



One Club Guidelines

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Introduction

One Gaelic Games Family

The GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association and the Camogie Association each have their own membership, governance and traditions. The associations work in a co-operative fashion to promote the playing of Gaelic games. Notwithstanding their separate formal identities, the defacto integration of GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie is happening on a widespread basis around the country. Each of the associations recognises 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.

A One Club approach is already working successfully on the ground in many clubs throughout Ireland and, pending any formal integration in the future, the associations are committed to encouraging and supporting the model whereby clubs cater for all family members, both male and female.

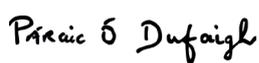
Guidelines

The associations regularly field questions from clubs on the practicalities of how to bring existing GAA and Ladies Football/Camogie clubs together. The three associations have reviewed how existing One Clubs operate and, based on this feedback, have set out in this document Guidelines for the effective operation of a One Club structure. The Guidelines seek to provide clubs with a broad framework in which to operate and do not seek to be all encompassing. The Guidelines are not mandatory. The exact detail of implementation will differ based on the particular set of circumstances but are provided for the benefit of those clubs wishing to enter into a One Club structure in a spirit of goodwill and for existing One Clubs seeking to apply best practice.

We hope that the One Club Guidelines will assist clubs in their efforts to promote our games within One Gaelic Games Family.



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Summary

Having a robust and clearly defined structure is a prerequisite for a well run club. In the absence of formal integration of GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie associations, a One Club structure would ideally incorporate the following:

- The GAA Club Constitution forms the cornerstone of overall governance of the club.
- Each club participant (including participants in Ladies Football and Camogie) is registered as a member of the GAA.
- The day to day running of each playing code is managed by its own committee.
- Ladies Football and Camogie are affiliated as clubs with their respective National associations. Each of Ladies Football and Camogie elect / appoint Officers as required by their respective governing constitutions.
- Ladies Football/ Camogie Officers, players and mentors register as members of their respective association. In addition, the overall Club Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer register as members of the Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie associations.
- Club Membership fee is not varied by reference to code played.
- The Club Executive has overall responsibility for running of the club. It is imperative that each of the playing codes are adequately represented on the Club Executive.
- Bank account(s) are controlled at Club Executive level and not by code.
- A co-ordinated approach is taken to fundraising.
- An agreed approach to Best Practice in Youth Support is followed in accordance with the associations' joint publication Our Games Our Code.
- A shared approach to Games Promotion and Coaching is adopted.
- Fair allocation of playing facilities is made across all codes.

Structure and Governance

GAA

As outlined in the introduction, the GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association and Camogie Association are separately constituted organisations each having their own set of rules. However, it is critical for the running of a well-run One Club that there is a robust and clearly defined structure of governance. The suggested practical guidelines for achieving this are as follows:

- The GAA Club Constitution forms the cornerstone of the governance of the overall One Club. It is important that everyone involved in the One Club is accountable to the club's governing body. This can be best achieved by players and mentors of all codes and all other participants being affiliated as members of the GAA.
- Under the GAA Constitution, the Club Executive has overall responsibility for running the affairs of the club. Where players and mentors of all codes, including Ladies Football and Camogie, are members of the GAA and affiliated to the GAA Club, it provides for a governance structure whereby the overall running of the affairs of the club is under the control of the Club Executive.
- It is imperative that each of the playing codes is adequately represented on the Club Executive.
- All properties currently vested in the GAA will remain so vested.
- The GAA Club, Ladies Gaelic Football Club and Camogie Club names are formally registered with their respective associations. However, reference to the Ladies Football / Camogie Clubs should be made in the day to day promotion of the club e.g. "St Marys GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie Club".



Ladies Gaelic Football / Camogie

As Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie Clubs are under the auspices of their own separate associations and separate from the GAA, it is important that the One Club structure respects the authority of those associations to regulate the running of Ladies Football and Camogie as played by the club. In order to achieve this, the following is recommended:

- Ladies Gaelic Football and / or Camogie are registered as clubs with their respective associations.
- Officers are elected / appointed to the respective clubs / units as required under the respective associations rules as set out in their Official Guides. In practice, these will be the Officers with responsibility for the running of the respective Ladies Football / Camogie committees within the club. These committees operate as the Executive Committees of the Ladies Football / Camogie Club in accordance with the Official Guides of those associations.
- Ladies Football and Camogie players and mentors register as members of their respective associations. In addition, the GAA Club Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer register as members of the Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie associations.
- Bank accounts should be controlled at Club Executive level and not by code. Consequently, the GAA Club treasurer should be the elected treasurer of the Ladies Football and Camogie Clubs.



Coaching and Games Development

A key benefit of a One Club structure is the opportunity to pool knowledge and resources on Coaching and Games Development across the codes. A shared approach to games promotion and coaching would incorporate the following:

- Common policies in respect of the promotion of Gaelic games among male and female players.
- Promotion of the games across all codes within local schools.
- Generous sharing of coaches across all codes.
- Fair allocation of use of playing facilities across all codes.

Finance and Fundraising

Finance and Fundraising

A common theme coming out from the discussions with representatives of clubs who operate a One Club structure currently is the importance of a co-ordinated approach to finance and fundraising. The overwhelming experience to date is that a One Club structure gives greater opportunity for larger fundraising given the wider involvement of the community in the club. It can also help to avoid multiple fundraisers targeting the same club supporters / community e.g. juvenile boys section selling raffle tickets / seeking sponsorship at same time as girls. However, there are a number of key elements in order for this approach to be successful:

- Club Executive adopts a co-ordinated approach and strategy to finance and fundraising.
- An overall annual financial budget should be put in place by the Club Executive.
- Bank account(s) should be under the control of the Club Executive. Playing sections / committees should not have bank accounts under their control.
- All funds raised should be lodged to club bank account.
- Proceeds from overall Club fundraisers should result in equitable allocation of proceeds between playing codes.
- Playing section fundraisers and individual team fundraisers should only take place with the prior permission of the Club Executive.

Club Membership Fee

The issue of Club Membership fee is often a topic of discussion in One Clubs. The GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie Associations at national and county level do not currently have a uniform system in place for membership fees, team registration / player insurance levies. This can lead to tensions as to whether different rates of Club Membership fees / levies should apply by reference to code. The unanimous view of the clubs consulted in drawing up these guidelines was that no such distinction be made. Like any family, there must be give and take. Some teams will incur greater team preparation costs than others. Registration fees in some codes will be higher than others. However, the experience of One Clubs is that with a co-ordinated approach to fundraising, the involvement of all the family and community provides a greater pie to be shared. It is the role of the Club Executive to set the tone to ensure that this is done in an equitable fashion.

Based on feedback from the clubs consulted, it is recommended that the Club Membership fee / levies are not varied by reference to code played.

Our Games Our Code

An agreed approach to Best Practice in Youth Support should be put in place by the Club Executive in accordance with the associations' joint publication Our Games Our Code.

http://www.gaa.ie/mm/Document/TheGAA/ChildProtectionandWelfare/12/20/61/OurGamesOurCode2015_English.pdf

Miscellaneous

Other factors to be taken into account where relevant include the following:

- Both the Ladies Football and Camogie associations rules specify that their association crest be on jerseys. In a dual playing club, in order to minimise cost of having separate jerseys, the jerseys could incorporate both crests.
- Where handball / rounders are promoted in a club, cognisance be taken of this in applying the above guidelines.

Further information

Further information on One Club setup can be obtained from any of the following:

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