

DECEMBER 2019
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NOLLAIG 2019



FOR NEWS, VIDEOS AND FIXTURES www.gaa.ie



'IRELAND LIGHTS UP' BRINGS CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

The popular 'Ireland Lights Up' walking initiative returns in January 2020 in partnership with the GAA, Operation Transformation, and Get Ireland Walking.

In a bid to walk off the turkey and make exercise more accessible on the darker nights, clubs across the 32 counties are once more encouraged to turn on their floodlights and host community walking groups during the broadcast period of the hit RTÉ show. 270 clubs participated last year with almost 200 already registered for 2020.

Interested clubs can sign-up at any point over the next eight weeks by simply clicking on the link <https://www.getirelandwalking.ie/GAA/>

All members of the community are welcome, not just GAA members but participants will be required to register and sign-in each night to comply with risk and insurance requirements.

Clubs are encouraged to host their first 'Ireland Lights Up' walk in 2020 on Thursday, January 9th. Subsequent to this date, clubs are free to host their walking groups any evening that suits, and while they must host one walk per week they are encouraged to do more if capacity and interest allows.



John Horan, An Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael said:

"In every corner of the country our network of clubs plays a crucial role in contributing towards a healthier Ireland. This reinforces the work of our Healthy Club project and helps our clubs become hubs for health in their communities.

"The benefit of this initiative is that this appeals to young and old, players and non-players, with benefits for everyone. This

year we aim to reach over 300 clubs and encourage all clubs who meet the criteria to sign up. Together we can 'Get Ireland Walking'"

Tubbercurry GAA Club Chairman Dermot Gannon explains how the 'Ireland Lights Up' initiative worked so well.

"What we found was that it was the talk of the town. It showed that GAA isn't just about football. It's about community bringing people together and getting them

involved. We got a very positive response each week and the impact of it was that we gained new members in our club as well. That's why we're signing up again this year and starting it again in January," he said.

Registration is now open for Ireland Lights Up and interested clubs can sign up by simply going to <https://www.getirelandwalking.ie/GAA/>

Please direct any club queries to blanaid.carney@gaa.ie

GAA CROKE PARK ANNUAL

History, highlights and heroes of renown - it's all packed in here in the GAA Croke Park Annual 2019/2020 - yet again your perfect gift for Christmas.

This bumper compilation of an incredible Gaelic Games season covers all of the golden moments that lit up the football and hurling year from club to county and senior to minor, as well as celebrating the superstars who made Croke Park rock on those unforgettable big days in football, hurling and camogie.

Beautifully illustrated with exclusive interviews with Jim Gavin and Liam Sheedy and articles from some of the country's leading sportswriters, the GAA Croke Park Annual will score every time.



CALLING ALL GAA CLUBS – NEW CALENDAR ROADSHOW COMING TO A VENUE NEAR YOU

“Decisions are made by those who show up.”

This quote comes to mind as the GAA begins preparations for a major nationwide tour to outline the recommendations contained in the new GAA Report from the Fixtures Calendar Review Task-force.

The plan, launched in early December, has been described by some as the most radical document to come out of Croke Park since the Strategic Review Committee report of 2001.

The headlines were grabbed by possible changes to the All-Ireland football format,

two options which would be dramatically different to what we have now.

But the fact is that the report has 32 recommendations which impact upon every strand of the Association with far reaching implications for every unit from second level to third level, minor to U20 and for inter-county as well as, crucially, clubs in every county.

In 2015 there were only five weekends in the period from April – October that were totally free of inter-county activity and where club games existed unimpeded.

That figure now stands at 12 weeks

in the majority of cases. These new recommendations are capable of increasing this figure up to 15 club-only weekends for the majority of counties between April and October.

The report will be discussed by the GAA’s Central Council in January, after which there will be a series of regional seminars.

Every club will be invited to send a representative to attend and it is vital that clubs take up this offer and embrace the opportunity to talk, to listen to share ideas and make their voice heard.

December also saw the launch of an equally

significant body of work relating to GAA Talent Academy and Player Development.

No different to the Fixtures Calendar Review, the Talent Academy and Player Development Report spells out the important steps and key decisions that the GAA must make to keep our Games vibrant. This report also calls for all of our members to get involved and get active and take an interest.

The outlines of both reports are on the following pages and updates on when the Fixtures Calendar regional seminars are confirmed for will be made known via gaa.ie in the New Year.



GAA FIXTURES CALENDAR REVIEW TASKFORCE

The GAA has published the report of the Fixtures Calendar Review Taskforce with a series of 32 recommendations for the Association which would impact across all levels of club and inter-county competition.

At the heart of the recommendations is the objective of striking a better balance and degree of certainty to the playing of club fixtures alongside the inter-county fixture programme.

To help achieve this, a key recommendation is the creation of a new Oversight Unit that would see four full-time Fixtures Analysts appointed (one in each province) who would assist Counties in planning Club Fixture programmes.

This new Oversight Unit would have responsibility for helping to ensure clubs had more access to their county players, that all available dates to play club games with county players are utilised and would have the power to impose sanctions on Counties for breaches of rule.

It would also be responsible for ensuring counties submit club fixture plans by the end of December and for ensuring inter-county teams respect the closed season and the various other restrictions on inter-county activity outlined in the GAA



Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, centre, with Fergal McGill, Director of Player, Club and Games Administration, left, and Eddie Sullivan, Fixtures Calendar Review Taskforce Chairman

rulebook. Under these proposals inter-county training would not start back before December 1.

It is also recommended that 16 teams be the maximum number of teams

allowed in senior and intermediate club championships.

In terms of the inter-county calendar, the report suggests it can be condensed further by playing the All-Ireland senior hurling and

football finals on consecutive weekends. This would increase the time available in the current spring-time club window as well as increasing the time available post the inter-county championships for club activity.



In addition to this, the Taskforce has studied the possibility in the future of having multiple set windows put within the fixture calendar where club matches could potentially be interspersed between inter-county matches.

In relation to the All-Ireland senior football championship, there are two possible formats presented, which each have two options in terms of their schedule in the calendar and how they could facilitate club games.

Format 1 – Four provincial football championship competitions each consisting of eight teams, split into two groups of four, and seeded based on Allianz League positions and playing in a round robin format. Final league positions would determine the movement of counties into the required four eights.

Format 2 - Repositioning of the Allianz Football League to the Summer months as a basis for the Championship and playing Provincial Competitions in the February/ March period. The League would then determine the pathway for counties to qualify for All-Ireland SFC quarter-finals.

The report also looks at the implications of retaining the present Football Championship structures while simultaneously taking action to improve the overall balance between the time currently available for club and inter-county games.

All of these formats also cater for a Tier 2 Football Championship.

The report is in favour of the current All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship format

and recommends that the Hurling Development Committee examines the potential and impact of increasing the Munster and Leinster groups from five up to six teams.

The recommendations have the potential to triple the number of club-only fixture weekends in the April-October period compared to 2015 when the GAA embarked on its current programme of tightening the inter-county schedule.

In 2015 there were only five weekends in the period from April – October that were totally free of inter-county activity. That figure now stands at 12 in the majority of cases. These new recommendations are capable of increasing this figure to 15 club-only weekends for the majority of counties between April and October.

The report was launched by Uachtarán CLG John Horan at Croke Park in the presence of the Taskforce and its chairman Eddie Sullivan.

The Taskforce met 12 times and was comprised of stakeholders from across the full spectrum of GAA fixtures and included representatives from second and third level bodies, county secretaries and the GPA. The CPA contributed prior to opting out on November 18.

More than 1,300 members and supporters took part in a detailed survey via an on-line questionnaire. More than 50 different written submissions were also received by the committee relating to the fixtures calendar.

Also among the list of recommendations are proposals in favour of:

- **including the Galway senior hurling club champions in the Munster or Leinster club hurling championship;**
- **staging U20 hurling and football championships as national competitions without provincial championships;**
- **designating U17 inter-county level a developmental grade;**
- **finishing the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups earlier;**
- **finishing All-Ireland Post Primary A and B schools finals earlier and abolishing All-Ireland finals at C and D grades,**
- **abolishing the All-Ireland junior football championship.**

Following the completion of the report, it will now go out to counties and clubs for debate.

The report will be presented to Central Council in January, after which it is intended for there to be a series of regional seminars around the country with clubs from every county invited to have a representative present to engage and provide feedback.

It is envisaged that a number of motions will be on the Clár of the 2020 Annual Congress at the end of February, with the remainder being tabled at a Special Congress which will be held later next year.

If adopted, the earliest the new recommendations would be in place for is the 2021 season.

By John Harrington

CUTHBERT SAYS GAA MUST GRASP 'ELITISM' NETTLE

The GAA's Talent Academy and Player Development Review Committee have warned that the values and very culture of the GAA will suffer hugely if the recommendations of their report which was published are not implemented.

The committee, which was established by GAA President John Horan, has found that a creeping elitism in the GAA is damaging the ethos of amateurism and volunteerism that has made the Association such a pillar of Irish society.

After interviewing over 1,000 youth development stakeholders from 32 counties and analysing 7,000 pieces of data, the committee identified a number of key areas that need to be addressed.

"In terms of our evidence and our gathering it's very obvious that the inter-county game is going like a train in the one direction, and the rest of the Association is wondering where we fit," said Committee member and former Cork football team manager, Brian Cuthbert.

"The kernel of the whole problem is that winning is prioritised over everything else.

"What this committee is very, very clearly saying is that we need to educate

or stakeholders, parents, teachers, club coaches, players, around a certain philosophy that is developmental, rather than driving a winning agenda.

"One of the biggest issues we would have discovered is that all of the (inter-county) academies, bar none really, drive an elite message, 'You are now in the squad, we are going after an All-Ireland final under-14, we are going after winning something big here, you must act this way because you are now an inter county player'.

"And we don't have the wherewithal in the organisation to actually back that up. If we are a professional sport in another world we might be able to say that, that we are picking a talent stream of players that maybe we could sell or commodify, or maybe use in some way, shape or form in the future.

"But this is the GAA, at 13 and 14 and 15 years of age, we feel very, very strongly that elite messaging is inappropriate

"We're firm believers that if we don't start really, really examining where we're at and draw a line in the sand then our values and the very culture and DNA of the Irish people and their clubs are going to suffer hugely.

"That's what this report is trying to drive home. The report is absolutely adamant

Committee Member Brian Cuthbert speaking at the Launch of GAA Talent Academy and Player Development report at Croke Park in Dublin



that there's a place for everybody.

"Yes, there are going to be talented boys who need to be looked after, but, most importantly, only 1 per cent ever get to the very top

"With our vision, initiative, and commitment that we have provided in this report, it's very, very simple and can be summarised in this sentence – 'As many as possible, for as long as possible, in the best environment possible'."

When conducting their research, the

committee asked every stakeholder they interviewed three simple questions:

What is working well in your county?

What is not working so well in your county?

And how can the GAA help your county to improve?

Their analysis found lots of positives, but also a number of commonly recurring negatives.

There's widespread concern about the



excessive demands placed on elite young players who find themselves under pressure to play for a variety of teams.

There's an appetite for greater education from players, coaches, and parents alike.

All of this feeds into the retention of players which is a serious issue for the GAA with far too many being lost to the game in their late teens and early twenties.

"One of the biggest issues we face, and one of our biggest fears is retention of players," said Committee Chairman and former Kilkenny coach, Michael Dempsey.

"Players are going through a lot of changes in life, whether it is moving to third level from post-primary to greater demands being placed on from inter-county teams to all of the psycho-social stuff as well in terms of their own personal development.

"If we don't have a meaningful games programme, if we don't have a player-centred approach to coaching which is more meaningful for the player and is based on the player in terms of the end in mind and where we want that player to end up, we feel we will lose more players than we are at the moment.

"We feel that if our recommendations are implemented we will retain more players because of the meaningful games programme, the changing to our coaching and being more player-centred."

The committee have put together a Gaelic Games Development Framework with the player and the club at its centre.

It has recommended that, as part of a county plan, games calendars will be produced that will allow for a co-ordinated approach to development and greater synergy between clubs, schools, and academy squads.

It has also recommended that all inter-county competitions up to and including U17 would be developmental in their focus.

Three new full-time GAA appointments - a sports science manager, education manager and player pathway manager - will help ensure the proposed new framework will be implemented as seamlessly as possible.

"It's absolutely paramount that children, boys, youths and adults are afforded every opportunity to play our games," says Cuthbert.

"The report is very, very clear in stating that at academy level there's a certain way of doing this and All-Irelands at U-14 certainly isn't what we believe in.

"We believe in giving as many people as possible the opportunity to (play at a high level). That means that at U-13, U-14, squads would be region-based. It also means that as you grow older the first time you'll ever come across a full All-Ireland would be at U-17.

"What it also means, is that even at that level that the competitions will mirror the adult competitions in terms of a tiered approach. The Celtic Challenge has done this and been extremely successful where people drop into their level.

"No disrespect, but at minor level there are matches happening in the first round of provincial championships which are absolute white-washes. What good are we doing for anybody with those games?"

Cuthbert is adamant that good governance will be crucial to ensuring the committee's recommendations are carried out.

And, for that to happen, he believes it must come from the very top down.

"The report is also stating the necessity of governance from here (Croke Park)," says Cuthbert.

"This was a huge bug-bear of many stake-holders. They felt that at times a bit isolated.

"So it's incumbent on Croke Park as headquarters, and I use the analogy of an octopus and that the octopus' tentacles reach out from here into every corner of the country, that Croke Park takes responsibility for ensuring all these opportunities are going to be there for the people who want to work for us.

"To be honest, there is also a necessity in terms of what we have discovered that there would be a review of funding to counties in relation to appropriate planning.

"So, there's no sense in counties being rewarded if they're not going to do what's set out in this report because this report is now GAA policy."

Cuthbert also believes that if his

committee's report isn't fully implemented that the Association will have even bigger problems in the future than those it is currently facing.

"There was a passion from the committee that change would occur and we haven't put in all this work so change doesn't occur," he said.

"We are very adamant, and I know the Uachtarán is very adamant that this report doesn't (gather) cobwebs, and that the Association decides, it's time for change.

"Our fear is very, very simple. We feel that the senior inter-county game is one thing but the net effects of that and what is happening in the drop-down with younger age groups, we have a mimicking effect, in that people are trying to mirror high performance environments that happen at senior inter-county level.

"And we feel if that goes on to a younger and younger age group, we will be in trouble and if that type of activity becomes more prevalent, it will run completely contrary to the ideals of the organisation.

"We just feel that is where the nettle needs to be grasped."

Michael Dempsey and Brian Cuthbert will give a presentation on the Talent Academy and Player Development Review Committee Report at 2020 GAA Games Development Conference on January 10. Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#).

Download Talent Academy and Player Development Report [here](#).

GAA MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION – IMPORTANT INFORMATION



As the 2020 season is rapidly approaching, it is time to start planning for the year ahead.

In preparation for the year ahead, we are asking Clubs to ensure that the data they have on the Games Management System (formally known as Servasport) is as accurate as possible by reviewing your clubs members and hibernating any members that have not recently registered or are no longer active as members.

Also, to ensure that data protection rights are protected, we would remind you to review who has administrator privileges to your Club's information on the Games Management System and to add or remove relevant people as necessary.

Some of your Club Officers may have changed at your AGM and it is very important to ensure that a smooth hand-over process from the out-going to the incoming officers occurs. This should include any handing over access to any email accounts, the GAA Management System and any relevant documents to the new Officer. It is important that any passwords are changed and during this process and that any access to Club information that is no longer required is revoked.

1: Annual Club Update

The Annual Club Update process has been

broken down into six steps across three broad categories as follows:

CLUB INFORMATION

This information is essential to enable your club, and club officers, to be recorded correctly.

Step 1: Club Information

Whilst your club name doesn't normally change, it is important that spelling is reviewed for accuracy. Please ensure that your club name is spelt correctly, in both English and Irish, since this will appear exactly as entered on the system (including in fixtures, for example). Your club's crest image, if it exists, should be provided in the highest quality possible, since this will appear on Teamsheets or in the mobile App. Please also ensure that the postal address and other contact information for the club are up to date.

Step 2: Club Executive

Please add the membership details of your Club Officers for the 2020 season. This information is important to allow the County Board or National Committees to contact the relevant individuals in your club (e.g. Club Secretary, Insurance Officer or Children's Officer). This also acts as an historical record of your Club Committee for a given year. One individual may occupy

more than one role and you may add additional roles, if you wish.

MEMBERSHIPS & ONLINE PAYMENTS

From 2nd December 2019 onwards, members will be able to pay their subscriptions online via the mobile app, using a debit or credit card. To enable your members to utilise this functionality, however, you must first complete steps 3 and 4, as outlined below.

If you decide not to enable payments via the mobile phone app, you do not need to provide the information requested below. Step 3: Membership categories and fees You must provide a membership category, description and cost for each membership type that you intend to make available via the mobile app - there are no limits to the number of categories you provide. Ensuring that the fee structure is correct at this point will reduce administration time required later to make corrections or refunds.

Step 4: Account Details

If you are choosing to receive online payments via the mobile app, you must first set up an online bank account with our provider, Stripe. All payments made via the app will be received into this Stripe account and will automatically be transferrable to

your normal club bank account weekly, or on demand.

At this stage, you will be required to provide some additional information and proof of identity - such as passport details for your Treasurer. This is to satisfy financial regulations, as set out by the Central Bank of Ireland. If you choose not to use the online payments functionality, you do not need to provide this information.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

Step 5: Teams & coaches

Defining your club teams and coaches will enable you to give the appropriate people the correct permissions required to communicate with member groups. If you wish to utilise this functionality, you must first record a list of approved coaches. These coaches will then have the ability to communicate with the members (or their guardians) in his/her team.

Step 6: Communications groups

By adding members to communications groups, you will be able to control what information is sent to them. Members will have the ability to opt out of these communications groups via the mobile app – an important legal requirement under GDPR. You will have the ability to set up as many groups as you like - such as a member group per team, a 'Club Executive' group, a 'Raffle Ticket Sellers' group and an 'All Members' group, for example.

2: Membership Renewal

As per every season, the 2020 season brings the task of renewing membership subscriptions within your Club. However, this year is slightly different. Membership renewal for the 2020 season is now available. Accurately recording Club Membership is important to ensure that:

- Players are registered correctly and eligible to play
- Players are eligible to benefit from the Player Injury Fund
- Members are eligible to partake in Club activities such as voting at the AGM
- Membership subscriptions are also an important source of income for your Club

Membership registrations can be completed by Club Secretaries / Registrars using the GAA Management System by logging onto the website <https://people.gaa.ie> or also on the Official GAA app and following the necessary steps.

Any Member or Officer experiencing any difficulty or issues with the Games Management System should see the help desk below:

<https://gmssupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/categories/360001544240-GAA-Management-System>

3: Registration Deadline

As the membership year is drawing closer, this is a friendly reminder to Clubs for the forthcoming year. Clubs are reminded that they must register their Players and Members for the 2020 season on the GAA Management System (GMS) prior to the



registration deadline, March 31st 2020.

Only a Full Member who has paid his annual Club subscription by the due date set by the Executive Committee of the Club (which shall be prior to March 31st) shall be eligible to vote at, nominate for, or seek election to the Executive Committee at any following General Meeting of the Club in the membership year.

The designated Club Administrator (generally Secretary or Registrar) should go to the 'Register Members' page and complete the necessary steps.

Please note that anyone whose name is in red on either the 'register' page or the 'add and view member page', is unregistered for the current year.

4: Officer Training

Officer Training for the Games Management System will be held in January for new and existing officers. The online webinars will be taking place from Wednesday the 8th January 2020 and will be held every Wednesday evening thereafter for 6 consecutive weeks. For more information on this please contact Eoghan Tuohey – eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie.

A NEW LOGO FOR A MOMENTOUS CHANGE

GAA INJURY Benefit Fund



DWF Claims have been appointed as the new claims administrators for the GAA Injury Benefit Fund with effect from December 1 2019.

This means that DWF Claims will take over all queries, the reporting of all new claims and the handling of existing claims with effect from December 1 2019.

Why have we moved?

Full IT end to end solution for claims from notification until settlement.

All documentation can be uploaded on the portal and no requirement for originals to be posted in.

Direct payment of Injury Fund benefits to the affiliated unit

County Board will no longer be required to

sign off on the County Board declaration
Faster turnaround on payments as County Board will no longer be receiving same.

At a glance details of payments issued on claims and documents outstanding for cases to be paid.

Better reporting capabilities for the use of affiliated units and GAA HQ to make decisions on the future of the Fund and the benefits it provides.

Claims reporting App will be available in early 2020 to compliment the claims reporting portal.

Important Points to Note

Official GAA Injury Fund email address is now available – set up details issued by GAAIT on Friday November 15 via email to units.

No Injury Fund queries or correspondence will no longer be dealt with from a personal email address owing to GDPR requirements
Password for Injury Fund reporting portal must never be given to injured players – Data Protection Officer is investigating breaches.

Renewal invitations to join the 2020 Injury Benefit Fund will be issued on December 5, 2019 to all affiliated units.

Registration and payment for the Fund must be completed by March 2, 2020
All players must be registered prior to playing / training – 2020 membership system opens for registration on December 2, 2019.

All units need to educate their players on the specific benefits available under the Fund.

Extensive correspondence will be issued in relation to this change in the next few weeks and therefore, it is important that all affiliated units read the correspondence issued and share with your executive.

This is a major change in terms of the operation of the Fund. It will require a period of transition and your co-operation whilst we put this change in place would be sincerely appreciated.

The change has been made in the best interests of the Fund and work towards alleviating the burden of work on our volunteers that the Injury Fund can create.

By Clodagh O'Callaghan

GAA HEALTHY CLUBS – CLASS OF 2019

October 5th was a massive day for 84 GAA Clubs from around the country who were recognised as official “Healthy Clubs” in a ceremony at the GAA’s National Healthy Club Conference in Croke Park.

This prestigious award saw the clubs and volunteers individually acknowledged for the contribution they have made in their GAA Communities to bring the vision for Healthy Ireland to life: where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential.

The innovative Healthy Club model was developed by the GAA Community and Health department in partnership with Healthy Ireland, the HSE’s health promotion division, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, and is supported by Irish Life through a CSR investment.

In January 2018, almost 300 clubs applied to participate in the GAA Healthy Clubs Initiative. The dearth of services in their communities has led to difficulty in tackling issues such as obesity, sedentary lifestyles, mental health and suicide and

they wanted to become part of the solution.

Clubs engaged with their members and community before identifying the health themes they felt were most pertinent to focus on. The most common themes cited included: physical activity for non-playing members; healthy eating; emotional wellbeing; engaging older members of the community; youth development; smoke free clubs; gambling, drug, and alcohol education; and inclusion and integration.

In an era of unprecedented societal health challenges, the Healthy Club Project aims to harness the potential of the GAA club setting to deliver evidence-based health promotion information and interventions, backed up by appropriate policies and partnerships. Its potential to be replicated by other sports is currently being explored by a working group involving the FAI, IRFU, and Athletics Ireland.

For more information please contact the GAA Community & Health Team on community.health@gaa.ie

Roscommon GAA Healthy Clubs



Meath GAA Healthy Clubs



Limerick GAA Healthy Clubs



Cavan GAA Healthy Clubs





Below is a list of clubs that were honoured in Croke Park.

1. CLG Lámh Dhearg Antrim
2. Ruairí Óg, Cushendall Antrim
3. St Erganat's, Moneyglass Antrim
4. Clann Eireann, Lurgan Armagh
5. Crosserlough Cavan
6. Kingscourt Stars Cavan
7. Lacken Cavan
8. Robert Emmets, Slaughtneill Derry
9. St. Martin's, Desertmartin Derry
10. CLG Baile na nGallóglach Donegal
11. CLG Bun Cranncha Donegal
12. Four Masters Donegal
13. St Eunan's Donegal
14. Ardglass Down
15. Ballycran Down
16. Bredagh Down
17. Kinawley Brian Boru, St Mary's Killesher
Fermanagh
18. Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs
Fermanagh
19. CLG Gaeil Triúcha Monaghan
20. Latton O'Rahilly Monaghan
21. Errigal Ciaran Tyrone
22. Gortin St. Patrick's Tyrone
23. CLG Naomh Mhic Artáin Tyrone
24. Doonbeg Clare
25. St. Joseph's Doorra Barefield Clare
26. Clonakilty Cork
27. Macroom Cork
28. Newtownshandrum Cork
29. Cobh Cork
30. Ballydonoghue Kerry
31. Dr. Crokes Kerry
32. Claughaun Limerick
33. Galbally Limerick
34. Killeedy Limerick
35. Lorrha-Dorrha Tipperary
36. CLG Tulach Sheasta Tipperary
37. An Rinn Waterford
38. CLG Dún na Mainistreach Baile na
Cúirte Waterford
39. Palatine Carlow
40. Ballyboughal Dublin
41. Beann Éadair Dublin
42. Lucan Sarsfields Dublin
43. CLG Naomh Ólaf Dublin
44. O'Dwyer's Dublin
45. Ranelagh Gaels Dublin
46. Skerries Harps Dublin
47. St. Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh Dublin
48. St. Sylvester's Dublin
49. Robertstown Kildare
50. St. Mary's Leixlip Kildare
51. St. Laurence's Kildare
52. Conahy Shamrocks Kilkenny
53. Thomastown Kilkenny
54. Annanough Laois
55. Emmet Óg, Killoe Longford
56. Clan Na Gael Louth
57. John Mitchels Louth
58. Naomh Mairtin Louth
59. CLG Rath Tó Meath
60. Dunderry Meath
61. Na Fianna Meath
62. Navan O'Mahony's Meath
63. Syddan Meath
64. Coolderry Offaly
65. Crookedwood Westmeath
66. Lough Lene Gaels Westmeath
67. Mullingar Shamrocks Westmeath
68. Oulart-The Ballagh Wexford
69. St. Martin's Wexford
70. Enniskerry Wicklow
71. Caherlistrane Galway
72. Castlegar Galway
73. Clarinbridge Galway
74. Ardrahan Galway
75. Aughnasheelin Leitrim
76. Glencar Manorhamilton Leitrim
77. Breaffy Mayo
78. Castlebar Mitchels Mayo
79. CLG Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Mayo
80. Davitts Mayo
81. Clann na nGael Roscommon
82. St. Croan's Roscommon
83. St. John's Sligo
84. CLG Naomh Molaise Gaels Sligo

CLUB AND COUNTY PLANNING

Over the past decade, the Official GAA Club Planning Programme has helped approximately 1,000 Clubs develop strategic plans.

Planning can help Clubs to:

- **Reflect on why it exists, what it aspires to be and what it believes in.**
- **Decide on the areas of activity that it wants to pursue or needs to focus on.**
- **Agree on the key projects it will pursue.**

- **Devise a practical Club Development Plan for carrying out these projects.**

How a Club Can Get Involved

Any Club can get involved in the programme. The Club will need to fill out an Expression of Interest Form (EOI) available on the Administrator section of the GAA Learning Portal. <https://learning.gaa.ie/ClubPlanning>

The EOI is then submitted to either the County Development Officer, Provincial Coordinator or National Coordinator.

GAA CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – CONFIRMED CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Please find below a list of upcoming events in 2020 as part of the roll out of the new Club Leadership Development Programme Framework which offers training for key positions as well as specialist seminars.

*Antrim/Derry/Tyrone - 7/1/20 St Pius X College Magherafelt 6.30pm
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Armagh/Down 9/1/20 St Paul's High School Bessbrook 6.30pm
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Cavan/Fermanagh/Monaghan 14/1/20 Largy College Clones 6.30pm
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Donegal 16/1/20 Coláiste Áiligh Letterkenny 6.30pm
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Roscommon 20/1/20 Roscommon CBS Time TBC
Office 365*

*Offaly 21/1/20 O'Connor Park Tullamore 7.30pm
Governance*

*Galway 21/1/20 Claregalway Hotel, 7.30pm
Creating a Safe Club*

Antrim/Derry Tyrone 21/1/20 St Pius X

*College Magherafelt 6.30pm
Governance*

*Armagh/Down 23/1/20 St Paul's High School Bessbrook 6.30pm
Governance*

*Meath 27/1/20 Dunganny, Trim, Time TBC
Governance*

*Roscommon 27/1/20 Hannon's Hotel Roscommon, Time TBC
Governance*

*Louth 28/1/20 GAA Centre of Excellence, Time TBC
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Cavan/Fermanagh/Monaghan 28/1/20, Largy College, Clones 6.30pm
Governance*

*Kilkenny 29/1/20 Venue/Time TBC
Office 365*

*Donegal 30/1/20 Coláiste Áiligh, Letterkenny, 6.30pm
Governance*

*Louth, 4/2/20, GAA Centre of Excellence, Time TBC
Office 365*

*Meath 10/2/20 Dunganny, Trim, Time TBC
Governance*

CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

*Cork, 10/2/20 Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Time TBC
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Kerry, 12/2/20, IT Tralee, 7.30pm
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Clare, 13/2/20 Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, Time TBC
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO*

*Kilkenny, 26/2/20, Venue & Time TBC
Governance*

*Kerry, 4/3/20, Kerry GAA, 7.30pm
Volunteer Recruitment*

*Kerry, 1/4/20, IT Tralee, 7.30pm
Office 365*

*Kerry, 7/10/20, Kerry GAA, 7.30pm
Club AGM*

There will be a webinar once a week for six weeks, beginning on Wednesday January 8th, then 15th and so on until February 19th (which can be viewed live from any location with broadband access) on the new GAA Games Management System (formerly Servasport).

Westmeath GAA will host a "Getting Work Done in Office 365", "Doing Things Right – Good Governance in your GAA Club", "Essential Training for Data Protection" and "Creating a Safe Club" workshops at dates and times TBC.

Westmeath will also act as one of four pilot counties who will trial the first Club Officer Foundation Award in 2020.

As always, the County Development Officer is the primary point of contact for any Officer Training queries within counties.

IS YOUR CLUB WINTER READY?

To be Winter Ready, you need to be aware of the weather conditions in your area, so that you can PREPARE.

Weather alerts are available through Met Eireann or the Met Office. Does your club monitor weather alerts and take necessary controls to minimise risk of damage to property?

For example, during a high wind alert if your ball stop nets are retractable they must be retracted and failure to retract nets will mean damage will not be covered by Property Insurance

Emergency Response plan – Does your club have one? For example do you have the contact numbers available for professional contractors e.g. – heating/plumbing/glass repair/alarm should they be required. Do you know the location of your main supplies and drain valves, stop valves etc. if they need to be isolated following property damage or should there be a problem?

During winter months when there is an increased risk of burst pipes it is important that there are regular building and plant inspections undertaken. This is particularly important overnight, at weekends and also over the Christmas holiday period when the building could be unattended for days. During vulnerable periods buildings should be checked regularly.

If buildings will be closed/left unattended during winter months you need plan for an entire water system drain down as required under Property Insurance. Water installations which cannot be drained down i.e. toilet cisterns, toilet pans, low section of water tanks etc. it may be necessary to add an anti-freeze solution to the water.

Heating systems/boilers are crucial in order to provide some level of heating and minimise risk of burst pipes. Your heating system should be serviced regularly including all thermostats and timers to ensure they are working. Buildings with water services should be provided with heating sufficient to maintain a minimum air temperature within every part of the building of at least 10°C and Frost Stats must be fitted to ensure that this temperature is maintained.

Have you reviewed insulation on your property? In particular pipe work for water and heating systems. Inspect piping in order to determine the level and quality of insulation afforded and this should be checked on a regular basis to check integrity. Insulation material must be maintained in a dry state and this is particularly important regarding external or underground pipes. Insulation should be provided around all fittings including bends, valves, tees etc. smaller pipes will require a greater thickness of insulation.



The risk of Theft increases in winter. Have you closed and locked all doors and windows? Has your security alarm(s) been recently serviced to ensure it is fully operational. Have you reviewed all lighting at the property to ensure it is operational? Any lighting operating on a timer should be updated to reflect earlier sunset times during winter

Have you checked smoke alarms and carbon alarms to ensure they have been recently tested and are fully operational? Have your fire extinguishers been serviced?

Have you checked all access routes to ensure free from hazards and gates or other perimeter fencing has been inspected and is fully maintained. Leaves and/or other vegetation in particular moss at the property should be regularly removed to ensure they don't block drains and/or create slip hazards on access routes

Further information and advice for your club and home are available on <https://www.winterready.ie/en>

The best thing you can do at any time of the year is to make sure your property

is well looked after. Property insurance is not a maintenance cover. Damage to property where the underlying cause of loss is determined to have occurred due to a lack of regular upkeep is not covered by Property Insurance.

If your property suffers damage which may result in a claim under the Property Insurance policy you can report the claim to Marsh Ireland via email at propertyclaimsgaa@marsh. In order to assist insurers and/or their appointed loss assessors the greater the level of information on the damage you can provide the easier they will be able to respond. Following a major weather event there will be delays in claims processing.

Once it is safe to do so, you should inspect the property and make a list of all damage and if possible take photos of the damage. Photos and inspection should be taken from a safe distance and only if safe to do so. If you need to undertake temporary repairs ensure you retain the damaged property for inspection and all receipts. A designated contact at the club for insurers to liaise with will also assist the ease and swiftness of the claims process.

By Clodagh O'Callaghan

CEAD MÍLE FÁILTE AN IND!

GAELIC GAMES IN INDIA IS THE LATEST MILESTONE IN ANOTHER EPIC YEAR FOR WORLD GAA



Meitheal is an old Irish language word describing how local communities used to come together and share workloads, creating a strong community spirit ensuring everyone kept in touch and made friendships.

It is clear that the meaning and value of Meitheal is intrinsic to Irish culture at home and abroad and what better way to see it in

practice than through GAA Clubs. With more than 400 GAA clubs overseas, it's no surprise that today one in five GAA clubs are found outside of Ireland, in almost every corner of the world. The GAA World Games may be a relatively new phenomenon but the Gaelic Games themselves have been global for centuries.

The games are growing very rapidly in China and Europe. In contrast to previous

episodes of large-scale emigration from Ireland, there are a lot of young professionals and graduates who are well educated and highly skilled travelling to these areas.

There has also been a notable increase in the number of local people taking up the sport which was evident through the number of "Native Born" teams competing in the most recent Renault GAA World Games. This year there were 58 Native Born teams out of 84, compared to 2016 when there were only 26 out of 56 teams. Many members of these new international GAA Clubs have no Irish connection at all and join because they are enthralled by the games themselves, the structure, the competitiveness and the community in the club. The World Games will be back in 2022 and who knows what records will be set. "What attracted me to Gaelic football was that it is a combination of rugby, football and basketball and the fact that it is a full-contact sport," says Zhovi Yhome, a Delhi-based legal consultant and a player of India Wolfhounds.

India is one of the most recent countries to have joined the legion of GAA Clubs abroad. On August 4th last year, and marking the centenary of the Gaelic Sunday participation event of 1918 in doing so, five men in New Delhi started playing Gaelic Football. Since then, 25 more people have

joined them, a mixture of expats and natives, and the India Wolfhounds was formed. The club members travelled to the recent GAA Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur to take part. The women's team combined with players from Malaysia and South Korea to field a team.

"I like Gaelic football. It is a very fast field game," says Rajveer Chowdhary, a sports science consultant with Team Tennis India and a member of India Wolfhounds. Elsewhere, there is the possibility of adding the sport of Gaelic football to the sporting curriculum enjoyed by students at Delhi's St Columba's, a school founded by Irish Christian Brothers.

In a time where contacting home is only a click of a button away, to see new international clubs continually being formed annually is a true testament to the status of the games within Irish culture and how much the connection created by being a member of a GAA club is valued.

The role of the GAA as a social network for the Irish abroad is nothing new. They are community focal points for the Irish diaspora and a ready-made support network for new arrivals; places where you can find a sense of camaraderie or have the opportunity to meet people from back home.

Aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile

GAA JERSEY JANUARY AT THE GAA MUSEUM

Wear your GAA jersey on the Croke Park Stadium Tour this January and get your tour ticket half price!

Adults, children, seniors, students and families can avail of this fantastic offer when they proudly sport their GAA club, county or Kellogg's Cúl Camp jerseys.

The Croke Park Stadium Tour brings you on a behind-the-scenes journey through the home of Gaelic games. Some of the highlights include taking a seat in the VIP area, getting a birds-eye view from the media centre, sneaking a peek inside the dressing rooms, and of course, walking in the footsteps of legends as you go pitchside through the players' tunnel!

The offer also includes admission to the GAA Museum, where you can immerse yourself in the spine-tingling and unique story of Gaelic games from ancient times to the present day. The vast collection includes rare and precious artefacts from our national games, such as the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups.

It also includes a visit to the Interactive Games Zone where you can test your hurling and Gaelic football skills.

For more information visit www.crokepark.ie/jerseyjanuary

Prices including the 50% discount are as follows:

- **Adults – reduced to €7**
- **Seniors / Students – reduced to €5.50**
- **Children – reduced to €4.50 (aged between 3-12 years. Under 3 years go free)**
- **Family (2 adults & 2 children) – reduced to €19**
- **Family (2 adults & 3 children) – reduced to €20**

* Offer is only available to those who buy their tickets at the GAA Museum on the day of the tour and not to pre-purchased online tickets.

* All family members must be wearing jerseys to avail of the discount on the family ticket.



LEABHAR NUA RIALACHA SCÓR 2019



Tá séasúr nua de Scór na nÓg faoi lánseol agus rialacha nua Scór i bhfeidhm don chéad uair! We are well into a new season of Scór na nÓg and our new rules are being brought into operation for the first time.

The new rules have been put in place following an exhaustive but enormously worthwhile and fruitful process, designed to meet the concerns raised in recent years. While everyone might not agree with all the changes, it is imperative that the rules are now accepted and respected. The emphasis must now be on building on the goodwill

generated by the Jubilee celebrations and seeking to ex-pand Scór na nÓg and re-invigorate Scór Sinsir.

The most radical change to rule is that which allows Combinations, already formed and permitted by County Board to play underage football/hurling together, to enter teams in Scór in the name of the Combination. This rule is designed to allow maximum flexibility to members of small rural clubs, under pressure from depopulation, to participate at the initial stages of Scór.

Another major change allows two Scór na nÓg competitors in their final year of Scór na nÓg eligibility to participate in an 8 hand-troupe, dance competitions only.

Finally, a solo singer may have the assistance of an accompanist on stage, provided the person providing the accompaniment is from the same club and compliant with the age regulations for that competition. This rule also covers those providing-off stage accompaniment for Recitations and Novelty acts.

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Scór

Náisiúnta, guím gach rath ar gach duine a bheidh ag tabhairt faoi obair Scór sa bhliain atá romhainn. Beidh Coiste Náisiúnta Scór, ár Rúnaí, Jamie Ó Tuama, agus mé féin lán-sásta aon chabhair nó tacaíocht gur féidir linn a thabhairt daoibh, a thabhairt ach í a iarraidh.

Aodán Ó Braonáin, Cathaoirleach Choiste Náisiúnta Scór, Samhain, 2019

BOINN ÓIR FHONDÚIREACTH SHEOSAIMH MHC DHONNCHA BRONNTA AR CLG NA RINNE AGUS AR CLG NA FIANNA

Ag ócáid bhronnta Fhondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha ar 14 Nollaig, bhronn Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seán Ó hÓráin, boinn ar 37 cumann mar aitheantas ar a gcuid oibre i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge ina gcuid clubanna.

Bronnadh boinn óir ar CLG na Fianna, Áth Cliath, agus ar CLG na Rinne, Port Láirge. Bronnadh 9 bonn airgid agus 26 bonn cré-umha.

Scéim aitheantas agus scéim deontais atá i bhFondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha atá á riar ag Glór na nGael i gcomhar le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Is féidir gach eolas a fháil faoin bhFondúireacht ag an nasc seo a leanas:

<https://www.glornangael.ie/clg/>

nó ó rannóg Ghaeilge CLG anseo:

<https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/cultur-agus-gaeilge/cultur-agus-gaeilge>

NA BUAITEOIRÍ

Bonn Óir:

Na Fianna, CLG, Co. Átha Cliath
CLG na Rinne, Co. Phort Láirge

Bonn Airgid:

Tír na nÓg CLG, Co. Aontroma
Bun an Phobail CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Toigh Chonnachta, Co. an Dúin



Buaiteoirí: Ó chlár: Seán Ó hÓráin, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Eoin Ó Murchadha, Sinéad Ní Allmhúráin, Noel Ó Murchadha, Seán Ó hAdhmaill, Glór na nGael

Naomh Adhamhnáin CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
An Chloch Fhada CLG, Co. an Dúin
CLG Charn Domhnaigh, Co. Dhún na nGall
CLG Naomh Colum Cille, Oileán agus Cluain, Co. Thír Eoghain
Bun Cranncha CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Laochra Loch Lao CLG, Co. Aontroma

Bonn Cré-umha:

Cloich Cheann Fhaola, CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Cill Chomáin CLG, Co. Mhaigh Eo
Micheál Mac Daibhéid CLG, Co. Aontroma
Cumann Liathróid Láimhe Eanach Cuain,

Co. na Gaillimhe
Naomh Columba CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Uí Chonaill Doire Loinn, Co. Fhear Manach
Na Cláirseacha CLG, An Chraobh, Co. Thír Eoghain
An Sean-Phobal CLG, Co. Phort Láirge
Na Ceithre Máistir CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Ard Eoin CLG, Co. Aontroma
Réamoinn Uí hAnluain CLG, Co. Ard Mhacha
Gleann tSúilí CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Mac Uílin CLG, Co. Aontroma
An Tulach Mhór CLG, Co. Uíbh Fhailí
Droim Ga CLG, Co. an Dúin
An Beart CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Eiméid CLG, Lios Na Scéithe, Co. Fhear Manach

Naomh Seosamh CLG, Gleann Eallaigh, Co. Thír Eoghain
Cumann Peile Thomáis Dáibhis, Co. Ard Mhacha
Cill Náile Brian Ó Bórimhe CLG, Co. Fhear Manach
Naomh Éanna CLG, Co. Aontroma
Fianna Oileán an Ghuail CLG, Co. Thír Eoghain
Craobh Rua Camlocha, Co. Ard Mhacha
Naomh Iosáf CLG, Baile Crann, Co. an Dúin
Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn CLG, Co. Dhún na nGall
Naomh Peadar CLG, Co. Ard Mhacha

By Martin Fogarty

HURLING IN LAPLAND

East Cavan Gaels would travel anywhere for a game of Hurling!

At a recent Táin Óg hurling meeting held in St. Aidan's High School in Derrylinn, County Fermanagh, one of the greatest challenges facing teams that take part in the competition was discussed and that is the distance that teams must travel in order to play games.

Hurling clubs are so scarce in the Táin area that teams are well used to having to travel for a least an hour each way to get games and sometimes that can be to get to a half way venue. These people are resilient however and nothing deters them from playing the game they love. In the middle of the discussion a team mentor from East Cavan Gaels made a wide-ranging statement.

"We would travel anywhere for a game of hurling" she said and she was not joking as this week some of their players and one of their mentors Pat O' Flaherty are hurling in Lapland! Pat, his wife Martina and children Hazel, Ben and Gracie decided to bring the hurls up North. "It's not often you get to play hurling inside the Artic Circle" says Pat.

They even brought some of the new Yellow slotars, just as well or they would need a new slotar after ever score.

Pat O'Flaherty and family with their hurls in the Arctic circle



MACNAMEE AWARDS 2019 – RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN GAA COMMUNICATIONS

The GAA MacNamee Awards are held annually to honour excellence in the area of communications, public relations and journalism, specifically related to the activities of the Association. These Awards are named after the late Pádraig MacNamee, former President of the GAA, Chairman of the GAA Commission (1969-1971) and member of RTÉ authority.

Applications for the 2019 MacNamee Awards are now being accepted. It should be noted that only work published or completed in the 2019 calendar year is eligible for consideration and entries will not be returned. The awards scheme will be judged under the following headings:



- **Best GAA Publication**

To cover general works focussing on the Association.

- **Best GAA Club Publication**

To cover GAA County Yearbooks and Club History.

- **Best GAA Website**

Acknowledgement for the best Club or County website, taking into consideration design, content and usefulness to members.

- **Best New Media**

Award for a Club, County or Province's use of digital channels or own created content (video, podcasts, newsletter, other) to present a story or activity online. Entries should;

- Illustrate the Who, What, Where, When and Why of the content or campaign.
- Examples of content created for the campaign
- Examples of engagement with online community
- Illustration of results achieved

- **Best Photograph**

Focussing on the best GAA-themed image.

- **Best Programme**

To cater for all match day programmes produced for any level of the GAA.

- **Best GAA related Radio Programme**

To cater for all GAA programming broadcast either nationally or locally

- **Provincial Media Award**

To acknowledge high quality written journalism in a provincial publication.

- **National Media Award**

To acknowledge high quality written journalism in national daily or Sunday publication.

- **Best TV Documentary**

To acknowledge the high quality of TV documentaries currently produced on the GAA.

- **Irish Language Award / Gradam na Gaeilge**

To recognise excellence in the field of Irish language GAA journalism across all media/ Aitheantas ar ardchaighdeán iriseoireachta Gaeilge bainteach le cúrsaí CLG, ina chuimsítear gach cineál meán cumarsáide.

* Please note: There is a limit of three photographs per entrant for the photographic award and one entry for all other categories.

- **A Hall of Fame Award / Outstanding Service Award**

will also be made in recognition of a prolonged personal involvement in the coverage of GAA activities to the highest standards. This person is selected by the GAA President.

All entries should be marked "GAA MacNamee Awards 2019" and addressed for the attention of Alan Milton, Director of Communications, Croke Park, Dublin 3 or emailed to siobhan.brady@gaa.ie

Entrants should also clearly state what category they are submitting their entry under.

Award winners will be contacted in due course with further details in relation to the awards banquet.

Closing date for entries is Friday, 03/01/20.

For further information please contact Alan Milton, Director of Communications, Croke Park on 01 8658612



PLAYING RULE CHANGES

OFFICIAL GAA / SPECIAL CONGRESS
PLAYING RULE MOTIONS 2019

PLAYING RULE MOTION 1A

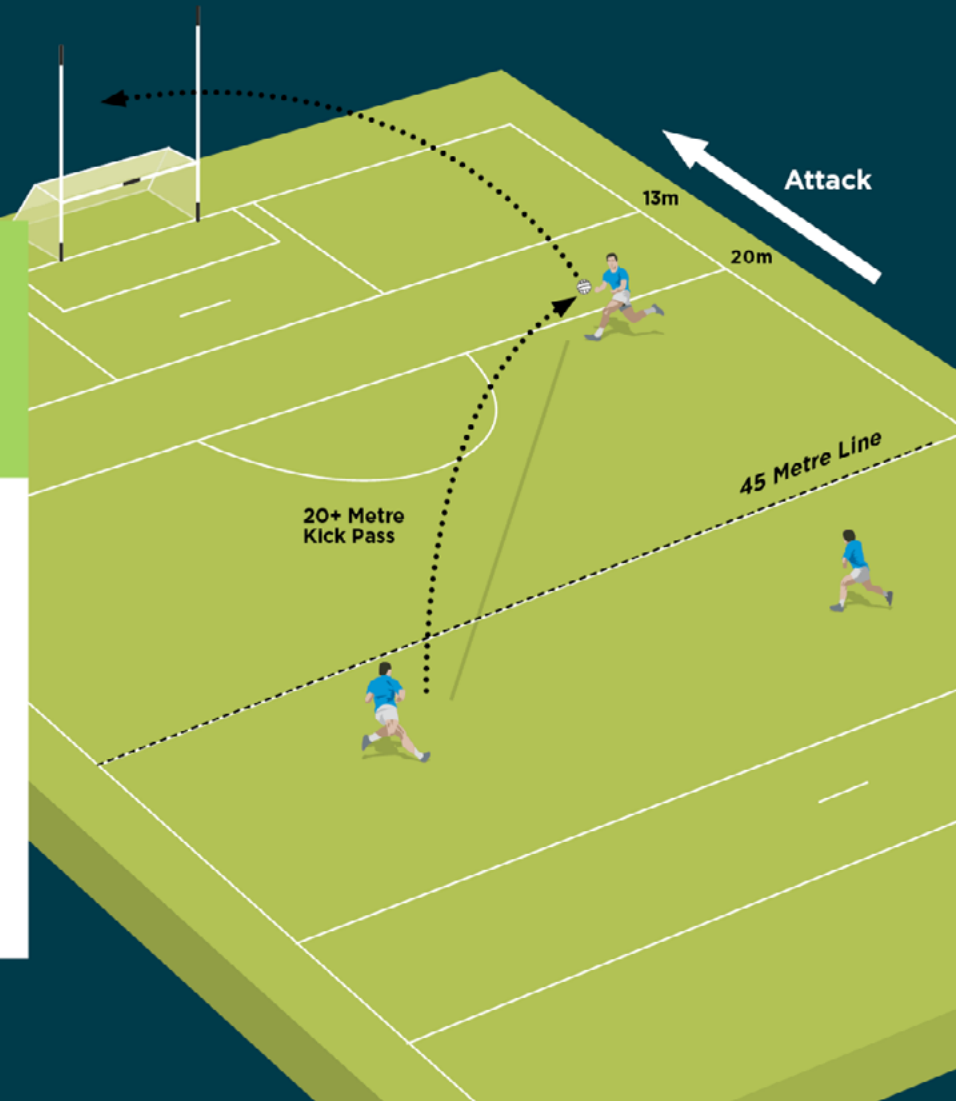
THE ADVANCED MARK RATIONALE

AIM: To offer an incentive for the longer kicking of the ball into the opposition's defensive area and reward players who catch the ball cleanly under these circumstances with a Mark.

Supporting evidence and rationale:

During its trialling in the Allianz National Football Leagues 2019, this experimental rule provided for a 24% increase in the number of kick passes in the game (2019 NFL v 2018 C'ship) - 132 v 107 and, furthermore, it resulted in an increase in the number of contested foot passes (6%)

It provided for the first reduction in the ratio of hand passing to foot passing in ten seasons (3.5:1 in the 2018 C'ship to 2.9:1 NFL 2019), meaning teams were inclined to kick the ball more and hand pass it less than had been the case for at least the last decade.



OFFICIAL GAA / SPECIAL CONGRESS
PLAYING RULE MOTIONS 2019

PLAYING RULE MOTION 2A

THE SIN BIN

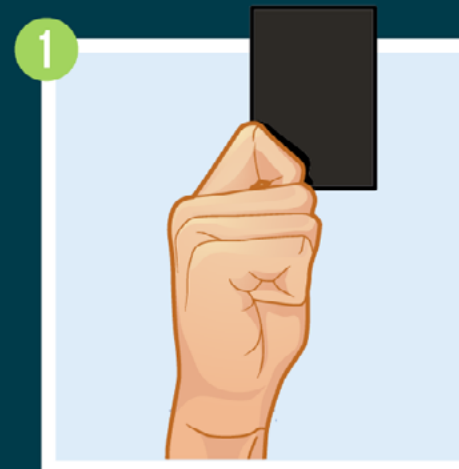
AIM: To reduce a rise in cynical play/'professional' fouling and implement a penalty 'on the day' which encourages behavioural change.

Supporting evidence and rationale:

On average during the 2019 NFL, teams with an extra player scored 2.9 points compared to 1 point for the opposition in the same period (i.e. during the period when an opponent was in the sin-bin).

The average 'ball in play' time during a sin bin throughout the Allianz National Football League 2019 (30 games analysed) was 5:15 - entirely consistent with the remainder of the game.

The proposed introduction of the Sin Bin also offers teams a greater level of equity in that it removes the effect of a strong group of substitutes who, under current rule, would replace any player who received a black card.



Black card is shown



10 minute clock starts once the player has left the field of play. Game will re-commence at the same time that the Sin-Bin period commences.

OFFICIAL GAA / SPECIAL CONGRESS
PLAYING RULE MOTIONS 2019

PLAYING RULE MOTION 3A

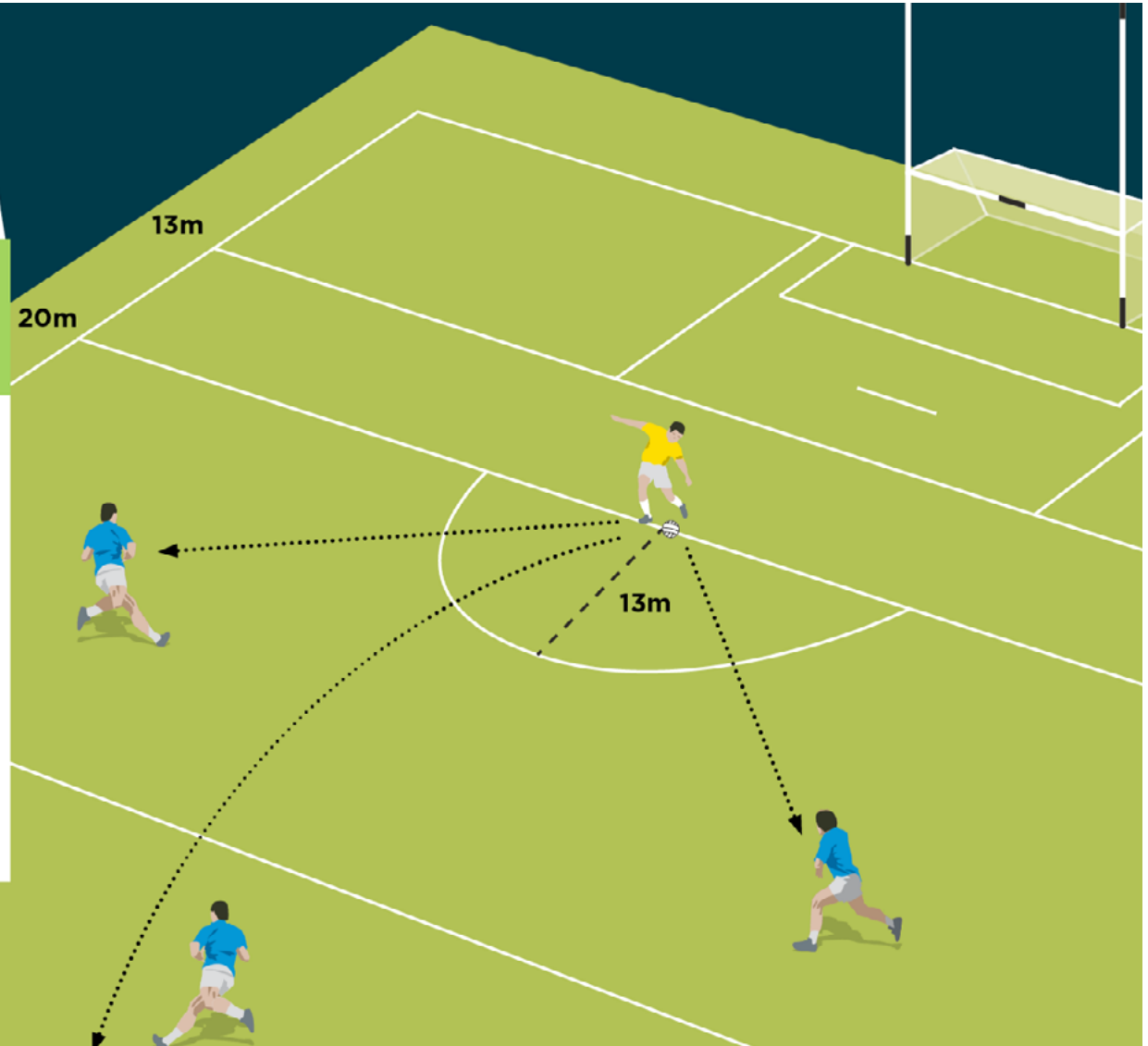
THE KICK OUT

AIM: To encourage teams to kick the ball further up the field from the kick out; To present opportunities for the skill of clean catching by bolstering the existing Mark rule.

Supporting evidence and rationale:

During the Allianz National Football Leagues, when the kick out was taken from the 20m line, there was an increase in the number of Marks claimed by teams compared to the 2018 Championship.

During the Allianz National Football Leagues 2019 there was also a significant increase in the number of contested kick outs (i.e. between both teams) compared to the recently concluded 2019 All Ireland Championship.



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – A LEGAL AND RULE REQUIREMENT

Clubs will now be aware that the template for the new Child Safeguarding Statement was issued to Club Secretaries in November and again earlier this month.

All Clubs, and County Boards, must have a current statement that has been made available to members and put on display, following agreement by the Club Executive. The Statement addresses the risk of harm that we should consider for a child when they attend our games or activities and it is agreed following a risk assessment process.

Agreeing and displaying the Child Safeguarding Statement is both a legal and rule requirement and in the last week it is interesting to note that a number of GAA, LGFA and Camogie Clubs have been contacted by Tusla seeking a copy of their current Child Safeguarding Statement.

Should a Club be deemed non-compliant with Child Safeguarding Statement requirements or any other aspect of their child safeguarding practices they may be refused compliance recognition by Tusla. All underage activities will then cease in that Club immediately and the restriction will remain in place until such time as it is removed by the National Child Safeguarding Committee.

The link for the Child Safeguarding



Statement in English is here <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/dvpd9udt1fjahbvxmhdj.pdf>

The link for the Risk Assessment is here <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/children-first>

Tá leagan Gaeilge den Ráiteas Um Chumhdach Leanaí le seo agus ar fáil ar gaa.ie.

Adult to child ratios at games, training and camps

As Clubs prepare for the resumption of underage activities early in the New Year, we are reminded to bring to your attention the adult to child ratio requirements as agreed for the sports sector when coaching or overseeing our games, our coaching roles and other games related activities.

While ratios change from sector to sector, from formal to informal activities and indeed at times from activity to activity such ratios are in place for a dual purpose. They are designed and implemented so as to enable us provide a safe environment for the child and young person under our care while also protecting the adult who can rely on other qualified coaches to deliver quality and good practice with them in the coaching of our underage participants. The Code of Behaviour (Underage) mirrors the best practice recommendations contained in the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport. This Guidance is an All-Ireland recommended policy document that guides all Sports NGBs in their work with children and young people.

The recommended adult to child

supervision ratios in Sport as outlined in this document and in the GAA Code of Behaviour (Underage) is:

Ratio of one adult for 8 children in under 12 yrs. of age teams and activities and a ratio of 1:10 for children over 12 yrs. of age

While abiding by such ratios a coach must always be accompanied by at least one other suitably qualified adult at all times.

Clubs should explore the opportunity to recruit Camp Assistants at their Camps next year which is permissible under our Cúl Camps and Club Camps guidance. Camp Assistants must be over 16 yrs. of age, must receive prior training and the role is certainly a meaningful and developmental one on the pathway towards future coaching.

Your Club Crest

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Gaelic Athletic Associations (GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Handball and Rounders) in accordance with our Code of Behaviour (Underage), policies, procedures and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members and units of our Associations.

The basic aims of the Gaelic Athletic Associations include fostering and developing our Gaelic Games and Irish cultural activities among young people and children. These games and related activities are organised and promoted by dedicated volunteers at Club, County, Provincial and National Levels

with Provincial and National Levels with the cooperation and support of an equally dedicated cohort of staff all of whom are committed to the safeguarding of children and young people in our Association as we seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and with the requirements of our Codes and Rules that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that all children and young people have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience of Gaelic Games and when participating in our activities that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

RISK ASSESSMENT

In preparing this statement we have completed a risk assessment of the potential for harm to children when they are participating in our games and attending our activities under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications and a further heading of General Risk of Harm. To the right is a list of areas of risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for these risks.

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURE/POLICIES IN PLACE	QR CODE SHORTCUT
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child	Code of Behaviour (Underage) ¹ Recruitment Policy Vetting Policy ² Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training Policy Guidance for Dealing & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse ³	1
Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an activity and or an away trip	Code of Behaviour (Underage) Hosting, Away Trips & Transport	2
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media	Code of Behaviour (Underage) Association Social Media Policy	3
Bullying of a child	Anti-Bullying Statement, Guidelines & Training	

Guidance for Dealing & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse

PROCEDURES

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the *Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (NI) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* and as required by our Association rules.

The following procedures contained in our risk assessment support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

- Procedure in respect to the management of allegations of abuse against any member, non-member or staff or volunteer of a child availing of our services
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people
- Procedure for provision of and access to Gaelic Games child safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to the Association, Tusla and or Gateway Team as applicable
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person i.e. the Children's Officer (National, Club and County as appropriate) who is the relevant person for the purpose of this statement (see name below)

MANDATED PERSON

The Mandated Person, who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation and who has been employed for the purpose of performing the child welfare and protection functions within each of our Associations is:

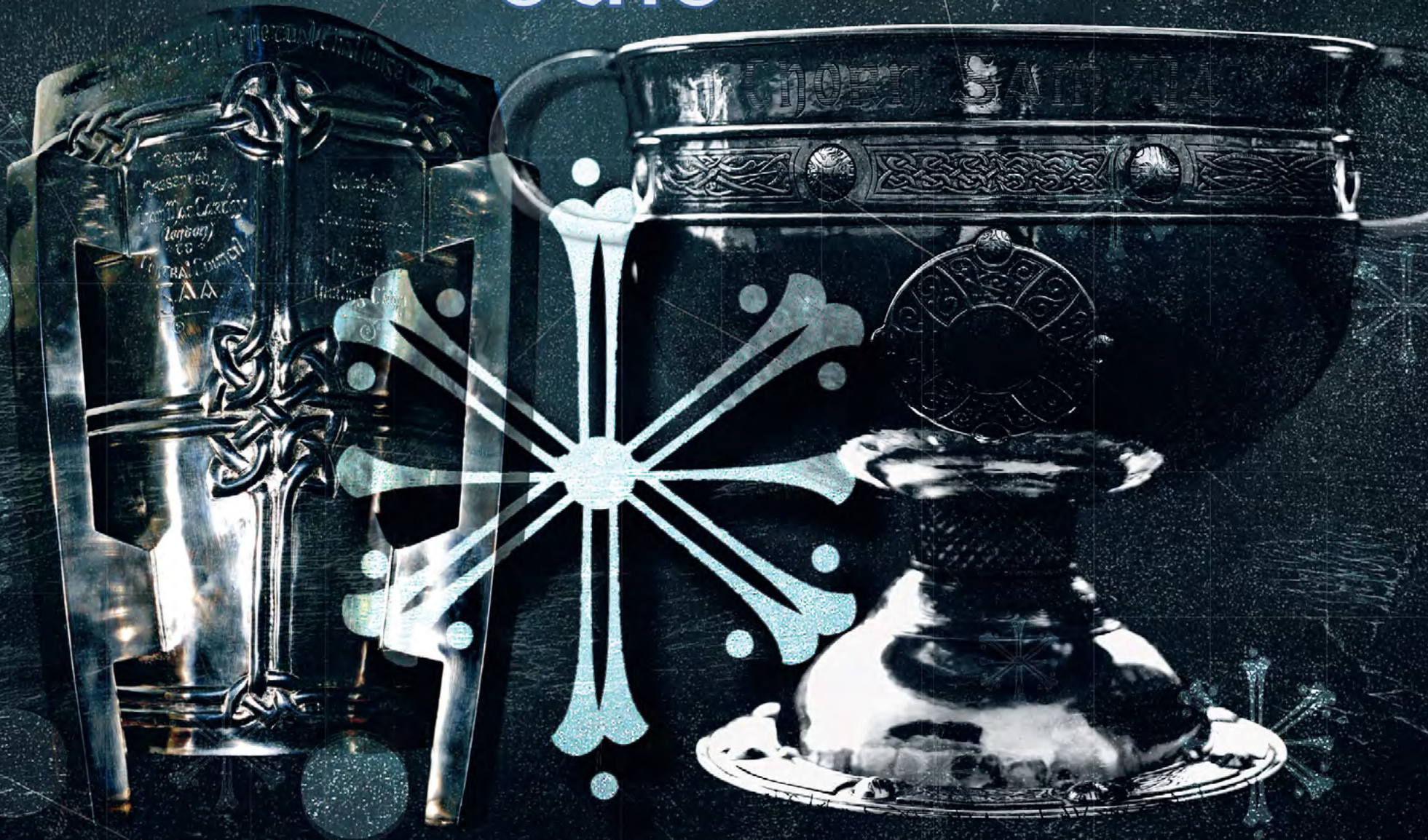
GAA/Rounders	Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl	mandatedperson@gaa.ie
Camogie	Roberta Farrell	mandatedperson@camogie.ie
Handball	John Kelly	mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie
LGFA	Paula Prunty	mandatedperson@lgfa.ie

All policies and procedures listed above are available at www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The Gaelic Athletic Associations recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Associations are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Statement adopted and endorsed by our Ard Chomhairle will be reviewed by **31st of May 2021** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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Football

Hurling

Club

General

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to clubnewsletter@gaa.ie.

Produced by the GAA Communications Department in Croke Park, Edited by Cian Ó Murchadha and designed by DBA Publications in Blackrock, Co Dublin.