Provincial club championship. The county will be represented in the lower graded Provincial club championship by the defeated club finalists in the lower grade county championship final.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

16. That Rule 39.7

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship games must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

Is amended to read:

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship games must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

AN CHLÁR

17. That Rule 39.7

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship games must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

Is amended to read:

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship **and league round robin games, and playoffs**, must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams, when the distance between competing teams **within the island of ireland** is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

PORT LÁIRGE



The Camogie Association thanks the following for their support





**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

An Cumann Camógaíochta, Páirc an Chrócaigh, Áth Cliath 3.
T: 01 865 8651 • E: info@camogie.ie • W: www.camogie.ie



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