

**LGFA**  
PEIL na mBAN



The Europa Hotel, Belfast  
Friday 4th – Saturday 5th  
March 2022

AN CHOMHDHÁIL  
BHLIANTÚIL

**CONGRESS  
2022**

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

**TG 4**





# CONGRESS 2022

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An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil

## National Reports

The Europa Hotel, Belfast  
Friday 4th – Saturday 5th March 2022

***Cumann Peil Gael na mBan***  
**Ladies Gaelic Football Association**

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# CONGRESS AGENDA 2022

## FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

6.00 p.m.	Dinner
8.00 p.m.	Official opening of Congress
1.	Adoption of Standing Orders
2.	Minutes of last year's Congress
3.	Provincial Council Reports
4.	International Reports
5.	HEC Report
6.	Fixtures Report
7.	National Development Manager's Report
8.	Chief Executive's Report
9.	Treasurer's Report
10.	Injury Fund Report
11.	Motions

## SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

9.30 a.m.	
1.	Motions
2.	President's Address to Congress
3.	Election of Officers
4.	Close of Congress
6.00 p.m.	Congress Mass
8.30 p.m.	Congress Banquet



2021 TG4 Ladies Football All Stars



**Back row, from left:** Monica McGuirk (Meath), Emma Troy (Meath), Mary Kate Lynch (Meath), Leah Caffrey (Dublin), Erika O'Shea (Cork), Orlagh Nolan (Dublin), Aoibhín Cleary (Meath) and Máire O'Shaughnessy (Meath). **Front row from left:** Hannah Tyrrell (Dublin), Niamh O'Sullivan (Meath), Vikki Wall (Meath), Ard Stiúrthóir TG4 Alan Esslemont, President of the LGFA Micheál Naughton Geraldine McLaughlin (Donegal) and Emma Duggan (Meath) during the TG4 Ladies Football All Stars Awards banquet, Bonnington Hotel, Dublin 13th November 2021

# STANDING ORDERS

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In order that the proceedings of Annual Congress be carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed:

1. The Proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment thereto may speak for five minutes, but not more than five minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or of an Amendment must not exceed three minutes. A maximum of two Delegates from any one County shall speak on any one motion.
3. The Proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment, may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The President may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the President, move 'that the question be now put,' after which when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Where the Congress considers it appropriate, a vote may be by secret ballot.
7. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter on the Agenda except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting
8. The Chairperson may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.





## TREASURER'S REPORT

**LGFA**   
PEIL na mBAN



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Association's Report and Financial Statements

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## General Information

### Board

Management Committee of Central Council

### Office

Croke Park,  
Dublin 3

### Bankers

AIB,  
140 Lower Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 9

### Auditors

Kearney & Company, Accountants & Auditors,  
14 Tralee Road,  
Castleisland,  
Co. Kerry

### Solicitors

Crowley Millar Solicitors  
15 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin 2

# REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Year ended 31 October 2021

The Officers submit their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st October 2021

### 1. Principal Activities

The object of Central Council is to promote and develop Ladies Gaelic Football in Ireland.

### 2. Board Members' Responsibilities

Company law requires the board members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the members are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently ;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent ;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in business.

The officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Central Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

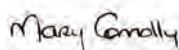
### 3. Safety, Health and Welfare at work Act 2005

The well being of Central Council employees is safeguarded through the strict adherence to health and safety standards. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 imposes certain requirements on employers and the company has taken the necessary action to ensure compliance with the Act, including the adoption of a safety statement.

On Behalf of Central Council



Helen O'Rourke



Mary Connolly



Geraldine Carey

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the management committee of Central Council.

We have audited the financial statements of Cumann Peil Gael na mBan Central Council, which comprise the income and expenditure, statement of financial position for the financial year ended 31 October 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the accounting policies.

## Respective responsibilities of Board Members and Accountants

As described on page 8 the Central Council's board members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

## Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) and applicable law. We are independent of the Central Council in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements :

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of Central Council as at 31 October 2021
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014

A. Kearney ACCA  
Kearney & Co.  
Accountants & Auditors  
14 Tralee Road  
Castleisland  
Co. Kerry

25-Feb-22



# INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year Ended 31st October 2021

	Note	12 Months 2021 €	12 Months 2020 €
<b>Income</b>			
Subscription & Affiliation Fees		1,151,704	1,504,573
Injury Fund Fees		791,876	1,169,398
Injury Fund Reserve		155,725	-
Grants	2	2,152,263	1,902,500
Other Income	3	871,785	684,615
Sponsorship	4	605,000	362,500
		<b>5,728,353</b>	<b>5,623,586</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Overheads	5	4,538,824	3,603,271
Depreciation		16,569	17,338
<b>Surplus for Year</b>		<b>1,172,960</b>	<b>2,002,977</b>

# BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2021

	Note	31 Oct 2021		31 Oct 2020	
		€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	6		87,043		99,900
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	1,021,857		1,581,596	
Cash at bank and at hand	8	5,746,717		4,454,409	
		<b>6,768,574</b>		<b>6,036,005</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due < 1 year	9	383,883		615,406	
Injury Fund Reserve		<b>2,585,057</b>		-	
		<b>2,968,940</b>		<b>615,406</b>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			3,799,634		5,420,599
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>3,886,677</b>		<b>5,520,499</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Reserves b/fwd			5,520,499		3,487,419
Income/(Loss) for the year			1,172,960		2,002,977
Prior Year Adjustments	10		-2,806,782		30,103
			<b>3,886,677</b>		<b>5,520,499</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st October 2021

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES & STATEMENTS

### a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards under the historical cost convention and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

### b) Grants

All grants received are credited to the Income & Expenditure account. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht and Media is the sponsoring department for all Sport Ireland grant income.

### c) Sponsorships and Other Income

Sponsorships and other income are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year to which they relate.

### d) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets at the following annual rates and basis:

	Rate	Basis
Computer Equipment	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Office Equipment	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Furniture & Fittings	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Office Refurbishment	10.00%	Straight Line

### e) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme.

### f) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. Central Council is partly dependent for its working capital on grants received. This should enable it to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future by meeting its liabilities as they fall due.

### g) Taxation

The company is full tax compliant and all taxes are paid as they arise.

### h) Injury Fund Reserve

A reserve has been set aside in the accounts to support Central Council's liability towards player injury. This has been reflected in the 2021 accounts by way of a prior year adjustment for the 2020 accounts as per note 10 in Notes to the Financial Statements.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D

for the year ended 31st October 2021

### 2. GRANTS

	12 Months 2021	12 Months 2020
<b>Income</b>	€	€
Sport Ireland - Core Grant	485,000	485,000
Sport Ireland - Inter-County Government Support Scheme	414,375	279,000
Sport Ireland - Women In Sport Income	66,139	37,000
Sport Ireland - NFL Player Expenses 2021	112,300	-
Sport Ireland - Covid Scheme Club Grant 2020	241,666	-
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Income 2019	-	3,500
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Income 2020	14,798	66,000
Sport Ireland - Resilience Funding	-	1,000,000
Sport Ireland - Championship 2020	700,000	-
Sports Capital Grant	92,985	-
Injury Fund Admin Grant	25,000	25,000
Dublin City Council ( Central Area )	-	2,100
Foras na Gaeilge	-	4,900
	<b>2,152,263</b>	<b>1,902,500</b>

### 3. OTHER INCOME

	12 Months 2021	12 Months 2020
	€	€
Publications	28,332	6,634
Gate Receipts	487,384	42,935
Licence Fees	114,000	60,667
All Ireland Club Levy	-	138,450
GAA Public Liability Levy	-	237,500
All Star Trip	-	2,700
Banquet Tickets	7,560	7,660
Congress Weekend	-	22,897
Fines & Appeals	-	1,000
Room Hire	-	3,011
Development Fund	145,473	114,078
Coaching Courses	74,538	24,837
Advertisements	-	1,500
Flights	-	958
Medals/Presentations	5,000	330
Football/Sportsgear	9,498	19,458
	<b>871,785</b>	<b>684,615</b>

### 4. SPONSORSHIP

	12 Months	12 Months
	€	€
Other	605,000	362,500

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## 5. OPERATING EXPENSES

	12 Months	12 Months
	€	€
Strategic & Planning Review (Excluding Salaries)	177,160	149,242
National Development Programmes	152,863	106,370
WIS Development Programmes	41,271	22,913
Dormant Account Programmes	12,260	7,828
County & Provinces Resilience Funding	7,500	319,500
TG4 Championship Funding	666,434	-
AGM	24,065	56,841
Injury Funds Payouts	922,601	805,638
Injury Funds Grant	25,000	25,000
Wages Prsi & Expenses	646,122	725,464
Members Expenses	25,706	44,294
Flights & Travel	1,578	34,272
Meetings/Meals/Accommodation	38,773	106,187
Payroll Services	5,235	5,897
Office Insurance	11,287	11,288
Postage	6,937	8,471
Telephone	1,560	5,025
Courier Services	2,336	4,471
Lease Equipment	40,790	40,888
Croke Park	115,000	-
GAA Public Liability Insurance	250,000	251,450
All Ireland & All Stars Expenses	16,845	96,295
All Stars Trip	-	12,051
All Ireland Tickets	1,550	-
All Ireland Sevens	-	2,700
Grants	150,650	9,000
Lidl Sports Competition ( NI )	7,001	-
Covid Scheme Club Grant 2020	27,666	-
Inter-County Government Support Scheme	410,743	268,534
Scheme Implementation Group	-	10,466
Printing Stationery & Software	72,076	63,862
Media Advertising & Promotions	293,673	107,239
Corporate Videos & Photography	24,217	28,322
IT Design & S/Ware Mtce	11,208	18,526
Medals & Trophies	15,707	39,091
Football/Jerseys/Gear	107,518	92,915
Ambulance Services	6,613	7,382
Referees Umpires & Grounds	93,591	21,349
Equipment Hire Transport & Storage	68,942	21,439
Other Expenses Office	2,903	3,228
Audit & Accountancy	4,184	3,811
Consultants & Legal Costs	31,362	61,785
Refund of Appeal	300	-
Bank Interest	10,829	-
Bank Interest & Charges	6,768	4,237
	<b>4,538,824</b>	<b>3,603,271</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D

for the year ended 31st October 2021

### 6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Office Refurb't	Office Equipment	Field Equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost						
At 1 Nov 2020	66,801	35,840	101,805	34,400	27,819	266,665
Additions	3,712					3,712
Disposals		-		-	-	-
<b>At 31 Oct 2021</b>	<b>70,513</b>	<b>35,840</b>	<b>101,805</b>	<b>34,400</b>	<b>27,819</b>	<b>270,377</b>
Depreciation						
At 1 Nov 2020	49,370	33,400	30,540	27,978	25,477	166,765
Disposals		-		-	-	-
Charge 2021	4,229	488	10,180	1,204	468	16,569
<b>At 31 Oct 2021</b>	<b>53,599</b>	<b>33,888</b>	<b>40,720</b>	<b>29,182</b>	<b>25,945</b>	<b>183,334</b>
N.B.V.						
At 31 Oct 2021	16,914	1,952	61,085	5,218	1,874	87,043
<b>At 31 Oct 2020</b>	<b>17,431</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>71,265</b>	<b>6,422</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>99,900</b>

### 7. DEBTORS

	31 Oct 2021	31 Oct 2020
	€	€
Prepayment - All Star Trip	236,796	236,796
Covid Scheme Club Grant 2020	110,000	80,000
Licence Fees	32,750	-
Sports Capital Grant ( See Note ** )	92,985	-
Sport Ireland - Inter-County Government Support Scheme	370,198	195,300
Sport Ireland - Core Grant	121,250	-
Sport Ireland - NFL Players Expenses 2021	57,878	-
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding 2019	-	3,500
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding 2020	-	66,000
Sport Ireland Resilience Funding	-	1,000,000
	<b>1,021,857</b>	<b>1,581,596</b>

### 8. CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND

	31 Oct 2021	31 Oct 2020
Current A/c - Dev fund	171,011	107,966
Current A/c	2,983,048	1,597,000
Current A/c - Injury Fund	2,585,057	2,740,782
Sterling A/c	7,601	8,661
	<b>5,746,717</b>	<b>4,454,409</b>

### 9. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2021	2020
	€	€
Visa A/c	1,222	529
Paye/Prsi	20,501	26,080
Sundry	67,974	20,074
Covid Scheme Club Grant 2020	27,666	-
County & Provinces Resilience Funding	-	319,500
Sport Ireland Inter County Government Support Scheme	175,275	202,412
Sport Ireland WIS - ( Note 14 )	25,861	43,000
Sport Ireland Dormant - ( Note 14 )	51,202	-
Sport Ireland Special Projects - ( Note 14 )	10,000	-
Audit Fees	4,182	3,811
	<b>383,883</b>	<b>615,406</b>



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### 10. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

	2021	2020
	€	€
Overstatement of Sport Ireland		
Dormant Income in 2019	-	-40,000
Overstatement of Sport Ireland		
Dormant Income in 2020	-66,000	-
Prepaid All Star Strip Expenditure in 2019 treated as expenditure in 2019	-	70,103
Transfer to Injury Fund Reserve	-2,740,782	-
	<b>-2,806,782</b>	<b>30,103</b>

### 11. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	2021	2020
	€	€
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	1,172,960	2,002,977
Prior Year Adjustment	-	30,103
PY Adj - Trf to Injury Fund Reserve	-2,806,782	-
Opening members funds	5,520,499	3,487,419
	<b>3,886,677</b>	<b>5,520,499</b>

### 12. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The total staff was 16 (2020 : 16). The aggregate employee and related costs were as follows:

The salaries cost €605,085 is net of Government Covid Supports of €89,609 in 2020

	2021	2020
	€	€
Salaries & Exps *	760,321	605,085
Employer PRSI	79,565	50,266
Employer PRSI Credit	-53,590	
EWSS Eage Subsidy	-192,472	-
Pension Contributions	52,298	70,113
	<b>646,122</b>	<b>725,464</b>

### 13. TABLE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	Number of Employees	Salary €
	2	60,000
	2	70,000

### 14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2020	2019
	€	€
Sport Ireland - Women in Sport	25,861	43,000
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account	51,202	-
Sport Ireland - Special Projects	10,000	-
	<b>87,063</b>	<b>43,000</b>

### 15. DORMANT ACCOUNT FUNDING SCHEME 2021

Central Council has been awarded funding of €78,160 in December 2021 This has not been reflected in the accounts for the current year as no monies have been expended in respect of this scheme as at the 31/10/2021



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT





# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Fáiltíim ó chroí romhaibh anseo go Béal Feirste dár gComhhdáil Bhliantúil. Is deireadh seachtaine speisialta é gan aon amhras. Tá cead arís againn, tar éis dhá bhliain, teacht le chéile ar aon láthair, muid ag féachaint chun cinn agus ag pleanáil don todhchaí. Bhaineamar úsáid fhónta as an teicneolaíocht chun muid a nascadh le chéile le linn na paindéime ach níl rud is fearr ná bheith le chéile ar aon láthair. Seo linn arís mar sin, ag comhrá, ag plé, ag cuimhneamh siar agus ag beannú dá chéile mar a bhíodh.

Tá fáilte ar leith roimh na toscairí sin atá tagtha chugainn ón iasacht – ón mBreatain, ón Eoraip, ó na Stáit Aontaithe, ó Ceanada, ó Áise agus ón Astraláise. Is luachmhaire ná riamh an deis bhliantúil seo athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar imeachtaí agus ar éachtaí an chumainn agus súil a chaitheamh chun cinn freisin. Anois agus muid saor ó na srianta a chuir isteach orainn le dhá bhliain anuas, bainimid tairbhe bhreise as an deis smaointe a nochtadh, tuairimí a mhalartú agus aithne níos fearr a chur ar a chéile.

After two long and challenging years it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Belfast on the occasion of our Annual Congress. It is wonderful once again to see delegates from the 32 counties of Ireland, Britain, New York, Canada, Asia, Australasia, Europe and USGAA gather in person as we reflect on the year gone by and plan for the future.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

While we had all hoped on the ratification of our national fixture plan that 2021 would see us return to a full schedule of activity, it became very clear in early January that we had another difficult year ahead of us and that activity would be determined by Government guidelines. As in 2020, it was imperative that the GAA, Camogie Association and LGFA worked together through the advice of the Covid Advisory Committee to ensure a safe return to play for all our members at club and county level. As restrictions were added and removed, the three associations worked together to adapt to these ever-changing environments.

Sport reopened in phases and there was light at the end of the tunnel at the end of March when it was announced that non-contact underage training in pods of 15 would be permitted from April 26<sup>th</sup> and that full contact inter-county training at adult level could re-commence from April 19<sup>th</sup>. These hugely welcome developments allowed us to finally begin planning on-field activity for the remainder of 2021. However, the announcement came with a word of caution that these dates were conditional and would very much depend on what happened in terms of the overall COVID-19 picture in the upcoming weeks. The 'Safe Return to Gaelic Games' guidelines were updated and published and excitement was generated, with underage clubs in Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone starting a week earlier than anticipated.

The document was broken down yet again into sections covering Medical Advice; Preparing for a Safe Return; Information for Players and Team Personnel; Summary and Checklist; and a Roadmap for Return to Activity. This guidance offered would, at all times, fall in line with Government advice, both the Government Roadmap and Government policy from Stormont, and we continued to adapt the opt-in approach of the wider Gaelic Games family regarding a possible return to activity and play.

It remained imperative that every team, regardless of club or county, had a Team Covid Supervisor and their role was to ensure that everyone involved adhered to the guidelines and had completed their online health questionnaires. The necessity to complete these checks was removed by Government towards the end of 2021 but they were an essential step to keep everyone safe as we returned to activity on pitches across the country.

Adult inter-county panels were permitted to return to collective, full contact training from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and additional guidelines were provided for all teams specific to inter-county activity. The inter-county guidelines were continuously updated and there was a sign of relief when the Lidl National League threw in on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, followed by a most memorable series of games in the TG4 Championship. I want to thank everyone involved with the county teams for ensuring that all players and officials adhered to the guidelines and remained safe, ensuring the full roll-out of our adult inter-county fixture plan.

The next phase of reopening was welcomed at the end of April, with adult club training permitted from 10<sup>th</sup> May and club games then returning from 7<sup>th</sup> June. Inter-county underage teams could also recommence training from 10<sup>th</sup> May, which signalled a return for all cohorts to the training pitches, despite games not being allowed to resume until a later date. The difficult decision to remove All-Ireland stages at inter-county underage levels was made but provinces were permitted to organise a championship at these levels. It was stressed that participation in these championships was optional to counties. The new Player Development Programme was also postponed to 2022 to avoid any unnecessary mixing of players from clubs across the counties.

While the country operated in a Level 5 lockdown in February 2021, the Management Committee took the decision to reduce the registration and injury fund fees for all members for the 2021 season, conscious of the fact that a full season would now not be feasible.

Tough decisions had to be made by the Management Committee of Central Council acting under Rule 248 of the Official Guide during the year. Some decisions like the underage All Ireland series, were not popular but every decision taken by management was done with the safety of our members and their families to the fore.

Throughout the summer, we welcomed the lifting of some restrictions in both jurisdictions with up to 100 spectators allowed even in smaller venues in June and this increased again in July through to September and we were delighted to have supporters back in grounds cheering on their teams, including at Croke Park for the TG4 All-Ireland Finals. I want to thank all clubs for their cooperation throughout this period and we know it was frustrating without activity on pitches, but safety had to be a priority and adhering to Government guidance. Your diligence was exceptional and the hard work you put in from covid checks through to limited challenge games and changing outdoors ensured that our games could continue in what were very challenging times.

### National Fixtures

In 2020, we unfortunately lost the concluding stages of our Lidl National League campaign due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Thankfully, in 2021, we were in a position to run off a full competition, albeit at a slightly different time of year. We were pleased to announce in early April that we would commence our Lidl National Leagues on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, with teams grouped in a geographical manner to minimise risk.

TG4 rowed in behind the start of the Lidl National Leagues, announcing that they would broadcast additional games from the competition. Four games from Divisions 1A and 1B were confirmed for coverage, along with the Division 1 semi-finals. In addition, it was revealed that the Division 1 and 2 Finals would also be televised live, with the Division 3 and 4 Finals to be covered on the Spórt TG4 YouTube page. This was yet another wonderful vote of confidence in our sport from TG4, and yet another example of the growing relationship with Lidl in the promotion of our sport.

With sport still facing major restrictions due to the pandemic, we took the decision to ensure that our fans at home and abroad would be able to watch each and every one of the 2021 Lidl National League fixtures live and for free. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lidl for their financial assistance in this project, which would see us stream 50 games on a new online platform. This meant that our supporters could watch our games at home or on the go, with all games not on TV uploaded later to our YouTube channel. If you were watching a game live, you then had the opportunity to catch up on all of the action once the games hit our YouTube channel. It was an initiative that went down very well but it was also a costly undertaking for our Association. Ensuring that people are given the best possible coverage costs money. Production companies, often with multiple staff, need to be sourced, as well as match commentators, while we also paid to house the games on the InPlayer platform.

Division 1 of the Lidl National League boiled down to four semi-finalists following the group stages, with reigning champions Cork pitted against Donegal, while Dublin would face Mayo. Dublin got the better of Mayo at the LIT Gaelic Grounds, as Cork defeated Donegal in a game that saw the sides score eight goals between them.

In Division 4, Leitrim, Limerick, Louth and Offaly progressed to the semi-finals, with Leitrim overcoming Limerick in the last four, as Louth got past Offaly. The final was played in Clones on June 27<sup>th</sup> and it resulted in a 4-9 to 1-14 victory for Louth, who lifted the Division 4 Title and earned with it the prize of promotion to Division 3. Niamh Rice was a stand-out player for Louth on the day, scoring 2-3, but this was an impressive team display from the Wee County.

Division 3 would see Sligo, Kildare, Roscommon and Laois progress to the last four, and the final pairing saw Leinster teams and near neighbours Kildare and Laois go head-to-head. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, and in sweltering conditions in Baltinglass, it was Mo Nerney who scored the winning point to hand Laois the title and promotion to Division 2. On the day, Neasa Dooley was unlucky to finish up on the losing side, as she scored a hat-trick of goals for Kildare.

Playing Division 1 football is always a massive incentive and, as always, that was the big prize for the county lucky enough to win the Division 2 Title. Kerry, Monaghan, Cavan and Meath were the four counties who put themselves in with a chance by reaching the semi-finals of the competition. There was a dramatic ending as Kerry got the better of Monaghan on 30m kicks to make the final, while Meath enjoyed a big win over Cavan.

Our finals in Divisions 1 and 2 were confirmed as a double-header at Croke Park on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, and the games formed the basis of a Government approved test event for spectators. We were delighted to welcome spectators back to Croke Park and it was an evening to remember for the winning teams, Meath and Dublin.

Meath served real notice of what was to come by scoring a 2-16 to 1-9 victory over Kerry in the Division 2 Final. Just over six months after the Royal County won the 2020 TG4 All-Ireland Intermediate Title, more silverware was secured at Croke Park. Stacey Grimes scored 1-5 for the winners, before Dublin and Cork took centre stage in the Division 1 Final. Dublin were chasing just their second top flight National League Title, with Cork hunting a 13<sup>th</sup> competition win. The counties had met in the group stages, with Dublin impressive in victory at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, and it was a similar outcome as the Sky Blues finished on the right end of a 2-15 to 1-13 result. Captain Sinéad Aherne and Hannah Tyrrell, who enjoyed an outstanding season, scored 0-12 between them. Tyrrell was a massive addition to the Dublin set-up in 2021, after she returned from a successful international rugby career. It was a shrewd move to draft her into the Dublin set-up and she capped a memorable league season with seven points in the final.

There was some consolation for Cork as they pipped Dublin in the Lidl Team of the League selection, with six players selected compared to Dublin's five. Donegal had four players honoured while Meath led the way on the Division 2 selection with eight players represented. Runners-up Kerry had four players on the team, with two from Monaghan and one from Cavan. In Division 3, winners Laois led the way with seven players on the team, followed by six from Kildare, and one each from Wicklow and Sligo. And in Division 4, pride of place went to champions Louth with eight players on the team, followed by four for Leitrim, two for Offaly, and one



from Limerick. The announcements were made on social media and while of course we would have much preferred to honour our players at Croke Park, in traditional fashion, we were very pleased, nonetheless, to mark the return of the Lidl Teams of the League following their absence in 2020.

There was very little time for all counties to reflect upon and digest the Lidl National Leagues, with the TG4 Championships scheduled to commence on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, less than a fortnight after the conclusion of the leagues. We confirmed that all 63 games across the Junior, Intermediate and Senior grades would be available to viewers at home and around the world in a bumper schedule. TG4 confirmed their intention to screen 13 live games, while the other 50 would be streamed live on our InPlayer platform. This exciting announcement was a great way to kickstart the 2021 Championships, and to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> season of TG4's sponsorship. It would also be the 21<sup>st</sup> year of TG4's live TV coverage of our All-Ireland Finals, which were pencilled in for Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> as a traditional triple-header.

After landing the Lidl NFL Division 1 Title, Dublin were favourites to add a fifth successive Brendan Martin Cup Title win. There were a number of contenders hoping to wrestle the crown from Dublin but not many would forecast the season that was about to unfold.

Having lost out in the 2020 Intermediate decider, Westmeath were the favourites to go one step further and claim the title, while five teams were in the hunt for the Junior crown, including 2020 runners-up, Wicklow.

The round-robin format was retained once again for the Senior and Intermediate Championships, with 13 teams competing for the Senior title split into three groups of three counties, and one group of four. The Intermediate format was identical, while the Junior Championship was comprised of one group of all five competing teams, with the top four to advance to the semi-finals after the round-robin stages. 2021 also saw the reintroduction of the quarter-finals in the Intermediate and Senior grades, with the top four Junior teams contesting semi-finals.

On Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>, the draws for the 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Championships were conducted at TG4 Headquarters in Baile na hAbhann, Co. Galway. Reigning champions Dublin were pitted with Tyrone and Waterford in the round-robin phase with 2020 runners-up Cork pooled with Tipperary and Meath, the 2020 TG4 All-Ireland Intermediate Champions. Three Ulster counties were pitted together in Group A, namely Armagh, Cavan and Monaghan, and joined by Mayo, while Group D contained Galway, Kerry and Donegal. The Intermediate groups were also drawn, while five



counties, namely Antrim, Carlow, Derry, Limerick and Wicklow, made up a five-team group in the Junior Championship, with the top four teams to make it through to the semi-finals. The draws were broadcast live on Facebook, with our President, Mícheál Naughton, making the trip to Galway to join Ard Stiúrthóir TG4, Alan Esslemont, and presenter Máire Ní Bhraonáin, the lead anchor of TG4's Peil na mBan Beo coverage. Many thanks to TG4 for facilitating the event, and for their hospitality on the day.

It all got underway with a Friday night fixture between Galway and Kerry at Cusack Park, Ennis, and it was Galway who prevailed after a very closely fought game. Louise Ní Mhuircheartaigh was in sparkling form for Kerry, scoring 2-7, but Galway did enough to win by just a single point, 2-11 to 2-10. Galway also defeated Donegal to finish on top of this group, as Donegal beat Kerry to secure second spot.

The aforementioned Group 1, with four counties in it, saw Armagh finish on top with three wins from three outings. The Orchard County carried their excellent 2020 Championship form into the 2021 edition, with Aimee Mackin, the 2020 TG4 Senior Players' Player of the Year, sparkling once again. Mayo beat Monaghan and Cavan to finish in second place but their victory over Monaghan was achieved in a dramatic fashion, with the green and red prevailing in a 30 metre kick shootout. There was real drama, too, as Monaghan came from behind to achieve a memorable victory over Cavan. A late, Ciara McAnespie goal saw Monaghan retain senior status for 2022, with Cavan plunged into a relegation battle. It was a fitting way for Ciara to bow out of inter-county football, as she announced her retirement from the inter-county game in early 2022. A three-time All Star, Ciara enjoyed a glittering career for her county which spanned 15 seasons.

In Group 2, one of the pre-championship favourites, Cork, earned victories over first Meath and then Tipperary to finish on top of this pool. Meath overcame Tipperary to finish as runners-up, with the Premier County finishing bottom and finding themselves sucked into a relegation battle. And in Group 3, Dublin would finish on top following victories over Waterford and Tyrone. Waterford got the better of Tyrone to ensure that they would play Senior Championship football again in 2022, with Tyrone left to battle it out for their Senior status. Ultimately, it was a battle that Tyrone would lose. Kerry were too good for Tipperary in a relegation qualifier, as Cavan accounted for Tyrone. That left Tipperary and Tyrone – Intermediate Finalists in 2017 – renewing acquaintances to avoid the drop into that grade. Just when they needed it most, Tipperary, who had suffered relegation from Division 1 of the Lidl National League, produced some of their best football of the season against Tyrone. The Premier County secured a 7-10 to 3-16 win and can look forward to more Senior Championship football later this summer. Tyrone, meanwhile, will start as one of the leading contenders in the Intermediate grade, and you wouldn't back against them returning to Senior football at the first attempt.

Following the group stages of the TG4 All-Ireland Senior Championship, our quarter-finalists were known. The results pitted Armagh with Meath, Cork would play Waterford in an all-Munster



affair, Galway and Mayo were paired with each other in a Connacht derby, and Dublin would aim to keep their five-in-a-row hopes alive against Donegal.

In Clones, Meath's remarkable run of form continued as they got the better of Armagh by 3-15 to 1-14. Aimee Mackin collected 1-6 for Armagh but Emma Duggan, emerging as one of the stars of 2021, hit 1-5 for Meath, who announced themselves as potential All-Ireland contenders. Having ran Cork to just two points in the group stages, Meath had now knocked out an Armagh team that looked to have improved on 2020, when they ran Dublin very close in the All-Ireland semi-final. This was another result that fuelled Meath with a momentum and confidence that would ultimately prove impossible to stop.

Cork did enough against Waterford to score a 0-14 to 0-8 win, Sinéad Cafferky collected 1-2 from midfield as Mayo got the better of Galway by 1-15 to 1-11, and Carla Rowe was the star turn for Dublin, with 2-3, as the Sky Blues beat Donegal by 2-12 to 2-7. The semi-final line-up was complete and both games would be played at Croke Park. With Dublin due to play Mayo in the men's semi-final on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>, it made sense to negotiate a double-header with the ladies teams from both counties also pitted together at the semi-final stage. The search for a venue for the other semi-final between Cork and Meath was an arduous one before it was fixed for Tuam Stadium in Galway. It was a move that drew some criticism but after an exhausting search for a suitable venue, this was the best possible inter-county venue available on



that particular day. Following discussions with Croke Park, we were in a position to switch the Cork-Meath game to Croke Park on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, following the Offaly-Roscommon Under 20 men's Final. This was a wholly satisfactory outcome as it now ensured that our four semi-finalists would all have the chance to play at Croke Park on the same weekend. We were grateful to our colleagues in the GAA for their assistance and cooperation in facilitating the Cork-Meath fixture at short notice – and what a game this would turn out to be.

Dublin now appeared to be building up a real head of steam, in keeping with previous seasons. They had beaten Mayo in the Lidl National League semi-final and now repeated that in the Championship, running out 1-17 to 2-9 winners. Hannah Tyrrell and Sinéad Aherne shared ten points between them in this Dublin win, with Rachel Kearns, who scored 1-5, leading Mayo's resistance. It was a win that sent Dublin through to an eighth successive TG4 All-Ireland Final – and they were now just an hour away from a potential five-in-a-row. Their opponents would be revealed on the following day, with Cork fancied to overcome Meath.

This was an astonishing game. Cork had one foot in the finals late on and appeared comfortable with a seven-point lead. And yet, remarkably, a late flurry from Meath saw them collect two goals in the final minute to take the game to extra-time. Stacey Grimes converted a penalty before Cork goalkeeper Martina O'Brien's kickout was turned over and Emma Duggan found the net for Meath. Eamonn Murray's team would not look back from there, kicking on in extra-time to claim a famous 2-12 to 2-10 win, as Emma Duggan scored a couple of crucial points in the second period of extra-time.

Meath, the 2020 TG4 Intermediate Champions, would now contest a very first Senior Final in the county's history. It was a quite remarkable journey within the space of nine months. I recall Armagh winning a Junior Title in 2005 before contesting a Senior Final the following year but if Meath could finish the job and win the Senior title, it would represent the most meteoric rise in the history of our sport. Meath were playing without fear and they had that aforementioned ingredient – momentum. Dublin, however, were heavy pre-match favourites and the history books told us that no county outside of Dublin and Cork had won the TG4 All-Ireland Senior crown since 2004.

But Meath were hellbent on writing their own history. The big day would hold no fears for them. What unfolded was unlike anything we had ever seen in the famous stadium. The final score line read Meath 1-11 Dublin 0-12. Meath, incredibly, had done it and the post-match scenes as they celebrated with supporters stood on Hill 16, open for only the second time on TG4 All-Ireland Finals Day, will live long in the memory. I'm sure there were staunch Dublin fans who couldn't begrudge Meath their win because they earned it and played with real confidence and panache. Meath had stars all over the field. Goalkeeper Monica McGuirk made a brilliant save to keep out Hannah Tyrrell, Emma Troy came forward from corner back to kick two points, captain Shauna Ennis anchored a rock-solid defence, Máire O'Shaughnessy pulled the strings at

midfield, Vikki Wall produced a player of the match display, former captain Niamh O'Sullivan scored three points, a haul matched by Stacey Grimes, and then there was Emma Duggan. Emma's first half goal was crucial, as her long-range effort went into the net over the head of Dublin goalkeeper Ciara Trant for the only goal of the game. Emma added two points for good measure and while Dublin had seven points from Tyrrell, who was terrific, she was the only player in Sky Blue to score more than once. Meath were 1-8 to 0-6 clear at half-time and while Dublin threatened second half revivals, they never really materialised. Meath held firm and as they played keep ball in the closing stages, the roar from their supporters became louder and louder as the seconds ticked down to the final hooter. The outpouring of emotion that greeted the hooter was quite something and I have to pay tribute to the graciousness of the Dublin players in defeat. Their dreams of five-in-a-row were shattered but they still took the time to pay warm tributes to the winners. The Meath story was another headline-grabber in what was a remarkable year for Irish female sportspeople. Our Olympic stars, boxer Katie Taylor and jockey Rachael Blackmore amongst others are hugely admired for their sporting exploits and now we had Meath Ladies Footballers emerging as household names. Their story and their journey captured the imagination of Gaelic Games fans, not just supporters of Ladies Football. It was truly a rags to riches tale, when you consider that in August 2015, Meath lost to Cork in a TG4 Championship fixture by a whopping 40-point margin. Six years later, they were crowned Senior Champions.

Meath's story, ahead of the 2022 season, should serve as an inspiration to other counties who harbour aspirations of landing a Senior Title. In recent times, we've seen Mayo and Galway contest finals, Armagh have come close too. Cork will never be too far away either. The race for the Brendan Martin Cup in 2022 will be one to savour.

It would be remiss of me to discuss the 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Finals without making reference to the ticketing situation ahead of the games. We found ourselves in a position where we had to sell our tickets via Ticketmaster, to ensure compliance with government covid regulations. Tickets went on sale on the morning of August 25<sup>th</sup> and we quickly discovered that fans attempting to access them online were experiencing huge difficulties. We attempted to engage with Ticketmaster on several occasions in an attempt to iron out any glitches but attempting to communicate with them proved to be a frustrating process. The situation evolved to a stage where we were left with no choice but to set up our own internal ticket ordering and processing system to get tickets to supporters who were keen to access them. The Ticketmaster issues were eventually resolved and fans could access them online but I would suspect that many people who had attempted to access them via Ticketmaster simply gave up and didn't buy any in the finish. Thankfully, we should be in a position ahead of our 2022 Finals whereby we take back full control of ticket sales through our own internal systems and seating in pods won't be required. That will help to ensure a much smoother process, while we will be delighted to return to a situation where we can accommodate group family and group bookings. What the pandemic highlighted was just how much our loyal supporters love attending our games and, in particular our biggest day of the year,

the TG4 All-Ireland Finals. I regret that people who, in good faith, attempted to access tickets for the TG4 All-Ireland Finals were faced with incredible difficulties. It was a situation that should not have arisen.

In the TG4 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, Westmeath were installed as pre-competition favourites, having contested the 2020 Final against Meath at Croke Park. In that game, Westmeath gave Meath plenty of problems before the Royals claimed the silverware but that experience would stand them in good stead, as the season unfolded. Westmeath didn't get off to the best of starts in the group phase, however, as Longford got the better of them to claim a merited victory. In the Intermediate Championship's four-team group, that setback left Westmeath with some work to do but they would still emerge as table-toppers ahead of Wexford. In Group 2, Leitrim and Clare came through to the quarter-finals, while the top two in Group 3 were Leinster neighbours Laois and Kildare, who had contested the Lidl NFL Division 3 Finals. And in Group 4, it was also two from three as Down and Louth did enough to progress.

Westmeath were made to sweat at the All-Ireland quarter-final stage against Clare, before winning by 3-11 to 2-11. Wexford, meanwhile, had regrouped impressively after suffering relegation from Division 2 of the Lidl National League, to make steady progress in the Championship. With Lizzy Kent now at the helm, Wexford accounted for Down by 1-11 to 2-6 and were now through

to the semi-finals. Joining them were Laois, who beat Louth by 3-9 to 2-6, and Kildare, 1-11 to 1-7 winners against Leitrim.

The semi-finals were both all-Leinster affairs, with Laois up against Wexford, while Westmeath prepared for a meeting with Kildare. Goals from Catriona Murray and Aisling Murphy were vital for Wexford as they overcame Laois by 2-11 to 2-9, while Westmeath had to work hard for their win against Kildare, with a late Anna Jones goal proving pivotal in a 3-6 to 1-9 success. The stage was now set for a Westmeath-Wexford Final and Westmeath, managed by Sean Finnegan, picked the perfect time to produce arguably their best performance of the entire season. On TG4 All-Ireland Final Sunday, Sarah Dillon and Anna Jones scored 1-6 each as Westmeath won by 4-19 to 0-6 against Wexford, as Dillon claimed the Player of the Match award. This was a sparkling display from Westmeath and put to bed any lingering hurt from the previous December and that final loss to Meath. Wexford had no answers but the Model County will have learned much from the experience and they can reflect with pride on a season that looked to be in freefall with that league relegation, but which ended up with an All-Ireland Final appearance. Commiserations to them and also to Fermanagh, who will return to the Junior ranks this year after losing the Intermediate relegation play-off game against Longford. Riane McGrath produced a brilliant save to keep Fermanagh at bay in the closing stages and it was a save that earned the Longford goalkeeper the inaugural Golden Glove award, introduced to



acknowledge goalkeeping excellence during the TG4 All-Ireland Championships.

The TG4 All-Ireland Junior Championship was also a story of redemption for a Leinster County, namely Wicklow. They had lost the 2020 final to Fermanagh at Parnell Park but bounced back in comprehensive fashion to go one better. Their opponents were Antrim at Croke Park but Mark Murnaghan's charges produced a controlled performance to run out 2-17 to 1-9 winners. Meadhbh Deeney led the way with 1-4 for Wicklow but Clodagh Fox (1-3) was another of their key players on the day. There was well-deserved recognition for the Junior grade at the end of TG4 All-Ireland Final Sunday when Carlow forward Clíodhna Ní Shé was presented with the inaugural ZuCar Golden Boot award, as top scorer across the TG4 Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championships. Clíodhna collected 9-19 across the Championship season and was present at Croke Park to collect her award, which was produced by renowned sculptor Jarlath Daly.

## Underage Competitions

We took the decision not to proceed with All-Ireland U-14, U-16 and Minor All-Ireland Championships again in 2021. It was a decision that wasn't taken lightly and especially considering the efforts we have made over the past few years to restructure these competitions in order to create an appropriate environment for these girls to develop, and the emphasis we put on promotion of these structures and championships. This decision was greeted with criticism from some quarters but the reasoning behind it was clearly outlined in correspondence to all involved. We're only too aware of the issues around teenage retention in sport. We know that young girls drop out and that is an issue that we've been keen to address, with our Gaelic4Teens programme just one of the ways in which we attempt to tackle the problem. In the summer of 2021, COVID-19 was still a huge concern in our local communities, many parents and officials were concerned of the impact of the virus on their families and communities and welcomed a more cautious return to full activity for this age cohort. We attempted to provide a happy medium by encouraging provinces to run off inter-county underage competitions, should they wish to do so, and offer an opt-in or opt-out choice for counties knowing there would not be an All-Ireland series. A significant amount of time had already been lost due to the pandemic, our young players were feeling the pressure of revised exams and, even in a normal year, that final month prior to exams is a crucial time. We were also dealing with a condensed season to play club and county underage games and with the month of June effectively out of commission, we were left with July and August to play underage club and county.

We were faced with the accusation that we were acting differently with girls compared to boys. There are many fundamental differences between underage boys gaelic games and underage ladies football, just one being that there are very few boys at Under 17 level playing adult football, in comparison to the number of 16-18-year-old females that play adult ladies football. So many of our clubs depend on Under 16 and Under 18 players to field adult club teams, and the same applies with Under 14s,

to field Under 16 and Under 18 teams. So, you're not comparing like for like when comparing boys who play gaelic games, and girls who play our sport. It must also be stressed that players did have the opportunity to represent their counties through the provincial championships if they wished to do so. It was only the All-Ireland series; semi-finals and finals, that did not take place and counties were fully aware of this before they decided to participate or not. Counties were encouraged to provide as much club football as possible for all players, following a long period of inactivity as all players are involved at club level and activity would be more localised easing the minds for many involved still fearful of the pandemic. Many players in these age groups are also dual players at club level. In a normal year, playing activity would be spread out over a greater number of weeks and months but what they would have been asked to do in 2021 was not feasible. We look forward to the return of the All-Ireland series at these underage age groups in 2022 but I would also urge counties to look at the results of having so much club activity for these age grades too, and the retention rates associated at club level. There were lessons learned for everyone involved during COVID-19, our players want to play games so it is imperative they are provided these meaningful opportunities in all counties and that the core focus is not solely on county teams. It is an honour to represent your county at any age grade but not every player will or needs to play on a county team, their honour is in their club jersey and I urge county boards to bring the lessons learned forward and provide a games schedule for all teams with our minimum standards in mind. The level of enjoyment experienced by our underage players at club and county level will be our insurance for the future.

## All-Ireland Club Championships

With the late start to the playing season a decision was made to defer the All-Ireland Club series to the start of 2022 in order to give time to the counties and provinces to complete their championships. This meant that our 2021 currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Club Champions were crowned quite recently. The schedule of New Year activity got underway at the quarter-final stages, with Dublin clubs St. Sylvester's and St. Judes welcoming Britain's Holloway Gaels (London) and Tír na nÓg (Yorkshire) to the capital in the Intermediate and Junior Championships respectively.

St. Sylvester's and St. Judes both won to make it through to the semi-finals, where they would meet the Ulster Champions. St. Sylvester's and St. Judes had home advantage for their semi-finals and they made it count, with Syl's winning by 4-11 to 2-5 against Kinawley Brian Borus from Fermanagh, while St. Judes scored a 3-9 to 0-11 victory over Monaghan's Carrickmacross Emmets. The 'Dublin double' was now a possibility, with St. Sylvester's pitted against Mayo side Castlebar Mitchels in the final, while St. Judes would face Tipperary club Mullinahone. In their semi-finals, Castlebar Mitchels came through a brilliant game against Kerry opponents Castlesland Desmonds, winning by 3-7 to 2-7, as Mullinahone defeated St. Brendan's from Galway, also by a goal, 1-6 to 0-6. Our Junior Final was fixed for Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, in Baltinglass, County Wicklow, with our Intermediate Final scheduled for Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.





Before that memorable weekend, we discovered the identity of our currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Senior Club Champions for 2021. Three of our four semi-finalists were also semi-finalists in 2019, namely the holders, Mourneabbey from Cork, 2019 runners-up Kilkerrin-Clonberne, representing Galway, and five-time winners Donaghmoyne from Monaghan. The new team on the block was Dunboyne from Meath, spearheaded by TG4 All-Ireland Senior winners Vikki Wall and Emma Duggan. In their Leinster Final before Christmas, Duggan and Wall were very much to the fore as Dunboyne denied Dublin's Foxrock-Cabinteely a seventh successive Provincial crown. Duggan scored five frees and Wall added four points, including three from play, as Dunboyne won by 2-11 to 2-8.

That win for Dunboyne put them on a collision course with Mourneabbey early in the New Year. This would prove to be a bridge too far for Dunboyne, as three-in-a-row chasing Mourneabbey, with home advantage, won by 6-17 to 0-5. Laura Fitzgerald was in superb scoring form for Mourneabbey, with a haul of 4-2. Doireann O'Sullivan collected 2-7 as Mourneabbey made it through to another Senior Final. Their opponents would be Kilkerrin-Clonberne, who also made home advantage count in their semi-final victory over Donaghmoyne. Nicola Ward scored two goals in a 2-8 to 0-8 win, and Kilkerrin-Clonberne now had a chance to gain revenge on Mourneabbey for a heart-breaking one-point defeat in the 2019 Final.

St. Brendan's Park, Birr, was the venue for the Final on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and while Mourneabbey started as many people's favourites, Kilkerrin-Clonberne would not be denied. A Laura

Fitzgerald penalty just before half-time took her tally to 11 goals in four games, with Mourneabbey back in contention and just two points down at half-time, 1-4 to 1-6. But Kilkerrin-Clonberne were driven by hunger and previous hurt and would emerge victorious on a 1-11 to 1-7 score line. Restricting a team of Mourneabbey's calibre to just three points in the second half was a remarkable achievement, with Olivia Divilly earning the player of the match award after scoring five points for Kilkerrin-Clonberne. Amid joyous scenes, captain Louise Ward lifted the Dolores Tyrrell Memorial Cup on behalf of the Galway and Connacht champions, who could now add the title 'All-Ireland Senior Club Champions' to their CV, and for the very first time. And who knows? We could well see two brilliant club teams meeting again later in the year, when our 2022 Champions will be crowned.

In wet and windy conditions in Baltinglass on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Junior honours went to St. Judes on an emotional afternoon for the club, as they honoured the memory of recently deceased club member and coach, Susan Gordon. Mullinahone got off to a brilliant start with a goal inside the opening minute but St. Judes hit back to lead by 3-4 to 1-4 at half-time. In a second half that was lower scoring, it was all about game management for St. Judes, who won by 3-9 to 1-8, as Hannah Hegarty brought a Player of the Match performance to the big day. Captain Aoife Keyes lifted the trophy on behalf of St. Judes, and thoughts then quickly turned towards the Intermediate Final on the following day.

In Ballinasloe, St. Sylvester's did indeed make it a Dublin Junior-Intermediate All-Ireland Club double. Syl's went head-to-head

with Castlebar Mitchels from Mayo in Ballinasloe in tough weather conditions, St. Sylvester's claimed a hard-fought 1-6 to 0-7 win, with captain Danielle Lawless producing a Player of the Match display. Sinéad Aherne, Dublin captain and one of the finest players in LGFA history, showed all of her class and experience to score four crucial points for St. Sylvester's, including three frees. One of the real highlights of the game was Kate Sullivan's goal from the throw-in, giving Sylvesters's a lead they would not relinquish, despite spirited resistance from a Castlebar side driven forward by Mayo county star Kathryn Sullivan. St. Sylvesters's emulated the exploits of Clontarf in 2018 by bringing the Intermediate title to the capital, while St. Jude's matched the achievements of fellow Dublin teams St Maurs (2016), Thomas Davis (2012) and Foxrock-Cabinteely (2007) by landing the Junior title. After missing out on our club finals in 2020, it was great to get our 2021 finals played, albeit in 2022! We look forward to running off our 2022 Finals in the calendar year, and a huge word of thanks to our All-Ireland Club Championship sponsors, currentaccount.ie, for their support of the competitions.

## Féile

2021 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Féile na nGael and to acknowledge this tremendous milestone, while also addressing the continued challenges of COVID-19, two National Féile events were held. The John West Féile Peil na nÓg took place on August 28<sup>th</sup> and we were delighted to see Armagh's Aimee Mackin present at the launch on July 20<sup>th</sup>, as an LGFA John West Féile ambassador.

Each county was requested to run a County Féile competition, with the finals taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021 respectively, and counties were requested to organise their tournaments with a sufficient number of divisions graded accordingly, to allow the tournaments to be run off ideally as a one-day event. Twenty-seven counties organised a Féile event and a special thanks to Louth LGFA for facilitating John West Branding in St Feichins. While each county was responsible for the running of its own Féile tournament, they were run in line with the specific playing rules of the John West Féile na nGael and Féile na nÓg tournaments, and in line with the COVID-19 guidelines for the organisation of blitz competitions.

As 2021 marked that 50-year anniversary, the National Committee worked on several initiatives, including a commemorative 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal for winners of County Féile Divisions, draws for competing clubs for the 'Croke Park Experience' and draws for competing clubs which saw them in with a chance to win jerseys and merchandise. To commemorate and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Féile na nGael, all clubs that participated in the 2021 John West Féile were entered into a draw for the 'Croke Park Experience' which saw the winning LGFA clubs playing in Croke Park on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October and they were Kinawley Brian Borus (Fermanagh), St. Nathys (Sligo), Templeport (Cavan), Dee Rangers (Meath), Ballinamere/Durrow (Offaly), Dromcollogher-Broadford (Limerick), Naomh Mearnóg (Dublin) and Ballymaguigan (Derry). A special word of thanks to the officials and team coordinators who assisted on the day and made it a fun time for all players, management teams and supporters. Thanks to LGFA President

Mícheál Naughton for presenting commemorative plaques to the eight competing teams and to Larry McCarthy, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, who was also in attendance.

As with the first Féile na nGael, the values of the competition still remained focused on participation, inclusion, and on making memories as together thousands of young ladies gaelic footballers, camogie players, hurlers and gaelic footballers helped to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to the games, and to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, each club that participated in the 2021 John West Féile was entered into a draw for the chance to win one of 32 sets of McKeever Sports training jerseys.

The winning LGFA clubs were Naomh Éanna (Antrim), Duagh (Kerry), Erins Isle (Dublin), Muckalee (Kilkenny), Ederney (Fermanagh), St. Brigids (Laois), Menlough-Skehana (Galway) and Dromahair (Leitrim).

As part of the anniversary celebrations, there was an event at Semple Stadium on October 28<sup>th</sup>, with representatives from the eight hurling counties that competed in Division 1 in the original Féile na nGael in 1971 - Dublin, Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Limerick, Clare, Cork and Galway - plus other invited teams, including some from Tipperary, to mark the fact Tipperary hosted the first event 50 years ago. A Commemorative Plaque was unveiled with Féile founding member Eamon De Stafford, Larry McCarthy, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael and Diarmuid Ó Cathail, Cathaoirleach Coiste Féile Náisiúnta in attendance. Pat Quill represented LGFA at this event. Incidentally, the first time Ladies Gaelic football teams participated in Féile Peil na nÓg was in 1994 with Shelmalier (Wexford), Pat's own club, winning the title.

## HEC

It was another challenging year for the HEC with the championships cancelled once again due to COVID-19. It was wonderful to see the leagues commence in late October with an extra division added due to the huge interest from students. Congratulations to all the winners of the 2021 HEC League Championships. DCU Dóchas Éireann got the better of University of Limerick in the Division 1 Final while TU Dublin overcame Ulster University in the Division 2 Final. Division 3 honours went to MTU Kerry. Well done also to DKIT, winners in Division 4, Division 5 Champions Marino, DCU (6), champions in Division 6, and GMIT Mayo, who landed the Division 7 title. I want to thank the Higher Education Committee for the tremendous work they do in the promotion of our game across Third Level Institutions. A special thanks to Donal Barry who stepped down as chairperson at the AGM. Under his leadership we saw a period of tremendous growth within the sector. I wish the new chairperson, Daniel Caldwell, every success in his role, who alongside the hardworking secretary, DJ Collins, I am sure the HEC will continue to thrive.

## TG4 All Star Night

After handing out our 2020 Team of the Year awards in virtual fashion, it was heart-warming to return to our traditional TG4 All Star night, in association with Lidl, on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> at The Bonnington Hotel in Dublin. We were operating with a



reduced capacity but it was still a most enjoyable night, with Marty Morrissey and Dáithí Ó Sé reuniting on stage once again.

I would like to acknowledge the acts who performed and entertained us throughout the evening – Sibéal Ní Chasaide, Eurovision winners Paul Harrington and Charlie McGettigan, and the ever-popular Galway Tenors. Our 15 All Stars received their awards, while we also presented our TG4 Junior, Intermediate and Senior Players' Player of the Year awards. A word of thanks to our All Star Committee, who debated long and hard about many selections.

It was a night to remember for Meath, the TG4 All-Ireland Senior Champions who had a record haul of eight players named on the All Star team. Dublin collected three awards, there were two for Cork, and one each for Donegal and Mayo. The night was capped for Meath when Vikki Wall claimed the TG4 Senior Players' Player of the Year Award, seeing off competition from team-mates Emma Duggan and Emma Troy. Vikki enjoyed an outstanding season in the Meath jersey and she was the Player of the Match in the TG4 All-Ireland Senior Final victory over Dublin. The Intermediate Players' Player of the Year Award went to Sarah Dillon of Westmeath, Player of the Match in the Final win against Wexford, while the TG4 Championship's top scorer, Carlow's Clíodhna Ní Shé, collected the Junior Players' Player of the Year Award. It was a great day for Clíodhna, who had earlier that day helped her club

Bennekenny-Tinryland to win the Carlow Senior Championship, before high-tailing it to Dublin! Before the All Star banquet got underway, viewers tuned in on social media to watch interviews with key players, with Máire Ní Bhraonáin hosting this red carpet event. Fans of our sport really love getting behind the scenes at events like this and it's lovely to bring people a flavour of the night.

#### Communication

Our Commercial and Communications Manager, Jackie Cahill, oversees the output on behalf of our Association and he's busy on a daily and weekly basis maintaining our website and our social media channels, while also organising our various media events. It's a wide-ranging role but the work being done at national level in elevating the profile of our sport is being reflected in the profile being achieved by our county and club teams. Where once it was a struggle to gain recognition in the media, it's now become expected and almost the norm. There's still a road to travel but when you think about the exploits of our female athletes in 2021, they were moments that provided the greatest joy to viewers of Irish sport.

At local level, the same basic principles apply in terms of communication. Our email system is now well bedded in and if you're a club secretary or county board officer, it's imperative that you use the official LGFA email address and check your emails on a regular basis as this is where official communications are sent.







### Marketing and Promotion

When it comes to the marketing and promotion of our sport, there are many touchpoints throughout the year, from competition launches to finals, and much more. We've been in the happy position in recent times to announce new sponsors and partners, and our sport continues to grow in popularity. One of the main reasons for that is promotion not only at national level, but also at local level. The majority of our counties have become more and more active on the three main social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – but others still lag behind. I would urge you to ensure that your social media channels are kept up to date with regular posts and if you have not posted for some time, please attend to this in a timely manner. It is so frustrating to monitor the social media pages of some counties on matchdays, only to find that there are no updates from county games. This is still happening but in this day and age, it's simply unacceptable.

The followings on our own social media pages continue to grow. We are at 39,000 followers now on Twitter, with Instagram approaching 35,000, while Facebook remains our most popular medium with almost 78,000 followers at the time of writing. In terms of activity, we are regularly towards the top of the charts in the monthly evaluations of national governing bodies provided by Sport for Business. For example, in December 2021, our 246 Facebook posts was clear of Athletics Ireland, in second place with 177. Post daily and post often is the message and the most important day to attend to social media is on a matchday. Twitter is the medium for match updates, while you can post the odd match update on Facebook, along with a match report, and some photos/video on Instagram. Video and photo content works extremely well on Facebook and Twitter and with the 'cross-posting' option available across the various channels, that removes much of the

heavy lifting. If you have any questions or queries around the proper use of social media, and to portray the LGFA and your own county board, province or club in a positive light, please contact our Commercial and Communications Manager, Jackie Cahill. Our sport is very much on the rise and that's reflected in the coverage that we're receiving at local and national levels but we must not rest on our laurels and there's still more we can do. It's a good time, with Lidl National Leagues in progress and as we approach another TG4 Championship campaign, to take stock and re-evaluate your website and social media channels. Are they current and up to date not just for these competitions but for all activity in your county? Is there material on your website that's dated or no longer relevant? These are just two key questions to ask yourselves.

### Awards

Wasn't it wonderful before Christmas to see such a brilliant female representation at the annual RTÉ Sports awards? TG4 All-Ireland winners Meath were nominated for Team of the Year, Eamonn Murray was nominated for Manager of the Year, and Meath players Vikki Wall and Emma Duggan were nominated for the Sportsperson of the Year and Young Sportsperson of the Year Awards. Unfortunately, Meath came up empty-handed in all categories but these nominations were worthy acknowledgements of a stellar year.

I've written about the TG4 All Star night and the return to a banquet night after we were 'virtual' in 2020 but we had other award winners to celebrate in 2021. The Croke Park (Hotel) Player of the Month Awards returned for the first time since December 2019 and, in 2021, we were delighted to honour winners Hannah Tyrell (Dublin), Máire O'Shaughnessy (Meath), Aimee Mackin (Armagh), Clíodhna Ní Shé (Carlow), and Emma Duggan (Meath) from May-September inclusive.

Congratulations to Catherine Murphy from Mungret St. Pauls in Limerick, a deserving LGFA recipient of a GAA President's award.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Association and the National Volunteer Awards, sponsored by [currentaccount.ie](http://currentaccount.ie), have provided us with a forum to recognise the hard work and dedication of many of these people across the country and internationally.

In 2020 the awards had to be broadcast remotely through Facebook Live and it was an amazing opportunity for everyone at home to listen to the stories of the winners but in 2021 we were equally delighted to return to Croke Park to meet the winners personally in an awards ceremony hosted by Dáithí Ó Sé.

The role of the volunteer has always been to the fore in our clubs but the vital role they play not only in the club but in the community was obvious to all since the beginning of lockdowns when communities rallied together to support each other. On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 we honoured coaches, administrators and media across ten categories for our 2021 National Volunteer Awards. The Young Volunteer of the Year was Chloe Callaghan (An Tearmainn, Donegal) while our School Coach of the Year award went to Fidelma Quinn (Moate Community School, Westmeath) followed by Bart Gilmartin (Old Leighlin, Carlow) who was announced as Club Coach of the Year. Next up was Local Journalist of the Year and Derrick Lynch (Clare FM) collected that accolade whilst staying on the subject of PR, Dunamaggin and Kilkenny's Élena Byrne was recognised for her dedication as PRO in the club and county. It was then time to move to the committee room and there was a huge cheer as Dáithí announced Carolyn Mullan from Passage West in Cork as the Club Committee Officer of the Year followed by Cormac McNally, the Roscommon Fixtures Co-ordinator, earning

his title as County/Provincial Officer of the Year reflecting the hugely busy year it was to get fixtures organised with so many disruptions. The International Volunteer of the Year was another category with a substantial growth in the number of nominations submitted. Eva Scanlon from Tír Chonaill Gaels in London was the recipient of this award on the night.

Next up for a second year in a row the Volunteer Hall of Fame went to Connacht as Mary Hernon from Milltown in Galway received widely deserved recognition for her dedication and commitment to our sport at all levels for many years. To end the night was the overall Volunteer of the Year who was presented with the Lulu Carroll Award, a fabulous piece of crystal dedicated to the former Laois star, a legend of LGFA. The award went to someone who Lulu certainly would have agreed with given the time and energy she gave to players not only in a covid year but for many years previous. Kathleen Colreavy from Naomh Mearnóg in Dublin was nominated by the Dublin ladies team for her role as female liaison officer with them and they shared insights into how she went above and beyond to keep things normal for them in a very tumultuous year. Two videos shared on the night for these final awards certainly cemented all justification of why they were worthy winners.

I would like to thank the Volunteer Awards Committee for the time they put into reading through hundreds of applications and making it down to that final ten, it certainly was not an easy selection. Most importantly I want to congratulate all our award winners and hope that these awards show the difference you are making in your communities and to Ladies Gaelic Football. The National Volunteer Awards continue to grow annually and Seamus Newcombe, CEO, and his team in [currentaccount.ie](http://currentaccount.ie), have brought this to a new level of recognition.



### Sponsorship

Despite the effects of the pandemic, we retain the loyal and much appreciated backing of a number of sponsors, partners and supporters, including TG4, our Championship sponsor and broadcast partner, and Lidl Ireland, our National League and Post Primary Schools sponsors, and official retail partner. We are also very grateful to currentaccount.ie, Glenveagh Homes, Sports Direct, AIG, The Croke Park (Hotel), ZuCar, Yoplait Ireland and Optimum Nutrition for their support. It's a family that has expanded in recent times, and during the pandemic our sponsors, partners and supporters have demonstrated incredible loyalty in the most challenging of times, from both economic and sporting viewpoints.

Yoplait Ireland were the most recent to come on board with us, and they are now title sponsors of the Ladies HEC Third-Level Championships, while they were also installed as 'Official Yogurt of the LGFA.' In 2021, we welcomed ZuCar into the LGFA family, as our 'Official Performance Partner' and sponsor of the Gaelic4Teens programme, while Glenveagh Homes joined us as new title sponsors of our Gaelic4Girls programme. Also in 2021, we were pleased to unveil Sports Direct as new sponsors of our Gaelic4Mothers&Others programme. The alignment of these companies with our development programmes is a source of great pride and satisfaction, and their presence will help to elevate these programmes to a new level.

Most recently, we were delighted to reveal that Lidl Ireland will remain on board with us until 2025. A four-year extension was agreed, which will see Lidl Ireland invest a further €5 million, ensuring €10m of #SeriousSupport over the course of a decade, 2016-2025. In 2021, a new and eye-catching TV advertisement – 'Level the Playing Field' – hit our screens and was received with widespread acclaim. Lidl Ireland also launched their Lidl Plus club rewards scheme, where shoppers could help their local clubs to earn some brilliant prizes. This rewards scheme returned in 2022 and is running until March 27<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank in particular JP Scally, Aoife Clarke, Joe Mooney and the entire Lidl team, who have worked so hard alongside us to make this partnership a success. This is one of the stand-out sports sponsorships not just in Ireland, but on a global level. Since coming on board with us in 2016, Lidl have invested more than €5m through various initiatives – and they are now set to double that investment. 68 schools to date have taken part in the #SeriousSupport Schools programme, over 200 schools have received new jerseys and/or equipment, over 500 clubs have received new jerseys and/or equipment, and over 200 clubs have received cash donations.

Our partnership with TG4, which started back in 2001, is now entering its 22<sup>nd</sup> season and continues to thrive. Their tremendous vision and support over the past 21 years has elevated our sport to a new level. TG4 brought viewers 13 live games from the 2021 Championships, while also broadcasting live 8 Lidl National Football League games.

Coverage of our All Ireland Finals day proved extremely popular with Irish TV viewers, with just under 600,000 people tuning in to live coverage. An average audience of 227,000 watched the live broadcast of the Senior Final between Dublin and Meath, a rise of over 50,000 from the 2020 Senior Final. The match took a 29.9 per cent share of viewing among individuals, making TG4 comfortably the most popular channel in Ireland on that Sunday afternoon. Viewing peaked at 5:36pm with 347,000 viewers as Meath claimed the Brendan Martin Cup. These figures ensured that 'Peil na mBan Beo' on September 5<sup>th</sup> was the second most watched programme on TG4 in 2021. Finals day was once again a massive draw for people who attended, and for those watching at home, and abroad on the TG4 Player.

Since last year's annual Congress, we've also been treated to two fabulous Laochra Gael shows featuring players who enjoyed magnificent careers as ladies footballers. Cork's dual star Briege Corkery was featured in 2021, with Laois legend Sue Ramsbottom receiving the star treatment in late January. We look forward to more brilliant shows featuring LGFA heroes in the years to come. These programmes give us an opportunity to look back on times when our sport didn't have the visibility it has now and remember fantastic players and games that helped bring our sport to what it is now. There is also a generation of players that are seeing these heros of former years for the first time. A very special programme showcasing the career of the late great Eamonn Ryan from Cork was a key feature for many over Christmas too. My thanks to TG4's Ardstiúrthóir Alan Esslemont and Head of Sport Rónán Ó Coisdealbha for their continued support and friendship. Thanks also to the Nemeton production team for their work. The #ProperFan hashtag is now firmly bedded in with social media users and fans of our sport alike.

We saw the return of The Underdogs on TG4 in 2021. The Underdogs had just six months together before facing the TG4 All-Ireland Senior champions, and they can be very proud of their efforts. We were brought into the lives of some of the players who made up the TG4 Underdogs panel, with searing honesty and some very emotional content featuring throughout the series. Guiding their fortunes, we had Kerry's Mickey Ned O'Sullivan, former Donegal footballer Kevin Cassidy and ex-Waterford star Michelle Ryan. They provided expert coaching and expertise to the Underdogs as they prepared to face the very best. The series aired for the first time on November 4<sup>th</sup> and culminated with that game against Meath on December 11<sup>th</sup>. I would have to agree with our President, Mícheál Naughton, who described the series as "an emotional rollercoaster ride." Well done to all involved – you're a credit to yourselves, your families, clubs and counties. TG4 Underdogs launched the careers of All-Ireland champions in the past and perhaps we'll see some of the Underdogs pulling on their county colours on the back of this series. We're also looking forward to seeing Ladies Football feature on the TG4 Underdogs again in the very near future.

As Congress did not take place in person in 2021, we did not have the opportunity to convey our heartiest congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of TG4. We are all aware of the innovative, enduring and





mutually beneficial partnership that this association has founded and developed with our friends in Baile na hAbhann. Mar is eol dúinn ar fad, tá comhpháirtíocht fhada thairbheach againn le TG4 le breis is fiche bliain anois agus glactar leis gur chun tairbhe an dá eagrais an caidreamh ilghnéitheach, nuálach sin a d'fhás agus a bhláthaigh sna blianta sin. It has been a most significant collaboration for both entities that has blossomed and grown over more than twenty years. Lá Breithe Sona TG4.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Is cuid lárnach de Pheil na mBan iad an Ghaeilge agus ár gcultúr. Cé gur chuir na srianta le cúpla bliain moill ar bhunú ár gCoiste nua Náisiúnta Cultúir agus Gaeilge, tá súil againn dlús a chur leis an obair sin go luath anois.

### Governance

In December 2021, the LGFA submitted our Statement of Compliance for the Governance Code to Sport Ireland. This is the culmination of several years' work at Management and staff level and included the development of new policies, the updating of existing ones, an operational staffing restructure and a review of all financial structures and procedures. A Sport Ireland audit on our 2020 governance procedures, carried out by KOSI, in the autumn of 2021 highlighted some areas that needed attention. Some of these changes, like term limits on the board will be addressed through motions this weekend. Other areas identified had already been put in place in 2021. While not new initiatives we now see a more formalised Audit and Risk Committee and Rules Advisory Committee established. 2022 will see a Code of Conduct for all

members and a new volunteer policy introduced. Governance will always be top of our agenda to ensure we remain compliant with all principles of the Governance Code at all times.

The Audit and Risk Committee which was established by Management to support it in fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to good governance, financial reporting, risk management and control system has already held its first meeting in January. A committee of this nature requires specific skills sets so it was essential to co-opt external personnel with the expertise required onto the committee and I would like to thank Marian Bergin, Hugh Jones, John Carroll, Sean Lenihan, Geraldine Giles, Mary Connolly and Jerome Casey for agreeing to come on board. I wish the committee every success and I look forward to working with them.

Over the past number of years we have unfortunately seen a rise in the level of disrespect and at times abuse which some of our officers, at club, County, Provincial and national level have experienced. It is extremely disappointing as our Association is built on our volunteer ethos and the dedicated work of our volunteers; however, we have lost many great volunteers due to the ill behaviour of other volunteers, many of whom are members of our Association. There should be no room in our Association for anyone who cannot respect others and who set out deliberately to make the lives of hardworking officers unbearable. These officers had the courage to put their hands up, rise to the challenge and take on positions to ensure that Ladies Football would develop within their unit and they deserve respect and support from the delegates who attend meetings. In 2019 we introduced the CODA rules, providing a formal procedure to not only lodge a complaint but a process

for dealing with a complaint. However, much of the abuse our volunteers were subjected to fell outside of the rule book and an obvious gap existed requiring a need to introduce a code of conduct for all our members. We have a code of behaviour in place which covers our young members and any person working with our young members, but this falls short of covering all our members. I am delighted to have our Code of Conduct for all members approved by Management and Central Council, and I encourage all our units to circulate it to all members but most importantly it is your role to ensure it is used during committee meetings to eliminate any disrespect and abuse. As a breach of the Code of Conduct is dealt with under the CODA rules as a disciplinary action, we now also have a formal process for dealing with this level of disrespect which may serve as a deterrent.

We have already commenced work with the Provincial Councils and County Boards in regard to the implementation of the Governance Code following the delivery of a governance webinar in January. The next stages will involve working through the code with the relevant units and assisting them with achieving compliance.

### CODA Rules

Three years have now passed since the introduction of the CODA rules in February 2019. The implementation of the CODA rules has been hugely successful for the Association and has greatly enhanced how complaints, objections, appeals and disciplinary matters are now dealt with at all levels. The review of our procedures in 2018 was another example of work which was required as part of our journey of compliance for the Governance Code. The CODA rules provide a very clear and comprehensive set of procedures which ensures a fair and transparent process for all parties.

Although the past two years has seen limited activity on our pitches due to the pandemic, in 2021 four cases were dealt with by a National Hearings Committee; 1 from the Lidl National Football League and 3 from the TG4 Championship. Three of the cases were from a request for hearing from three players and one was the result of a referral to hearing following the reporting of a mentor. There were no appeals, objections or complaints lodged at National level for 2021. I would like to thank the members of our National Hearings and Appeals Panels. They have now served three years on the panels, and I am delighted to report that with the exception of one, all members have chosen to serve another three-year term. We are extremely grateful to them for giving of their time and their commitment to the panel has been exceptional.

In 2021 we continued to roll out the education programme that underpins the CODA rules. As agreed from the commencement of the rules, we would continue to provide support and training for all personnel involved in their implementation. A specific training session was held, virtually, for CODA Officers at County, Provincial and National level on 30<sup>th</sup> March with 36 people attending. It was disappointing to note the non-attendance of 10 counties; Kildare, Kilkenny, Offaly, Wicklow, Clare, Limerick, Cavan, Derry, Fermanagh and Tyrone.

Virtual sessions were also held for the members of Hearings and Appeals Panels at County, Provincial and National level on 7<sup>th</sup> April (Ulster), 12<sup>th</sup> April (Connacht), 19<sup>th</sup> April (Munster), 26<sup>th</sup> April (Leinster) and 14<sup>th</sup> June (Britain). A total of 177 participants attended these sessions which consisted of updates on rule changes from Congress as well as working through case studies, providing step by step guidelines on how the cases should be dealt with.

In 2020 the education programme was extended to include information sessions for clubs and following the successful roll out at club level, four webinars were delivered in 2021 on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> April. The engagement from clubs was again excellent and 356 clubs attended over the four sessions. The webinars provided a broad overview of the CODA rules, how the CODA rules work, how they affect a club and the rights of a club if involved in a CODA case at County level.

### Data Protection

The new data protection guidelines are now in place since 2018. Since their introduction we have provided annual information sessions to assist all units with firstly providing an understanding of what GDPR is and secondly to ensure all units are managing their data correctly. In 2021, five online webinars took place covering the Essential Guide to GDPR workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April with over 500 attendees. This workshop covers the basics of the legislation and how it applies within the LGFA, regardless of what unit.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April all LGFA staff were trained in the Advanced GDPR course, a new workshop for 2021 which looks at specific case studies that commonly occur and the practices around these cases.

Two of the 'Advanced GDPR' workshops were rolled out on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May in a limited capacity as the workshop is very interactive and involves breakout sessions to discuss case studies. I would like to thank Darragh Cunningham, from GDPRforSport who has worked with the LGFA over the past three years to develop our data protection policies and who delivered the education programme each year.

### Safeguarding

#### *Club and County Risk Assessment and Safety Statement 2021*

The Gaelic Games Associations operate a joint Code of Behaviour (Underage), which is enshrined in our rules and the content of which reflects how we address our Association, legal and statutory safeguarding obligations. One specific aspect of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) is that since they are recognised as providing a 'relevant service for children', our LGFA Clubs and County Boards must undertake a risk assessment that considers the potential for harm that could come to these children while they are in our care. Each unit e.g. our Clubs and County were advised in August 2020 that this would be a requirement in 2021.

A National Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Information Webinar was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with invites issued to all County and Club secretaries and to County and Club Children's





Officers who were tasked with responsibility for discussing and completing procedure with their Executives, with over 1,200 in attendance. This webinar was recorded, and a Q&A document subsequently issued to all counties and clubs along with the Risk Assessment and Safety Statement.

A risk assessment is an exercise we carry out where our Clubs, County Committees, and our Association at national level examine all aspects of our service from a safeguarding perspective and establish whether there are any practices or features of the service, whether they be games, training, other activities for children, or the recruitment of coaches and mentors, that have the potential to put children at risk. A risk assessment is mandatory under the Children First Act and the Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage) and must be completed every two years.

Experience shows that discussions on the risk of harm to children in our care inevitably leads to a greater awareness of the Child Safeguarding measures we undertake in our day-to-day work in the Gaelic Games Associations. Each unit e.g. our Clubs and County Boards, are required to discuss and complete this procedure at Club and County Board Executive level and must record, sign and date when this discussion took place.

A Child Safeguarding Statement outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage and minimise the risks that have been identified and a signed Safety Statement must be displayed by all units on social media, website, clubhouse etc.

Club Risk Assessment and Safety Statements were submitted via Microsoft Forms which the County Children's Officer reviewed and submitted if all in order, for example signed and Safety Statement included and rejected if not and then contacted the club to rectify and resubmit.

Submission of Risk Assessments and Safety Statements closing date was 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, however, the date was subsequently extended to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021. By the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 639 submissions were uploaded by LGFA Clubs/One Clubs of which 358 have been successfully uploaded and 281 required approval by County Children's Officers, once all details were in order. Lists were sent to all County Children's Officers and County Secretaries to contact the remaining 300+ clubs to complete and upload in advance of new deadline of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

14 Counties had successfully uploaded their County Risk Assessment and Safety Statement and the remaining counties were reminded to ensure completion on or before the deadline of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021. However, there were still some clubs and counties outstanding at this new date and a further extension for submission was permitted until 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Lists of outstanding clubs were issued to counties on a regular basis and on the 29<sup>th</sup> June letters were issued to counties to advise a final deadline date of 30<sup>th</sup> June and if not compliant by that date, Counties/Clubs would no longer be permitted to play in underage activities in the County.

It is important to outline that any Club or County who do not complete a Risk Assessment and adopt a Child Safeguarding Statement are in breach of the Children's First Act in the 26 Counties and in breach of LGFA rule across the island of Ireland of the Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage). Following suspension of underage activity from 1<sup>st</sup> July in a small number of LGFA Clubs and Counties, all were fully completed by the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

We appreciate that the completion of the Risk Assessment is not an easy task for clubs or County Boards, but it is important to stress again the point that it is a legislative requirement. The LGFA, along with the other Gaelic Games codes, put various measures in place to assist and support our clubs and County Boards and I would like to thank Aislinn Harkin who worked above and beyond to get all our units over the line on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Aislinn was a tremendous support to all units, often requiring lengthy phone calls many of which took place after working hours to accommodate our volunteers.

The next stage of the process was the selection of eight clubs, four of which were One Club Models, for a quality assurance spot check on the risk assessment submitted. Key parameters were identified to run a check against such as the number of new coaches and to confirm that they have completed all legislative requirements for Vetting, Safeguarding and Coaching Qualifications. These clubs were required to submit confirmation details of compliancy by 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. A follow up with these clubs was carried out to highlight any issues and to provide recommendations.

Following the risk assessment process and a lengthy discussion at the National Child Safeguarding Committee, a new amendment had been added to the Code of Behaviour under Breaches of the Code in relation to Safeguarding compliance stating that should the Child Safeguarding Committee find a member, team or any other unit to be safeguarding non-compliant they may now prevent that unit from playing our games, once this has been communicated to their parent Association.

The Club and County Risk Assessment will be required again in 2023 however both Clubs and Counties, will be able to access and update their 2021 documentation to assist with the 2023 submission.

### **Sport Ireland Club Self-Assessment Framework**

In 2021 Sport Ireland issued a Club Self-Assessment Framework which is a compulsory process and must be completed by all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport within the allotted timeframe of completion early 2022.

The main purpose of the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit framework is to support National Governing Bodies to strengthen their adherence to safeguarding policies and procedures thereby ensuring that children and young people partaking in sport are protected. The framework will also provide a mechanism and supports for NGBs in turn to audit their clubs in relation to the area of safeguarding. The self-assessment is applicable to all clubs on the island of Ireland.

As our units had only completed their risk assessment in mid-2021, it was agreed to commence the Sport Ireland audit in January 2022. Similar to the supports put in place for the risk assessment, a number of initiatives were put in place to assist clubs including a webinar delivered on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, which was attended by over 900 participants. A FAQ document was developed and circulated along with a step-by-step video on completion of the audit questionnaire. It was agreed with Sport Ireland to accommodate One Club Models. The completion of the Sport Ireland audit was a much easier process for clubs having completed their own risk assessment in 2021. Follow up will be taking place over the coming weeks with clubs who have indicated tasks are not fully met and assistance will be provided to ensure all clubs are compliant with safeguarding legislation. Generic LGFA Club Children's Officers emails are currently being rolled out to club who requested same.

### **National Safeguarding Webinars 2021**

There were five National Safeguarding County/Club Children's Officer/DLP Webinars in 2021; 20<sup>th</sup> February for club and County Children's Officers, 20<sup>th</sup> March for club and County Designated Liaison Persons, 24<sup>th</sup> April for the risk assessment process and the 25<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November for County Children's Officers. Despite the fact that no travelling was required it is disappointing to report that the attendance was poor from LGFA representatives across these five seminars with at times only 50% of counties represented. The webinars are extremely important to assist Children's Officers with their roles, as they serve as an effective tool to provide current updates and information on safeguarding issues and initiatives and to create a forum to allow discussion on the practicalities being faced by volunteers at grassroots level. Every county should be in attendance especially as all the webinars have moved to online removing the inconvenience of travelling long distances.

### **Launch of New Code of Behaviour (Underage)**

The new Code of Behaviour document was launched at the County Children's Officers Webinar on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The new code will now be available online only and will include 12 sections and 14 appendices. Every section has been updated and improved and we will request that a prominent link to the Code be on all LGFA county and club websites. It is fantastic to report that all downloadable appendix forms will be made available in English and as Gaelige.

### **Gaelic Games Safeguarding Training Update**

The demand for the Gaelic Games Safeguarding training remains at a high level and in 2021, 364 workshops were delivered virtually to 5,922 participants. These figures do not include the 56 workshops which were run specifically for camps. Just under 13,000 participants completed the Temporary Safeguarding Programme which was put in place during the pandemic.

The Safeguarding 1 Refresher Programme saw the completion of 14,653 applicants. Face-to-face workshops were resumed in November 2021. However, they had to cease due to further covid restricted and recommenced in February 2022. To assist tutors, participants and host clubs or host counties a guidance document



outlining the covid control measures required across the island of Ireland was issued. Full adherence to the contents of this checklist is required of all in attendance at these workshops and all workshops must have a workshop organiser in place to assist the tutor and preference is that this role be fulfilled by the Club or County Children's Officer, as appropriate.

### Vetting Update

In 2021, LGFA have received over 8,300 vetting applications which has been phenomenal and is a 60% increase from previous years. The increase is attributed to two main factors. Firstly, the change in vetting expiry from five years to three years resulting in re-vetting for members and secondly the risk assessment process which forced clubs to conduct a full audit of personnel involved with all underage teams and to ensure they met the legislative requirements.

A special thanks to our Clerical Users who have assisted with uploading this huge volume of vetting applications over recent months: Máire Allen (Roscommon), Sinéad Quinn (Leitrim), Aileen Boyd (Dublin), Barry Maher (Offaly) and George Young (Waterford).

The total of LGFA associated Access NI applications for 2021 was 1,342.

In 2022, a new vetting system, through the Foireann membership system will be launched. The decision was made to move the Gaelic Games Vetting Application Link from a third-party host to an inhouse Microsoft Office 365 platform which will allow not only a link to the membership system but also to increase the security measures around the vetting database.

### Foireann

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, 'Foireann' the new Gaelic Games membership system for all codes went live. This was the culmination of many months of work and I would like to thank Máire Ní Mhaolchiaráin, our National Finance Officer, for her contribution in ensuring the system met the needs of the LGFA and for assisting our many units, within Ireland and internationally with the changeover.

Webinars were delivered on a Provincial basis for all County registrars on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March, covering an overview of the Foireann System in terms of functionality and a demonstration on the new registration process and the setting up Stripe accounts. The webinars were then delivered at club level through the months of March and April. A dedicated Foireann website was put in place, with step-by-step guides on the various functionalities, which were available in both word and video versions. During the initial months, County Boards receive a fortnightly report on the status of their clubs in terms of Stripe Accounts set up and clubs who have no admin access. Credit must be given to our County Registrars who worked tirelessly to not only set up their own accounts but also aided many of their clubs with the process.

It is not an easy process to implement a new system of this size and functionality and initial issues and technicalities were expected. We appreciated the patience shown by most of our units

and the ongoing feedback which you provided to us as this greatly helped to prioritise the work of the developers. I would like to thank Tomás Meehan, the GAA's Chief Information Officer, Shaun Murphy, Megan Fitzpatrick and all the support team in Dawson Andrews for their ongoing support and assistance in relation to the system. Further functionalities of the system are being developed and it is hoped to launch these in 2022.

### Anti-Doping

Sport Ireland have carried out testing on three occasions in 2021 with eight players selected for testing. Negative results were returned by Sport Ireland for all eight players. Over 1,570 players and management teams completed the annual LGFA certified online Anti-Doping Module in 2021 which is a requirement for receipt of the Government Support Scheme Funding. A player may not participate on a county adult team without completing this training.

LGFA in collaboration with the Gaelic Games Family produced a Gaelic Games Video as part of the Player Health Screening Programme and provided two Educational Webinars for all inter-county players at adult level and team management in association with Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager, Paul O'Donovan which was recorded and uploaded to the LGFA Website. Paul also recorded a special presentation for minor county players which took place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We plan to host additional educational webinars at the beginning of 2022.

### Strategic Plan

In terms of strategy implementation I am proud to say that, as an Association, our plans do not sit on shelves gathering dust. The plans become engrained into the working of our committees and our staff to make sure the objectives are achieved. 2022 sees the conclusion of our current strategy, Strategic Roadmap 2017 – 2022 and I can report that by the year end we will have achieved what we set out to do. I feel all plans are important and play an essential role in the development of our Association. However, our Association over the past six years has seen significant growth and development in not only our membership figures but in terms of our position as the leading sport for females in Ireland. Our Association has been elevated in terms of visibility, sponsorship value and our contribution to society in general.

The current plan brought about the operational review of staff and resulted in the new staffing structure at national level including the introduction of national development officers with specific remits such as coach development, player and referee development, volunteer development and growth and participation. We have seen the development and introduction of key initiatives such as our hugely impactful female leadership programme, Learn2Lead, as well as the introduction of our Volunteer of the Year Awards. This plan also brought about the establishment of the CODA rules and the alignment of all our policies and procedures to enhance our governance structures.

Throughout 2022 we will be embarking on an extensive consultation process for our next plan. We look forward to engaging with our members and stakeholders at all levels of the Association.

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It is vital that the next plan maintains our current position while continuing to be progressive and innovative as it leads us into an exciting new era, one that will also see us mark the Association's 50 year milestone.

### Development

Despite the pandemic our games continue to grow and develop. In 2020 we witnessed a move from in person to online learning and this culture continued to be cultivated in the past year. As an Association we strived to be innovative and provide opportunities for engagement with all our members. The winter and spring series of webinars were evaluated with 99% of participants rating the webinar they attended as good, very good or excellent. This was essential to ensure the topics being delivered were meeting participants needs. Interactive live online webinars remained the preferred method of learning for participants, with face-to-face learning rating as the second most popular method so we were also aware of the importance of a return to some in person events when permitted. The ease of access for webinars was noted as the most important reason for maintaining this option whilst we witnessed a marked increase in the number of females attending through this method of delivery.

Throughout the year we have had live webinars focusing on many topics to assist club and county officers, match officials, players and coaches. While the level of sign up and engagement has varied, we have seen huge viewing numbers on our LGFA YouTube channel to watch the topics back and this space is fast becoming one of the most important learning portals we have.

Further details on the reach of these sessions are in the National Development Manager's report.

When restrictions did ease we were delighted to get back to some in person sessions too and our priority was to complete the final practical sessions of our FUNdamentals and Level 1 courses. Our coach developers have worked hard to clear this backlog of courses and we will be entering into the new year in preparation for the new Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games course. It must be noted that the swiftness to react to the pandemic in 2020 ensured that we had all online coach and referee education established for a continued roll out in 2021. This was not easy but the innovation of all staff during this time ensured that continued engagement for our members.

Learning opportunities have never been more accessible and it is imperative that our members grasp these opportunities which in turn will put further challenges on LGFA to continue to be innovative, dynamic and capable of adapting to needs. As we face into the development of a new strategic plan we need to be willing to think and do things differently. The pandemic forced us away from the traditional method of communicating and delivering services for our stakeholders, getting that balance right going forward will be vital.

We are constantly reviewing our programmes and exploring new opportunities to support our members. While our staple successful programmes such as Gaelic4Girls, Gaelic4Mothers&Others, Gaelic4Teens and Club2Gether are run out yearly, we were also





delighted to introduce new initiatives during the year. Female leadership development has been to the forefront since the launch of our current strategic plan and following the success of the Learn to Lead Programme it was decided to launch and deliver a new Leading Provincial Females joint initiative with the GAA in Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. This was open to 100 women across the provinces and the feedback from the pilots has been exceptional. The BUA Programme was also launched aimed at our young emerging leaders and it is a self-development initiative aimed at supporting young people in the LGFA to develop life skills and qualities to benefit themselves and their local communities. Aimed at females aged 16-19 years of age, BUA was conducted through expert-led workshops and self-reflection, before participants put their enhanced leadership skills into practice through a club action project. 31 graduates completed the initiative, and it was a breath of fresh air to work with these young, enthusiastic and incredibly motivated young women. These three programmes are now creating a female leadership pathway in our Association, and it is imperative that we encourage more females into leadership positions across all strands.

There has never been as many development opportunities as there currently are and the quality of our programmes and initiatives is evidenced in the interest from sponsors during the year as previously mentioned with Glenveagh Homes coming on board with Gaelic4Girls, ZuCar with Gaelic4Teens, Sports Direct with Gaelic4Mothers&Others whilst currentaccount.ie recognise the enormous contribution of our many volunteers involved at grassroots level. Our Facebook Live show with Marty Morrissey highlighted the importance and impact of volunteers and our clubs through the Lidl One Good Club initiative and this was yet another

example of the importance we place on supporting our members not just on the pitch but off it too. There is no shortage of projects and initiatives to help clubs and members but it is essential that people engage with these. The Volunteer Support Programme with counties has been an example of this with immense progress being made in the counties that have utilised the support being provided to them for a full year from a member of development staff whilst the counties that did not engage have missed a crucial opportunity to assist not just themselves at executive level, but all the clubs in their county. We will continue to provide a suite of education and training plus initiatives but we can only provide the tools and it will be up to our members to use them, like so many are and reaping the rewards for their involvement.

#### Inter-county Government Support Scheme

The Inter-county Government Support Scheme was reviewed in 2020 and the results of this independent report were evident in 2021. After continuous submissions for the last three years by the LGFA, Camogie Association and the WGPA (now GPA) we were delighted with the Government announcement in May that this funding would increase seeing it move in line with men's funding, ensuring equality for all inter-county players. The state funding would increase from €700,000 to €2,400,000 however the breakdown of this would differ in areas due to the current development phase of the sports.

The Government support funding for adult inter-county teams is distributed through Sport Ireland and this scheme was initiated to recognise players, from LGFA and Camogie, as high-performance athletes and reward their commitment to the games by assisting counties to create an environment to play the game at the



highest level possible. 2021 was the fifth year of the funding and we have seen a gradual increase annually to counties. The support scheme incorporated three elements for counties: Injury Prevention and Medical Cover, Maximising Player and Team Performance and Access to Training Facilities. As part of the increased funding counties were eligible once again to submit applications to claim €9,000 for these areas with an additional two areas namely 'gear', which was for team gear provided, and 'nutrition' which was to assist with costs on training and match day team nutrition. The counties who reached the TG4 All Ireland finals were awarded a further €1,000 they could claim for supports leading up to that occasion.

The major new addition for 2021 was the area of 'player expenses' with all players on the adult inter-county team eligible to claim expenses for travel for training and games up to a capped amount per squad. There was no onus on any county to pay additional funding to this if there was a deficit but that is for discussion within each county. This has been seen as increased recognition for our county players for their hard work and dedication and has been a very welcome inclusion to the scheme. We felt it was essential to keep the team funding areas also as LGFA and Camogie counties are at a different stage of development to the GAA and this finance assists county boards to ensure they stay true to the core of why this investment was requested – to create an environment to play the game at the highest level possible – which has been made attainable to all through counties with this scheme.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Camogie Association, GAA and the GPA to administer the scheme and there will be additional changes to the structure for 2022 as all submissions will be forwarded to Sport Ireland under a full Gaelic Games submission. The process in 2021 however remained the same with all applications being submitted through a new online portal. There were some teething problems with this system but going forward it will make this process much easier for all counties. The player health screening will be introduced again in the coming year and there will be further education videos released to support players with their screening results.

Overall, the Inter-county Government Support Scheme is extremely positive for our counties and players. It has provided opportunities for supports that may not have been possible otherwise. The funding provided was never designed to fully compensate for the expenses involved in running or being part of a county team but to assist in ensuring the best possible environment for all to develop. The key component of the process is collaboration between the county executive, manager and player representative and it is imperative that you build on this. Everyone should work together on the submission and any changes throughout the year. This can only work with open communication between all parties, and you can assist each other to ensure your full allocation is claimed. We still have a number of counties not receiving their full funding as they do not have receipts or have not used services they applied for. I urge you to work together and give this area an added focus for 2022 to utilise this support and front load your expenditure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the scheme implementation group for the work put into this scheme and especially Gillian Littlefield, the Scheme Administrator, for the guidance she provides to all counties. I look forward to the next stage of this scheme and further progressions for everyone involved.

## International

In previous years I would report on not only what happened for our sport in Ireland but also on the growth and development of our sport throughout the world. The pandemic halted activity for us all no matter where in the world we resided but again clubs across all countries surpassed themselves in keeping their members connected and when the time was right getting them back to on pitch activity. Our sport continues to grow due to the hard work of everyone involved in our international units and in some areas, there are now more female players than male playing gaelic football, highlighting the importance of participation opportunities for all.

For several units, the times of our webinars enabled them to join in while for others they could watch back on the recordings. We did feel it was important however to offer all boards the opportunity to organise webinars on topics that were specific for their needs and at times to suit their time zone. This was greatly welcomed with sessions covering coach, referee and player development facilitated. The various playlists of recorded sessions have greatly assisted clubs regardless of their home base and the LGFA YouTube channel has played a crucial role in supporting our international units.

In Britain it was refreshing to see the return of the All-Britain Youth Games, one of my most enjoyable events, and unfortunately with government restrictions we were unable to have the same support and presence for the event, but Britain LGFA stepped into fill this role and through their involvement ensured that it was a hugely successful event as always. Nearly 600 girls participated which is over 50% growth since 2017. Gaelic4Girls played a key part in getting more young girls involved in the game in those initial years and we were delighted to re-introduce the programme to Britain in 2021. There was a great interest from the clubs and there is an appetite to continue to build solid foundations to assist them into the future. We also organised several coach and referee education webinars to support the counties and clubs in Britain.

Asia were one of the first units to engage with webinars at the start of the year and the topics they selected were specific to their own needs and what was happening in their clubs. Bit by bit throughout the year you could see clubs re-emerging as restrictions were being lifted and although many of the main events throughout the world had to be cancelled each unit did their best to provide as much activity as possible. I still remember images of women training in parts of Asia while we were still in complete lockdown, so each picture gave hope for what was ahead. In Australia teams were back participating and it was great to see details of youth games returning and high numbers. A recent email from the Middle East board requesting support with match officials brought a return to normality and I do certainly hope to see the return of all these inspiring competitions in 2022.



It would be remiss of me also not to mention some changes in personnel that has occurred in these units during the past two years, I won't mention names for fears of omitting somebody, but you all know who you are, and I thank you for the immense work you have done for Ladies Gaelic Football in your unit. The phenomenal growth rates are down to the people involved as they promote an indigenous Irish sport to communities across the world like it is their own. Your footprint will forever be imprinted on Gaelic Games in your unit.

In recognition of the immense contribution and commitment of our international units we introduced a new category to our National Volunteer Awards for 'International Volunteer of the Year' in 2019 and this year we were once again inundated with applications. Eva Scanlon from Tír Chonaill Gaels, London was the 2021 recipient and added her name to the winners' role of honour alongside previous winners Clodagh Harris (RAK Ropairí, UAE) and Ciara Lane (Calgary Chieftans, Canada).

While I am acutely aware that the pandemic isn't over, I hope that 2022 will see the return of tournaments and championships throughout our international units and in doing so give an opportunity for our members abroad to show just what it means to be part of the Gaelic Games community and celebrate all that is good about our games.

### Grants

I wish to acknowledge the funding we get from Sport Ireland during the year, not only through the support scheme but also through their support, expertise and advice in many different areas. We made a decision not to apply for the 2021 Resilience Funding under

the National Governing Body section however similar to 2020, the LGFA did apply with the GAA under the Club Support Programme. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank Sport Ireland and the Department for their support during the pandemic.

Funding received from grants over the past number of years has really assisted us in rolling out projects and initiatives in multiple areas across the country. In 2019 we were successful with our application for Women in Sport funding through Sport Ireland for our Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy which would be funded over two years until 2020 but due to delays with the pandemic we were able to continue to fund this through to the 2021 roll out. We adapted the delivery of this initiative with all sessions except the graduation taking place online. As some of the structure changed from in person there were decreased costs so Sport Ireland allowed us to defer this to support the Learn to Lead female leadership programme which will reach its conclusion in May.

The next phase of Women in Sport funding was announced in 2021 and LGFA were once again successful in our applications for two projects – Leading Provincial Females and a Visibility Portfolio. These will once again be funded over two years and we were delighted to start our first provincial female leadership programmes, Leading Provincial Females, in Connacht, Leinster, Ulster and Munster. The Visibility Portfolio series will be launched from January to December 2022 focusing on role models across LGFA of which we have so many.

Dormant Account Funding has allowed us to create positive collaborations with local sports partnerships over the past number of years and in 2021 we completed all outstanding initiatives from



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this area. The 'Coaching Community of Practice' with Limerick LSP focused on working with female coaches from clubs in the Limerick City area and the practical aspect had been uncompleted until this year. A full evaluation has been completed and there will be learnings to bring forward to our new coach education framework. The BUA programme which is a youth leadership and self-development initiative, Dublin City Gaelic4Ma's and Gaelic4Girls plus LGFA4Life former players projects all have been derived and supported through dormant accounts on 2021. These funding opportunities enable us to pilot and target areas we need to build on as an Association.

A new aspect of dormant accounts funding was specifically for special projects and we received an allocation towards a new campaign aimed at parents which will be seen throughout 2022. We were also delighted to be granted funding for Sports Capital Grants to purchase referee equipment to support our national referees and provinces including communication systems, side-line flags and subs boards. These all go towards improving the standards of our game.

Building on a previous dormant account project with Cavan Local Sports Partnership, we piloted a new club school link initiative, and this was supported by the LSP directly for five clubs across Cavan. It is a programme both parties hope to build on for 2022.

We would encourage our units to seek out funding opportunities particularly at local level and local sports partnerships are excellent at keeping your contacts on mailing lists to share information. As part of our webinar series, we included topics on 'accessing funding locally' and 'applying for grants' to assist these processes and they

are available on our LGFA YouTube channel. You must be willing to put your hand up to be selected.

As John Treacy completes his term as CEO of Sport Ireland, I want to thank him most sincerely for his support and guidance over many many years. He has made a tremendous contribution to Irish Sport during his term and leaves the sporting sector in general in a very strong position. I wish him well in his retirement and I also wish Dr Una May every success as she takes up this role and look forward to working with her.

### Research

As an Association we pride ourselves on being innovative and striving to ensure we are providing the most up to date and accurate information to our members. There has never been so much research being conducted on women in sport in this country than there is currently, and in particular Ladies Gaelic Football. We work closely with third level colleges and universities, and this has enabled us to put best practice findings into action through our initiatives and education programmes.

There are always areas that we will need to target and support ourselves for research purposes and currently we are linking with a PhD student, Glen Kelly, in Technological University of Dublin investigating the characteristics of successful performance in Ladies Gaelic Football. While a steady flow of research is emerging to define and quantify the technical and tactical demands of Gaelic Football for males, nothing has been published about Ladies Gaelic. The intelligence provided by this project can guide and inform LGFA coaches and administrators, as the game evolves and develops.



Róisín Leahy, student in Dublin City University, is completing her PhD with us on the 'Development of a Novel, Multi-Level Strategy to Enhance Concussion Identification and Appropriate Management in the Community Sport – specifically Ladies Gaelic Football.' This topic is very apt given some of the motions submitted for this weekend in relation to head injuries and the results of this three-year PhD will be published in the coming months. Initial findings from the groups Róisín worked with had findings such as 10% were diagnosed with concussion during the previous year, 8% thought they sustained a concussion but did not seek medical care, 24% of players with a diagnosed concussion returned to play on the same day and 46% of players with a diagnosed concussion did not follow a return-to-play programme such as the guidelines agreed and published by the Gaelic Games family. This highlights the importance of having a strategy to increase the awareness of concussion management and all associated resources of this PhD will be launched alongside education programmes during the year. It is essential that we ensure all coaches, players and parents engage with these resources and adhere to the guidelines recommended.

We are fortunate to have data that we own through the LGFA injury fund, something that is the envy of many sports as this is owned by the insurance company in many cases and not the governing body themselves. We worked with Dr Siobhán O'Connor and John Corrigan from Dublin City University to conduct a nine-year analysis (2012-2020) of injury claims in Ladies Gaelic Football. They examined the injury location, playing status (adult/juvenile/club/county), total cost of the injury and specific treatment expenses (surgery, hospital etc.). They also calculated the claim frequency, total costs, injury rates per club and per 1000 and trends over time. This research was essential for the future of the LGFA injury fund and the data was so startling and informative that we are now embarking on a PhD to enable us to devise a specific LGFA injury prevention strategy, which is imperative going forward.

From the analysis there were 9,348 claims over the nine-year period with a total cost of €6,200,557.68. Similar to previous research in both men and ladies Gaelic football, they found the majority of injury claims, 63.8%, involved the lower limb, this was followed by 15.8% in the upper limb, 13.3% in the trunk and 7% for the head/neck/face region. The most common injuries were also similar to previous findings, although knee injuries were slightly more common than previously shown at 26.9% of all injuries in this study, this was followed by ankle and hamstring injuries, which were 13.1 and 9.3 percent of injuries respectively. Anterior cruciate ligament injury accounted for 7.8% of all injuries in this study, which is four times greater proportion than found in elite men's Gaelic football (1.7% of injuries). ACL injuries can have an enormous impact on a player's quality of life as well as their future performance. Research has shown that two thirds of players who undergo ACL surgery dropout from sport within 7 years. Many players even after dropping out suffer from chronic knee pain and go on to develop osteoarthritis. ACL injury can effectively become a barrier to physical activity and make it significantly tougher for people to meet physical activity guidelines. Meeting these guidelines is hugely important as it reduces mortality risk by as much as 30% and hence

the importance of us having a strategy to improve and increase injury prevention.

In terms of costs, claim costs have been steadily rising and even increased by 77.7% between 2012 and 2020 from €502 (2012) to €892 (2020). In specific costs, the knee made up 70% of the injury fund's total costs and most claims involved receiving treatment from a healthcare professional directly, while hospital stays and surgeries were far more infrequent. However, due to the high costs of hospitalisation and surgery these made up 40.3% and 15.4% of the fund costs, respectively. What was most important to note was that 87.4% of hospitalisation costs came from knee injuries alone. Furthermore, 65.9% of hospitalisation costs came solely from ACL injuries. To put these into perspective, outside of the knee, the next two structures with the highest costs were the shoulder and ankle at almost 4% each. Minimising hospitalisation and surgery costs are important objectives going forward. As the bulk of these costs are from knee and particularly ACL injuries, these need to be at the forefront of any injury prevention strategy in Ladies Gaelic football.



Injury prevention works and this has been proven with mandatory mouthguards for instance. Comparing injuries that occurred in years 2014-2016 vs 2017-2019 there was a significant decrease in dental injuries with a 61.75% percentage change. Injury prevention is needed in our game, as it is in all sports, and it should target both the most common and most severe injuries. The strategy we devise with DCU should aim to reduce the frequency of knee, hamstring and ankle injuries suffered and give particular attention to the prevention of ACL injury because of the significant long-term impact they can have on player welfare and organisational finances. In female soccer players, a recent review found targeted injury prevention programme's reduced total injury incidence by 27% and ACL injury incidence by 45% (Crossley et al., 2020). With this in mind, the development and implementation of an injury prevention programme applicable to both juveniles and adults at club and county level in ladies Gaelic football is needed. This programme should be incorporated into a wider injury prevention strategy that engages with administrators and end-users, the coaches and players, and also considers context-specific issues, such as budgets, time constraints and workloads to maximise its chances at success. The effectiveness of this strategy needs to be monitored continuously to ensure long-term change in injury rates.

Research plays a significant role on the future of our game and alongside the topics listed above we have also embarked on a PhD project focusing on the history of LGFA leading up to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. This will be an exciting project with Hayley Kilgannon in UCD and I have no doubt will be of huge interest not only to our current and former members but to the wider population. I will have further details on these and other studies to report over the coming years as we ensure the data we are providing to our members remains up to date and accurate for the betterment of everyone involved.

## GAA

Over the past year, we continued to liaise and collaborate closely with the GAA across many aspects of our daily work. I am a member of the GAA Coiste Bainistí, as LGFA CEO, our President, Mícheál Naughton, is a member of GAA Ard Chomhairle and Martin Coleman of the GAA Coiste Bainistí sits on our Management Committee. We are represented on the following GAA Committees and their subgroups; Games Development, Officer Development and Training, Child Safeguarding, Games for All, Communications, National Féile Committee Referee Development, World GAA, Medical Scientific and Welfare, Youth Consultation, Health and Wellbeing, and Audit and Risk. The GAA Director of Coaching and Games Development also sits on the LGFA National Development Committee. You can see from the level of engagement on the committees listed that there is a huge amount of collaboration taking place. This increased level of interaction across units, due to representation on committees and workgroups, has provided an avenue to share knowledge and expertise. Certain projects can be joint initiatives, while others can be mirrored learning from each other.

Building on several collaborative projects such as the joint Code of Behaviour, the Foireann membership system and the Club Leadership Development Programme, we were delighted to launch

the new joint Gaelic Games Player Pathway in 2021. Our continued involvement on committees together will enable us to build on this progress and we look forward to further collaborative opportunities in the coming year.

Over the past weeks, the potential integration of the three Associations has been to the fore across all media forums, on the back of a GPA motion to GAA congress. The LGFA was founded in 1974, in very different times for women in all sports in this country. Ladies Gaelic Football has grown rapidly over our relatively short history, thanks to the dedication, commitment and vision of the people involved and our volunteers. We are now an integral part of the Gaelic Games in this country and abroad, and this is thanks to the huge amount of work and collaboration that has gone on behind the scenes in recent years in working towards One Association.

Despite the public perception for some years, the LGFA is not against integration of the three Associations. Quite the opposite, in fact, and we do not need outside influences and uninformed sources to tell us that this is where the future lies. Our stance at all times has been to ensure that a proper, open-minded process would take place involving stakeholders of all three Associations, where matters relating to integration at all levels of the Associations would be debated and ironed out, prior to the formation of a new incorporated body. We also need to learn from the mistakes of other sporting organisations that followed this route in recent years and ensure that this does not happen within the new Gaelic Games organisation.

However, I would stress that integration may not be the silver bullet that some would imagine when it comes to accessing playing facilities. We now have a new look Gaelic Games family and the explosion of Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie has brought women even more to the forefront but, in many cases, clubs still have the same facilities as they had a number of years ago. There's a wider issue about resources that needs to be addressed at Government level. The lack of resources available to all codes remains a huge issue. All codes are after the same grounds, winter and summer, the way our competitions are currently structured.

Look back quite recently to the weekend of February 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, when we had terrible weather and we had to postpone five games in Round 2 of the Lidl National League. It's not always the case that we don't get the pitches – there are times when weather and other factors come into play and integration or amalgamation isn't a cure-all solution to this.

I noted and welcome the sentiments regarding integration expressed by GAA Ard Stiurthóir, Tom Ryan in his recent annual report. Tom wrote that "any amalgamation can only work – indeed can only happen – when each party is completely happy with the shape, extent and pace of change." These are sentiments that we echo in the LGFA. At Congress 2014, the LGFA unanimously agreed the following: "That Cumann Peil Gael na mBan commences negotiations with the GAA and Cumann Camogaíochta with the view to the establishment of structures



that will facilitate the promotion and management of all Gaelic Games within the one organisation". Over the following months, all three Associations forwarded their vision of what this one organisation would look like, as a starting point to work off. We in the LGFA felt and said that the process to establish 'One Association' would realistically take ten years. Unfortunately, the GAA President of the day, Liam O'Neill, was insistent on it happening in his term or not at all. How different the GAA family might look today in 2022 if the process had continued then for the right reasons. The LGFA remain committed to this vision. We have one opportunity to get any integration/amalgamation right and we have a duty to all members that this new 'One Association' will meet the expectations of all and where all codes can continue to grow, develop and be valued, leading to a more vibrant and stronger Gaelic Games organisation for all.

### Gaelic Players Association

The Women's Gaelic Players Association merged with the Gaelic Players Association in December 2020 and since then we have been engaging with their CEO Tom Parsons and representatives to discuss further opportunities for the future. In May 2021 the Minister of State for Sport Jack Chambers announced that female gaelic games players would receive the same amount of funding as their male counterparts and this was a much welcome addition to the scheme as the Camogie Association, the WGPA and LGFA had submitted this unsuccessfully for the previous two years requesting an allocation for players' expenses. This additional finance contributes to the ethos of why the scheme was established which was to increase the standard and playing experience of inter county players. As mentioned previously, the different stages of development between the male and female games are recognised in this with team funding forming a part of the female allocation contributing to ensuring a high-performance environment and services are available to these teams with the majority of the finance apportioned to players' expenses.

We look forward to building on this relationship originally established with the WGPA to further progress common areas with the GPA. Players are at the core of everything we do, both club and county, and we are constantly striving to support their development at all levels. The GPA attended a meeting with the LGFA Management Committee in the latter part of 2021 and an obvious theme emerging was that we all work for the betterment of our players. There are areas we will build on during 2022 both with the GPA and our players as we continue to raise the promotion and visibility of our game and encourage players to use their voice with the structure the LGFA have in place for many years now at all levels for a player delegate to have their say at each unit of the association.

Progress will continue to be made during 2022 on these common areas and the support scheme with the GPA and I looking forward to further discussions in relation to these areas.

### Climb4Clare

As you are aware the Climb4Clare campaign was set up in 2014 to bring the CLIMB® programme to families of children between 5 and 12 years who were experiencing the impact of a cancer diagnosis on a close relative. In previous reports I highlighted the importance of

expansion of the programme but most importantly the increasing need for sustainability and a long-term home for the programme in Irish healthcare provision, particularly in the family services strand. I am delighted say that this has come to fruition in 2021 through discussions with members of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).

This is the final report I will have Climb4Clare included in as it moves to its new home within NCCP and although we took the first step in this process last year with moving the initiative from LGFA to a private group involving Clare Clarke's family, we were still involved in ensuring that CLIMB® now remains as a key part of family cancer support services in Ireland. It has been placed in expert hands and will be allowed to grow to full fruition with the Survivorship team in the NCCP now co-ordinating the delivery of the CLIMB® programme and working with the Cancer Support Centres and hospitals to facilitate the resumption of the programme whose delivery has been paused during the covid pandemic and to expand its delivery.

Climb4Clare has fundraised to cover the costs for delivering CLIMB® training, providing grants to the Cancer Support Centres to run CLIMB® and has supported leaders delivering the programme. Prior to the covid pandemic the CLIMB® programme was being offered in over 35 locations in Ireland with over 100 trained facilitators.

This may be the end of a chapter, but I have no doubt our beloved colleague and friend Clare Clarke could not have asked for a more apt finale. She never could have expected the impact this campaign would make, and I would like to thank all our members and supporters for their assistance and generosity with this worthy cause which will forever remain close to our hearts. You have made this happen!

### Comhbhrón

During the past year we lost many people who were close to us all and once again for most of the year we weren't in a position to mark their passing and support their loved ones as we would normally do. I particularly want to remember one man who is missing from congress this weekend and that is John Sheridan who passed away recently. John, originally from Cavan, served as Dublin delegate to central council and congress for over 10 years, a true gentleman who loved ladies gaelic football and was always willing to help at events. The contribution John made to his beloved Kilmacud Crokes, to his community, to Dublin and to every level of the Association will never be forgotten. Rest in peace John.

I would like to thank the Association at all levels for the tremendous support shown to me and my family on the passing of my beloved mother, Breda, last June. It was very much appreciated.

Cuimhnímid freisin an deireadh seachtaine seo ar gach duine a bhasaigh le bliain anuas, gaolta agus cáirde lenár dtoscairí agus le baill an Chumainn. Suaimhneas síoraí dóibh ar fad.

### Staff

The last two years have been difficult and challenging for everyone and I want to thank most sincerely the staff who have worked

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

diligently in keeping all units connected and making sure the everyday workings of the Association carried on. Our workplaces have changed dramatically as we continued to work from home and in pods when the office was allowed reopen but the standard of programmes, initiatives and training rolled out by our dedicated staff continued to be of the highest quality. They try their best at all times to be helpful, courteous, respectful and accommodating to our members from all units who seek advice and help and unfortunately at times they are at the receiving end of some irate individuals who do not understand the decision-making process of the Association.

I thank all the staff Paula, Lyn, Jackie, Máire, Amy, Karen, Aislinn, Deirdre, William, Clare, Niall, Vinny and Katie for their tremendous work, commitment and support during the year. We haven't been together as a full team in over two years so as we prepare for a return to the office in the coming weeks, I look forward to us meeting in person again.

### Buíochas

I wish to thank all my fellow officers of the Management Committee for the tremendous job they did in another challenging year. Every decision they made was in the best interest of the Association as a whole and the safety and wellbeing of our members, their families and communities was centre to the many tough and at times unpopular decisions they had to make. I thank our President, Mícheál Naughton, for his leadership and support over the past year. A special thanks to our outgoing vice presidents, Eileen Jones Hardy (Ulster) and Jerome Casey (Munster) for their tremendous contribution at provincial and national level over the past three years. I welcome their successors Gerry Doherty (Ulster) and Robbie Smyth (Munster) who join the Management Committee after congress and look forward to working with them over the next four years. I thank all members of our subcommittees for their work during the year. They were confined to another year of Microsoft Teams but as always ensured that all their duties were carried out diligently and promptly.

A special thanks to all provincial, county and club officers for the tremendous work you all did over the past year for adapting to the ever-changing conditions over a condensed season for activity at all levels. The roles and demands of officers at all levels of the Association has changed dramatically in recent years. We have a duty at national level to support you all in ensuring that you understand exactly what your role entails and provide you with the training and knowledge to carry out your responsibilities. The pandemic has taught us that we do not need to gather in meeting rooms to provide this support and training. The online training and webinars ensure that valuable volunteer time is not wasted travelling but instead you can avail of the training from the comfort of your own home. I commend all of you for your engagement with online training during the year and hopefully 2022 will see an even greater uptake from officers at all levels.

Our players are the heart of everything we do. At club and inter-county level, and around the world, they show incredible loyalty and commitment to our great sport. I marvel on an

annual basis at the fitness and skill levels attained. Our sport is now one of the fastest and most attractive around the world, free-flowing and entertaining. Our players often put their lives on hold for substantial parts of the year to ensure that they can represent their clubs and their counties at an optimum level. The past couple of years have been difficult for them, laced with uncertainty and with games played behind closed doors. Our players deserve the best available venues and big crowds as they show the world what they can do. You only have to look at the joyous scenes that greeted Meath's win at Croke Park last September to see the emotion that can be evoked from such an historic event, while our recent All-Ireland Club Finals were very well attended events. The interest is there, and the players most certainly are. We are living through a golden era for our sport but we will not and must not rest on our laurels. To all of our players, whether you're at schools, club, colleges or inter-county level, thank you most sincerely for everything you do on behalf of our Association.

I thank you the delegates for your attendance at congress this weekend. I hope it will be a productive, informative and sociable weekend for you all. It has been a long two years since we last gathered in Galway and it is wonderful to be here this weekend to talk, debate and meet people in person again. I thank the Antrim County Board, our hosts for the weekend, and in particular the Antrim Chairperson, Shauna Adams and Antrim Secretary, Debbie Murray for their work in ensuring that this weekend would be a success. I congratulate them on the great strides they have made in recent years in the development of our sport at all grades and wish them well for the future.

As we face into 2022 we do so with renewed vigour and energy, that the challenges and limitations that we all faced over the past 2 years are hopefully behind us. Over the coming year a priority for the association will be the development of a new strategic plan which will set the goals for the association from 2023 onwards. We look forward to consulting widely our units and stakeholders and the findings of submissions received will form the foundation of our next plan. Our current 'Strategic Roadmap 2017-2022' has served us well and the next plan will no doubt bring further change and development during a time that will see the Association cross the 50-year milestone since our foundation.

Is le dóchas agus le misneach a fhéachann muid chun cinn ar an séasúr nua agus ar na dúshláin úra atá romhainn ag gach leibhéal. Éireoidh linn, le tacaíocht agus le meas ar a chéile ár n-aidhm leanúnach a bhaint amach; an Cumann a neartú agus timpeallacht shlán, shábhálta, dhea-eagraithe a sholáthar do gach imreoir ag gach leibhéal.

Gabhaim buíochas ó chroí libh fad as bhur saothar iontach le dhá bhliain anuas as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach. Is le misneach athnuaite agus le mórtas a thugaimid aghaidh ar an mbliain amach romhainn.

Helen O'Rourke  
**Chief Executive**





**INJURY FUND**

**LGFA**   
PEIL na mBAN





# INJURY FUND REPORT 2021

Reconciliation of Bank Account - Injury Fund	€
Opening balance 1st November 2020	€2,803,508.12
Income	€774,934.60
Expenditure	-€953,101.54
Closing Balance	€2,625,341.18

## Year Ended 31/10/2021

Income	€	Expenditure	€
Opening balance 1st November 2020	2,803,508.12	Claims Paid 2021	865,414.55
Receipts	769,434.60	Cheques presented from 2020	57,186.99
Cheque Error 15/2	5,500.00	Cheque Error 15/2	5,500.00
		Central Council	25,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,578,442.72</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31/10/2021</b>	<b>2,625,341.18</b>
Uncashed Cheques 2021 Claims	40,284.50		3,578,442.72

## 2021-2019 Notifications per Year

Playing Status	2021	2020	2019
Adult	1106	873	1167
Juvenile	662	608	914
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1768</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>2081</b>

## 2021 Notifications per Injury Location

Playing Status	Match	Training	Unknown	Grand Total
Adult	589	515	2	1106
Juvenile	394	267	1	662
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1768</b>

# NOTIFICATIONS PER INJURY TYPE

2021-2019 Notifications per Injury Type

Injury Type	2021	2020	2019
Arm	285	237	399
Arm	24	10	51
Elbow	12	17	18
Finger	124	109	148
Hand	36	30	44
Thumb	22	14	40
Wrist	67	57	98
Head	112	106	154
Dental	18	10	27
Eye	8	2	6
Facial	9	14	8
Head	58	63	83
Jaw	3	2	0
Mouth	2	3	0
Nose	14	12	30
Leg	1120	890	1156
Ankle	212	185	235
Calf	38	28	0
Foot	47	34	54
Groin	17	14	14
Hamstring	116	107	157
Heel	1	2	1
Knee	590	398	518
Knee ACL	1	4	0
Leg	51	77	172
Quad	43	39	0
Thigh	3	1	2
Toe	1	1	3
Trunk	247	243	357
Back	67	63	112
Chest	3	0	2
Collar Bone	28	17	17
Hip	47	47	54
Neck	13	11	18
Rib	6	10	17
Shoulder	83	95	137
Unknown	4	5	15
Unknown	4	5	15
Grand Total	1768	1481	2081

2021-2019 Notifications per County

County	2021	2020	2019
Antrim	12	10	12
Armagh	14	20	23
Carlow	16	14	28
Cavan	88	69	88
Clare	49	47	83
Cork	118	85	148
Derry	7	8	6
Donegal	54	61	58
Down	22	21	21
Dublin	168	140	183
Fermanagh	4	6	8
Galway	125	123	167
Kerry	77	50	65
Kildare	72	42	61
Kilkenny	9	9	14
Laois	31	23	67
Lancashire	3	0	0
Leitrim	23	51	41
Limerick	43	33	56
London	8	3	7
Longford	25	33	46
Louth	70	53	81
Mayo	74	65	76
Meath	120	117	160
Monaghan	74	32	49
Offaly	37	37	68
Roscommon	45	27	66
Scotland	0	0	2
Sligo	60	48	59
Tipperary	44	44	74
Tyrone	57	30	46
Waterford	18	24	30
Warwickshire	1	0	1
Westmeath	83	69	85
Wexford	49	43	41
Wicklow	68	44	61
Grand Total	1768	1481	2081

# CLAIMS PAID ANALYSIS

## Claims Paid 2021 - 2018 per Benefit

Claims		2021	2020	2019	2018
Count of Amount	Adult	538	584	795	627
	Juvenile	276	334	463	370
		<b>814</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>997</b>
		€	€	€	€
Physio	Adult	74,010.92	68,890.06	87,322.77	66,924.42
	Juvenile	23,251.55	32,912.37	34,012.58	25,733.03
		<b>97,262.47</b>	<b>101,802.43</b>	<b>121,335.35</b>	<b>92,657.45</b>
G.P.	Adult	7,383.00	8,311.00	9,381.50	6,269.75
	Juvenile	1,510.00	3,350.85	4,777.00	3,039.00
		<b>8,893.00</b>	<b>11,661.85</b>	<b>14,158.50</b>	<b>9,308.75</b>
MRI	Adult	30,409.05	26,527.50	26,505.00	23,222.70
	Juvenile	6,985.00	10,970.75	9,909.00	7,012.00
		<b>37,394.05</b>	<b>37,498.25</b>	<b>36,414.00</b>	<b>30,234.70</b>
Surgery	Adult	140,238.05	142,364.08	132,944.85	54,913.14
	Juvenile	41,422.50	26,315.26	28,525.56	41,836.25
		<b>181,660.55</b>	<b>168,679.34</b>	<b>161,470.41</b>	<b>96,749.39</b>
Consultant	Adult	31,423.95	29,422.44	35,161.67	27,076.78
	Juvenile	10,239.69	12,623.77	7,776.22	14,226.88
		<b>41,663.64</b>	<b>42,046.21</b>	<b>42,937.89</b>	<b>41,303.66</b>
Anaesthetic Consultant	Adult	53,837.47	36,843.74	33,681.43	14,172.09
	Juvenile	14,525.00	10,431.38	7,420.93	10,007.52
		<b>63,362.47</b>	<b>47,275.12</b>	<b>41,102.36</b>	<b>24,179.61</b>
A&E	Adult	9,820.00	12,780.80	20,430.00	20,010.00
	Juvenile	11,123.75	13,029.50	21,841.50	15,231.50
		<b>20,943.75</b>	<b>25,810.30</b>	<b>42,271.50</b>	<b>35,241.50</b>
Hospital	Adult	273,710.21	242,243.26	354,142.13	199,845.31
	Juvenile	98,313.00	63,422.23	71,345.11	117,287.40
		<b>372,023.21</b>	<b>305,665.49</b>	<b>425,487.24</b>	<b>317,132.71</b>
Dentist	Adult	5,820.00	6,056.39	19,064.57	5,390.00
	Juvenile	4,450.00	4,915.00	6,795.00	3,975.00
		<b>10,270.00</b>	<b>10,971.39</b>	<b>25,859.57</b>	<b>9,365.00</b>
Loss of Wages	Adult	65,940.71	66,534.05	108,023.90	34,179.27
	Juvenile	1,285.20	1,228.00	0.00	90.00
		<b>67,225.91</b>	<b>67,762.05</b>	<b>108,023.90</b>	<b>34,269.27</b>
Total	Adult	692,593.36	639,753.32	826,657.82	452,003.46
	Juvenile	213,105.69	179,199.11	192,402.90	238,438.58
		<b>905,699.05</b>	<b>818,952.43</b>	<b>1,019,060.72</b>	<b>690,442.04</b>



# CLAIMS PAID

## 2021 - 2019 Claims Paid per Benefit

Injury Type	2021	2020	2019
Ankle	92	99	141
Arm	9	21	22
Back	32	50	72
Calf	31	10	0
Chest	1	0	0
Collar Bone	7	4	3
Concussion	2	0	0
Dental	3	10	22
Elbow	6	5	6
Eye	3	3	2
Facial	6	2	2
Finger	39	67	84
Foot	17	22	31
Glute	0	2	0
Groin	11	6	2
Hamstring	64	85	106
Hand	10	14	27
Head	28	30	49
Heel	0	2	0
Hip	32	22	25
Jaw	3	0	0
Knee	202	219	221
Knee ACL	80	64	118
Knee Cartilage	0	13	5
Leg	22	43	115
Mouth	2	1	2
Neck	7	7	5
Nose	4	5	10
Quad	27	11	0
Rib	5	6	9
Shoulder	41	61	100
Thumb	7	3	18
Toe	0	1	2
Wrist	21	30	59
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1258</b>

## Claims Paid in 2021 per Claim Year

Claim Year	Count	Sum
2018	1	€1,297.00
2019	51	€114,733.55
2020	375	€493,797.26
2021	387	€295,871.24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>€905,699.05</b>

## 2021 Claims Paid per Injury Location

injury Location	Count	Sum
Club	699	€817,830.68
College	1	€435.00
County	114	€87,433.37
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>€905,699.05</b>

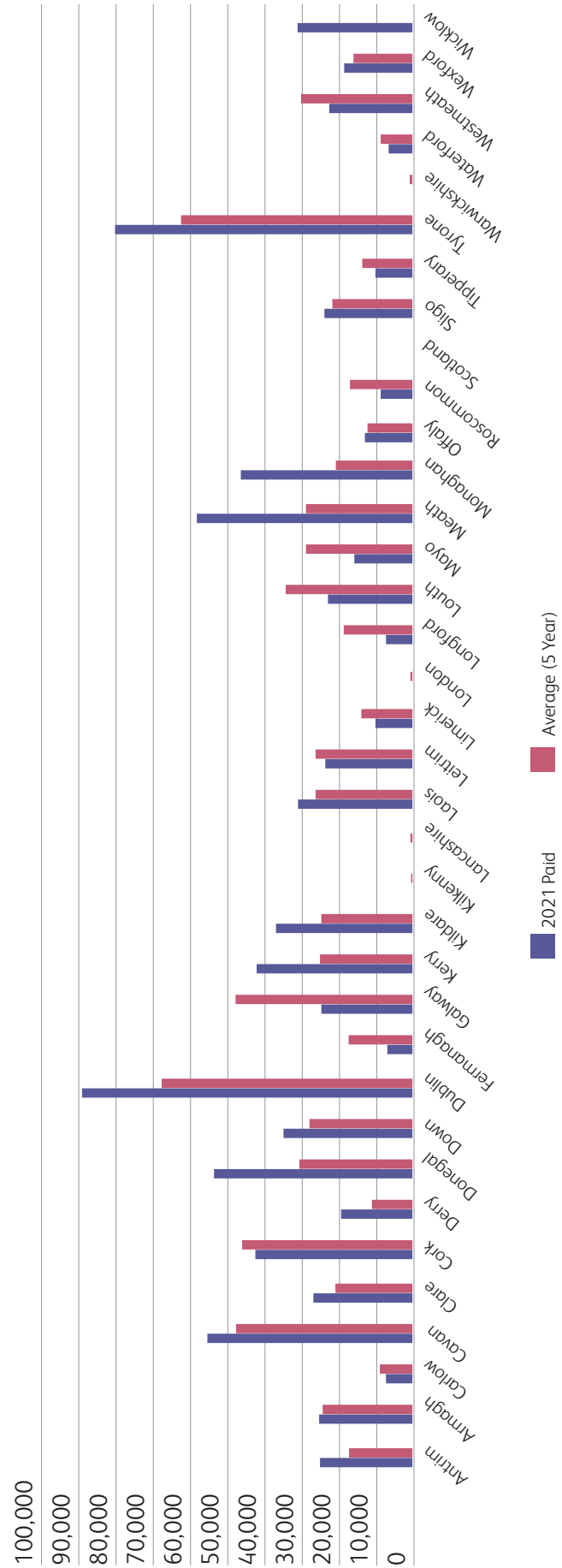
# COUNTY GRAPH - 2021 vs 5 YEAR AVERAGE PAYMENTS

## 2021 vs 5 Year Average Claims Paid per Benefit

County	2021 € Paid	Average € (5 Year )
Antrim	24,600.00	17,023.17
Armagh	24,881.71	23,959.26
Carlow	7,138.00	8,913.74
Cavan	54,286.10	46,727.12
Clare	26,488.50	20,707.27
Cork	41,656.00	45,432.53
Derry	19,195.00	11,183.47
Donegal	52,533.00	30,075.58
Down	34,492.56	27,564.17
Dublin	87,367.12	66,236.32
Fermanagh	€6,872.87	17,023.17
Galway	24,245.00	46,738.18
Kerry	41,275.00	24,522.47
Kildare	36,248.00	24,468.46
Kilkenny	185.00	466.30
Lancashire	-	800.00
Laois	30,422.00	25,858.95
Leitrim	23,278.00	25,909.61

County	2021 € Paid	Average € (5 Year )
Limerick	9,948.50	13,581.86
London	295.00	393.65
Longford	7,502.00	18,272.94
Louth	22,589.50	33,815.50
Mayo	15,591.50	28,259.86
Meath	57,275.30	40,416.31
Monaghan	45,560.34	20,683.06
Offaly	12,867.50	12,267.40
Roscommon	8,596.50	16,736.63
Scotland	-	87.90
Sligo	23,678.80	21,395.06
Tipperary	9,929.50	13,459.73
Tyrone	78,761.35	61,399.48
Warwickshire	-	1,100.00
Waterford	6,605.50	8,437.40
Westmeath	22,485.00	29,893.90
Wexford	18,260.90	15,860.45
Wicklow	30,588.00	18,173.84

## 2021 vs 5 Year Average





## COUNTY BY COUNTY ANALYSIS 2021

County	Playing Status	Physio	G.P.	A&E	MRI	Consultant	Surgery	Anaesthetic Consultant	Hospital	Loss of Wages	Dentist	Total
Antrim	Adult	455.83	-	-	295.00	715.34	5,528.22	2,116.33	12,889.28	2,600.00	-	24,600.00
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Antrim Total</b>		<b>455.83</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>295.00</b>	<b>715.34</b>	<b>5,528.22</b>	<b>2,116.33</b>	<b>12,889.28</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,600.00</b>
Armagh	Adult	239.80	-	-	1,125.00	593.21	5,450.00	2,150.00	13,460.00	-	-	23,018.01
	Juvenile	151.60	-	-	295.00	202.10	-	-	-	-	1,215.00	1,863.70
<b>Armagh Total</b>		<b>391.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,420.00</b>	<b>795.31</b>	<b>5,450.00</b>	<b>2,150.00</b>	<b>13,460.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,215.00</b>	<b>24,881.71</b>
Carlow	Adult	198.00	-	-	-	-	1,400.00	600.00	3,500.00	1,440.00	-	7,138.00
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Carlow Total</b>		<b>198.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>1,440.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,138.00</b>
Cavan	Adult	3,249.00	360.00	1,130.00	2,010.00	1,460.00	7,147.00	3,222.60	16,205.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	41,783.60
	Juvenile	922.50	-	260.00	500.00	200.00	2,990.00	1,250.00	6,380.00	-	-	12,502.50
<b>Cavan Total</b>		<b>4,171.50</b>	<b>360.00</b>	<b>1,390.00</b>	<b>2,510.00</b>	<b>1,660.00</b>	<b>10,137.00</b>	<b>4,472.60</b>	<b>22,585.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>54,286.10</b>
Clare	Adult	5,332.50	160.00	300.00	880.00	1,630.00	3,893.00	1,500.00	6,570.00	-	-	20,265.50
	Juvenile	648.00	-	75.00	-	-	1,400.00	600.00	3,500.00	-	-	6,223.00
<b>Clare Total</b>		<b>5,980.50</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>375.00</b>	<b>880.00</b>	<b>1,630.00</b>	<b>5,293.00</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>10,070.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,488.50</b>
Cork	Adult	5,886.00	1,356.00	807.50	1,305.00	1,606.00	4,654.00	2,000.00	12,210.00	7,920.00	-	37,744.50
	Juvenile	1,631.50	160.00	550.00	475.00	700.00	75.00	-	320.00	-	-	3,911.50
<b>Cork Total</b>		<b>7,517.50</b>	<b>1,516.00</b>	<b>1,357.50</b>	<b>1,780.00</b>	<b>2,306.00</b>	<b>4,729.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>12,530.00</b>	<b>7,920.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,656.00</b>
Derry	Adult	-	-	-	579.05	-	2,751.45	1,102.15	6,862.35	2,400.00	-	13,695.00
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	600.00	3,900.00	-	-	5,500.00
<b>Derry Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>579.05</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,751.45</b>	<b>1,702.15</b>	<b>10,762.35</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,195.00</b>
Donegal	Adult	2,079.00	230.00	680.00	1,442.50	450.00	9,450.00	4,150.00	22,200.00	-	-	40,681.50
	Juvenile	256.50	-	300.00	295.00	-	3,100.00	1,250.00	6,650.00	-	-	11,851.50
<b>Donegal Total</b>		<b>2,335.50</b>	<b>230.00</b>	<b>980.00</b>	<b>1,737.50</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>12,550.00</b>	<b>5,400.00</b>	<b>28,850.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,533.00</b>
Down	Adult	1,252.96	-	-	3,135.00	1,339.60	7,647.00	3,323.00	13,795.00	4,000.00	-	34,492.56
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Down Total</b>		<b>1,252.96</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,135.00</b>	<b>1,339.60</b>	<b>7,647.00</b>	<b>3,323.00</b>	<b>13,795.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,492.56</b>
Dublin	Adult	7,222.00	235.00	852.50	1,335.00	3,811.00	17,856.50	6,660.00	32,458.65	5,397.22	-	75,827.87
	Juvenile	2,263.50	310.00	1,701.25	650.00	2,167.50	-	-	3,150.00	-	1,297.00	11,539.25
<b>Dublin Total</b>		<b>9,485.50</b>	<b>545.00</b>	<b>2,553.75</b>	<b>1,985.00</b>	<b>5,978.50</b>	<b>17,856.50</b>	<b>6,660.00</b>	<b>35,608.65</b>	<b>5,397.22</b>	<b>1,297.00</b>	<b>87,367.12</b>
Fermanagh	Adult	196.68	-	-	-	200.00	1,400.00	500.00	3,400.00	1,176.19	-	6,872.87
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Fermanagh Total</b>		<b>196.68</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>1,176.19</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,872.87</b>
<b>Fermanagh Total</b>		<b>196.68</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>1,176.19</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,872.87</b>

County	Playing Status		Physio	G.P.	A&E	MRI	Consultant	Surgery	Anaesthetic Consultant	Hospital	Loss of Wages	Dentist	Total
	Adult	Juvenile											
Galway	6,880.50	1,110.00	805.00	2,320.00	1,435.00	2,189.00	941.00	4,685.00	-	-	-	-	20,365.50
Galway Total	2,299.50	110.00	650.00	480.00	340.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,879.50
Kerry	9,180.00	1,220.00	1,455.00	2,800.00	1,775.00	2,189.00	941.00	4,685.00	-	-	-	-	24,245.00
Kerry Total	1,989.00	110.00	410.00	-	150.00	4,150.00	1,550.00	8,650.00	1,600.00	2,820.00	-	-	21,429.00
Kildare	3,015.00	315.00	920.00	480.00	820.00	2,468.00	1,250.00	10,578.00	-	-	-	-	19,846.00
Kildare Total	5,004.00	425.00	1,330.00	480.00	970.00	6,618.00	2,800.00	19,228.00	1,600.00	2,820.00	-	-	41,275.00
Kilkenny	2,354.50	180.00	280.00	500.00	1,017.50	6,680.00	1,107.00	6,950.00	3,023.00	-	-	-	22,092.00
Kilkenny Total	1,422.00	60.00	525.00	260.00	1,005.00	3,000.00	600.00	7,284.00	-	-	-	-	14,156.00
Laois	3,776.50	240.00	805.00	760.00	2,022.50	9,680.00	1,707.00	14,234.00	3,023.00	-	-	-	36,248.00
Laois Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leitrim	-	85.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185.00
Leitrim Total	-	85.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185.00
Limerick	1,224.00	160.00	200.00	740.00	470.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,394.00
Limerick Total	576.00	-	300.00	740.00	810.00	8,050.00	1,800.00	10,752.00	-	-	-	-	23,028.00
Louth	1,800.00	160.00	500.00	1,480.00	1,280.00	8,050.00	1,800.00	10,752.00	4,600.00	-	-	-	30,422.00
Louth Total	1,804.50	330.00	100.00	1,190.00	1,380.00	3,270.00	1,295.00	7,600.00	-	-	-	-	16,969.50
London	418.50	50.00	100.00	290.00	-	1,450.00	250.00	3,750.00	-	-	-	-	6,308.50
London Total	2,223.00	380.00	200.00	1,480.00	1,380.00	4,720.00	1,545.00	11,350.00	-	-	-	-	23,278.00
Longford	1,489.50	376.00	385.00	-	895.00	125.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,270.50
Longford Total	1,008.00	140.00	350.00	-	1,080.00	1,350.00	600.00	2,150.00	-	-	-	-	6,678.00
Louth	2,497.50	516.00	735.00	-	1,975.00	1,475.00	600.00	2,150.00	-	-	-	-	9,948.50
Louth Total	-	-	-	295.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	295.00
Mayo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayo Total	-	-	-	295.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	295.00
Meath	774.00	126.00	100.00	295.00	-	1,700.00	700.00	3,100.00	-	-	-	-	6,795.00
Meath Total	297.00	-	170.00	240.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	707.00
Wexford	1,071.00	126.00	270.00	535.00	-	1,700.00	700.00	3,100.00	-	-	-	-	7,502.00
Wexford Total	2,161.00	265.00	350.00	1,155.00	772.00	8,045.00	1,250.00	6,900.00	-	-	-	-	20,898.00
Wexford Total	742.50	-	800.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149.00	1,691.50
Wexford Total	2,903.50	265.00	1,150.00	1,155.00	772.00	8,045.00	1,250.00	6,900.00	-	-	-	149.00	22,589.50
Wexford Total	2,128.50	170.00	460.00	1,145.00	1,470.00	125.00	-	125.00	2,680.00	-	-	-	8,303.50
Wexford Total	738.00	50.00	500.00	500.00	-	1,400.00	600.00	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	7,288.00
Wexford Total	2,866.50	220.00	960.00	1,645.00	1,470.00	1,525.00	600.00	3,625.00	2,680.00	-	-	-	15,591.50
Wexford Total	5,836.50	345.00	1,075.00	1,850.00	2,080.00	4,439.50	1,200.00	13,700.00	1,224.30	-	-	-	31,750.30
Wexford Total	1,177.50	55.00	1,075.00	260.00	200.00	5,157.50	1,850.00	15,750.00	-	-	-	-	25,525.00
Wexford Total	7,014.00	400.00	2,150.00	2,110.00	2,280.00	9,597.00	3,050.00	29,450.00	1,224.30	-	-	-	57,275.30

# INJURY FUND

County	Playing Status	Physio	G.P.	A&E	MRI	Consultant	Surgery	Anaesthetic Consultant	Hospital	Loss of Wages	Dentist	Total
Monaghan	Adult	2,475.00	195.00	455.00	1,845.00	2,460.00	1,347.00	4,023.00	2,750.00	6,800.00	-	22,350.00
	Juvenile	801.00	30.00	425.00	635.00	935.14	4,598.00	2,178.00	12,323.00	1,285.20	-	23,210.34
Monaghan Total		3,276.00	225.00	880.00	2,480.00	3,395.14	5,945.00	6,201.00	15,073.00	8,085.20	-	45,560.34
Offaly	Adult	1,935.00	55.00	-	-	420.00	900.00	350.00	2,100.00	-	-	5,760.00
	Juvenile	517.50	50.00	700.00	-	340.00	1,400.00	600.00	3,500.00	-	-	7,107.50
Offaly Total		2,452.50	105.00	700.00	-	760.00	2,300.00	950.00	5,600.00	-	-	12,867.50
Roscommon	Adult	1,876.50	335.00	530.00	240.00	-	1,700.00	500.00	3,300.00	-	-	8,481.50
	Juvenile	-	40.00	75.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115.00
Roscommon Total		1,876.50	375.00	605.00	240.00	-	1,700.00	500.00	3,300.00	-	-	8,596.50
Sligo	Adult	3,925.80	365.00	300.00	590.00	-	4,600.00	1,900.00	10,000.00	800.00	-	22,480.80
	Juvenile	1,098.00	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,198.00
Sligo Total		5,023.80	365.00	400.00	590.00	-	4,600.00	1,900.00	10,000.00	800.00	-	23,678.80
Tipperary	Adult	1,291.50	305.00	100.00	400.00	965.00	-	-	4,700.00	-	-	7,761.50
	Juvenile	1,188.00	55.00	150.00	-	700.00	75.00	-	-	-	-	2,168.00
Tipperary Total		2,479.50	360.00	250.00	400.00	1,665.00	75.00	-	4,700.00	-	-	9,929.50
Tyrone	Adult	1,958.85	-	-	2,905.00	2,811.30	18,751.38	6,823.39	28,324.93	6,480.00	-	68,054.85
	Juvenile	179.55	-	-	295.00	399.95	3,909.00	1,097.00	4,826.00	-	-	10,706.50
Tyrone Total		2,138.40	-	-	3,200.00	3,211.25	22,660.38	7,920.39	33,150.93	6,480.00	-	78,761.35
Waterford	Adult	540.50	35.00	-	225.00	360.00	1,420.00	750.00	2,675.00	-	-	6,005.50
	Juvenile	-	-	600.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600.00
Waterford Total		540.50	35.00	600.00	225.00	360.00	1,420.00	750.00	2,675.00	-	-	6,605.50
Westmeath	Adult	3,726.00	310.00	300.00	1,432.50	1,360.00	2,250.00	950.00	5,375.00	4,000.00	-	19,703.50
	Juvenile	630.00	-	362.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,789.00	2,781.50
Westmeath Total		4,356.00	310.00	662.50	1,432.50	1,360.00	2,250.00	950.00	5,375.00	4,000.00	1,789.00	22,485.00
Wexford	Adult	904.50	140.00	-	260.00	320.00	4,100.00	950.00	9,050.00	2,000.00	-	17,724.50
	Juvenile	311.40	-	225.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	536.40
Wexford Total		1,215.90	140.00	225.00	260.00	320.00	4,100.00	950.00	9,050.00	2,000.00	-	18,260.90
Wicklow	Adult	2,623.50	130.00	200.00	915.00	1,253.00	7,269.00	2,224.00	10,175.00	3,800.00	-	28,589.50
	Juvenile	958.50	-	110.00	590.00	340.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,998.50
Wicklow Total		3,582.00	130.00	310.00	1,505.00	1,593.00	7,269.00	2,224.00	10,175.00	3,800.00	-	30,588.00
Total		97,262.47	8,893.00	20,943.75	37,394.05	41,663.64	181,660.55	68,362.47	372,023.21	67,225.91	10,270.00	905,699.05

## PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN 2021 -2020



### 2020

Province	No. of Claims:	Total Paid:
Connacht	217	€165,792.56
Leinster	360	€276,822.58
Munster	189	€119,732.81
Ulster	149	€251,905.91
Britain	3	€4,698.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>€818,952.43</b>

### 2021

Province	No. of Claims:	Total Paid:
Connacht	184	€95,569.80
Leinster	314	€332,748.32
Munster	157	€135,903.00
Ulster	158	€341,182.93
Britain	1	€295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>€905,699.05</b>





## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT





# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT 2021

In the words of Stephen Richards *"A barrier is a limitation only when you perceive it as one"* and that was certainly the mindset required for development across the association in yet another pandemic-stricken year. In 2020, we outlined the challenges posed by COVID-19 but also the opportunities it presented, and it was essential to build on the lessons learnt for 2021.

Throughout my report you will read about adaptations that were required for our programmes and initiatives including Gaelic4Girls and Gaelic4Teens, but due to the positive feedback received we will now be delivering a blended version of many of these programmes, which appear to suit the needs of volunteers from our evaluations. The LGFA continued to engage with volunteers, players, coaches and match officials through our winter and spring series of webinars with nearly 6,000 attendees and over 310,000 people engaging with the recorded sessions on our LGFA YouTube Channel, Facebook or across our other social media platforms. All staff were involved in the delivery of these webinars and the topics were selected from comments provided from attendees when identifying other areas that would assist them with their role.

While much of the on-field activity was at a standstill in the previous year, it was excellent to be able to deliver on many of our targets for 2021 despite needing some modifications to delivery methods and timescales. We continued to showcase our innovation and utilise the lessons learnt during the first lockdown to build on solid foundations to further develop our sport.

It is certainly hoped that we will return to normal schedules for 2022 but it is undeniable that development in LGFA has changed over the past two years and it has progressed for the better to meet the ever-evolving needs of our members. It has been an extremely

busy and auspicious year but again we look forward to driving this forward in the coming year.

## Development Staff

There was no such thing as a 'lockdown' for development staff and although at times throughout the year we were forced to return to off-field virtual activity, this provided opportunities that were essential to grasp to further engage with our volunteers across the country and internationally.

The standard of content and delivery of the first LGFA webinar series, from all LGFA staff, ensured there was an audience ready with an appetite for further learning on these platforms. I cannot thank all staff enough for the preparation put into researching and designing these education sessions and they were always challenging themselves to ensure the content was better than the previous. It is not easy to continue to keep people engaged with online content but the interactive nature of the webinars and ensuring the content was exactly as the title described kept people coming back for more. They always had the development of the recipient in mind and showed dedication and leadership as described by John Quincy Adams *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* The staff inspired so many people with these sessions to try new things in their own clubs and counties.

The National Development Officers: Volunteer Development (Niall Mulrine), Coach Education (William Harmon), Referee and Player Development (Clare Dowdall) and Growth and Participation (Vinny Whelan), worked tirelessly on their strands to ensure minimal disruption on their progress. I want to thank them for their commitment to the continuous development of our game but



mostly for continuing to overcome the many hurdles faced during the pandemic and for providing support to each other and myself during this period. They have been ever willing to upskill themselves and embrace new ideas.

In April our Development Support Administrator; Clare Conlon moved on from her role and Katie O'Donoghue took on this new position, even though she has of course been working in LGFA for several years. I would like to thank Clare for her time with LGFA and Katie for the dedication she has shown since stepping into the role especially as many courses were being rolled out online bringing with it new structures both for participants and tutors or coach developers.

Building on our work together in 2020, both National and Provincial Development staff were continuously linking in from planning through to delivery and evaluation stages of all elements of the development plan. More heads around the table, although a virtual table, led to many new and exciting ideas and it was brilliant to see these ideas come to fruition during the year. Claire Towey Burke (Connacht), Stephen Maxwell (Leinster), Gearóid Balfry (Munster) and Ciaran Murtagh and Aidan McLaughlin (Ulster) worked very closely with the National Development staff and strived to progress their provinces and offer invaluable support to the clubs and counties. It has been disappointing to see both Claire Towey Burke and Stephen Maxwell depart from their positions towards the latter part of the year but I want to sincerely thank them for their hard work and wish them the very best of their new roles. I want to express my gratitude to all the Provincial Development Officers and I urge clubs and counties within the provinces to avail of the support and guidance on offer to them from this hugely devoted and knowledgeable personnel.

## National Development Committee

2021 was the final term for our current National Development Committee with our quarterly meetings taking place online this year. It was only when we were reviewing our progress over the past four years that we had a full understanding of the impact of this committee and the importance of bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas to our sport. The members have been so open with their discussions and their ideas have planted seeds for many of the recent development initiatives and programmes. These meetings are certainly ones I look forward to and the calibre of people we had involved ensured we were always striving to be leaders in development.

The committee consisted of a number of subject experts who provided support and knowledge in areas such as player, referee, volunteer and coach development. There were four provincial representatives with subject area knowledge, and they were; Jennifer Higgins (Connacht), Aisling Hubbard (Leinster), Keith Delahunty (Munster) and Eliza Downey (Ulster). They were joined on the committee by Wesley O'Brien from University College Cork, Antoinette Campbell who is a former PE teacher and Special Olympics volunteer and Fiona Coghlan, former Ireland Rugby captain and All-Ireland Intermediate Club winner with Clontarf. Marie Hickey joined as previous LGFA President and we

were delighted to then welcome Mícheál Naughton to our most recent discussions. The committee is completed with Paula Prunty as Operations and Planning Manager and myself as National Development Manager to ensure that all targets identified were in line with targets in the LGFA National Strategic Roadmap.

We look forward to working with the new National Development Committee and have no doubt that the ideas generated will be as fruitful, innovative and progressive for the association especially as we enter a new Strategic Plan from the end of 2022.

## Provincial Development

Despite the potential challenges that lay ahead we decided it was better to have a plan that could be altered than to have no plan at all so we went ahead with our annual provincial planning meetings. These meetings allow the provincial executive members have an opportunity to input into their provincial specific plan for the year ahead. They are very beneficial discussions and cover multiple areas of progression from structures through to PR. Yet again there were ambitious goals set and these set the pillars for the annual work programmes for the Provincial Development Officers, alongside their core work whilst also identifying certain areas to be assigned to other members of the executive for completion.

It was planned to hold mid-year in-person meetings in each province, unfortunately restrictions at the time did not allow this. However, we did get to complete the Munster planning meeting for 2022 face-to-face with the other provinces again having to divert to virtual events. The ambition is to meet mid-year for the coming year as this encourages each province to reflect on their progress to date and review targets that were set if necessary. The areas covered include; coaching and games, referee development, club and county structures, communications and promotions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Provincial Presidents and Executives for their support for the Development staff, both National and Provincial, and we look forward to working on the ambitious plans for next year.

## Work Groups

It is essential to bring added expertise into the association to ensure that we continue to evolve and these personnel can share their experiences for the betterment of our game as they are passionate about their chosen areas. They help us to identify gaps and methods then of bridging these through innovative and dynamic ideas. The Female Leadership Workgroup has now reached the end of their term and going forward will be merged with the National Development Committee. I would like to thank all the work groups for their time, prowess and motivational discussions during the year. They certainly make us think differently but always with the betterment of LGFA to the fore.

## Female Leadership

As mentioned above this is the final year in the term of the current Female Leadership Workgroup and going forward there will be members selected for the National Development Committee with expertise and experience in female leadership. Although our



meetings remained virtual, they were still full of ambition and drive to further develop opportunities for more females to get involved across all strands of Coaching, Officiating, Administration and PR/ Media. Perceived barriers, actual barriers, creating opportunities, pathways to progression, confidence building and current analytics were some of the topics on agendas but all with the ambition of seeing more females getting involved and flourishing into leadership positions.

The Learn to Lead programme has been one of the flagship initiatives developed with this workgroup which progressed in 2021 with the introduction of the new Leading Provincial Females programmes in Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. The group has inspired other initiatives such as Female Liaison Officer seminars, the Level 1 Inter-County Player Coaching Course, the Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy, the Laoch programme and the new BUA programme to name a few. The Club Female Liaison Officer course is now designed as a self-led module available on the GAA eLearning platform, while their county counterparts will participate in an online webinar. The LGFA Leadership Podcast continued in 2021 with Cathy Gallagher, Nora Stapleton and Sue Ramsbottom which focuses on current or former players who find themselves in leadership positions off the pitch. They share their experiences to help inspire other females to put themselves forward and motivate them through their own lessons learnt.

Marie Hickey acted as Chairperson of the workgroup as LGFA President and was then replaced by Mícheál Naughton with Gráinne McElwain (Sports Presenter), Róisín Duffy (RTE and Women on Air), John O'Mahony (Former Senator), Michael O'Keeffe (CEO Teneo PSG), Tracey Kennedy (Former Cork GAA Chairperson), Katie Liston (University of Ulster), Su Carty (World

Rugby Council) and Mary O'Connor (CEO Federation of Irish Sport) who are joined by Paula Prunty, Niall Mulrine and myself from LGFA. This group has really made us think outside the box and ensure there was a dedicated focus on female leadership with the association. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them for the past four years and I look forward to ensuring continued discussion on this topic through the National Development Committee.

#### *Coach and Referee Education Support Workgroups*

Coach and match official education have altered dramatically over the past two years with the new blended learning approaches that were required during the pandemic and lockdowns. It is important to have continuous reviews of the education being provided to ensure it is up to date and meeting the consumer needs. Our workgroups for coach and referee education ensure this takes place whilst also offering support to the facilitators of this education – our referee tutors and coach developers. The coach support workgroup works closely with William Harmon to provide guidance to our coach developers and ensure our resources meet their needs. The coming year will see changes to the structure of coach education with the new joint coaching framework with the GAA and Camogie Association but it will remain essential that we provide support for our coach developers throughout this process.

Like coach education, it is important that our referee education resources are updated as rules change and this referee education support group work with Clare Dowdall to provide assistance for our referee tutors. Over the past two years we have seen additions to our Referee Pathway from discussions with this group as they identified gaps and introduced new courses.





Both workgroups are extremely important and ensure that we maintain a high standard of delivery in coach and referee education across the association. It is imperative that participants attending our suite of education are guaranteed quality content and delivery and these groups work with tutors and coach developers to ensure this happens.

### Coach Education

There was a worry across all sports that participation levels would decrease due to COVID-19 and a serious drop off would be witnessed because of the periods of inactivity but this has not proven to be the case with many clubs witnessing an increase in their membership. Great credit must be given to the coaches in our clubs for creating a safe environment for everyone to get involved and most importantly not making players feel like they were no longer good enough, fit enough or whatever their perceived barriers may be.

Coach education has never been more important as our player numbers grow and it is the coach who will have the greatest influence in keeping those girls and women involved in our sport. A club should not only measure the success of their coaches by the number of trophies or cups in the cabinet but by the retention rates of their players and development of them as people within the club. There are clubs who have been triumphant at underage levels but struggle to field a team by the time they reach adult level. The question must be asked 'why?'. The key focus must be retaining all girls up through the ages and working to progress every one of them individually and success will come. *"A coach is someone that sees beyond your limits and guides you to greatness"* is a

quote used by the legend Michael Jordan and if we can get all coaches aiming to guide and support our players both individually and collectively the future will be bright for all clubs. Putting this appropriate coaching philosophy in clubs has been a strong theme throughout our coach education programme and webinar series.

Our priority for the formal coach education programme during the year was to complete the final two-hour practical sessions required for the online FUNDamentals courses whilst restrictions permitted. Despite the difficulties with further cessations of activity we delivered 103 FUNDamentals and 14 Level 1 courses which is a huge increase on the previous year as you will see from Table 1 on page 80. The blended courses devised in 2020 really assisted this roll out with participants able to complete most sessions online and then attending the final practical element locally within their county. Clubs must ensure that every coach has their relevant coaching qualifications, safeguarding and garda vetting/police checks completed, so the continuity of coach education delivery was essential for this. The new 'Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games' will replace the FUNDamentals course from mid-January 2022 as the first step on the coaching ladder for LGFA, the GAA and the Camogie Association. All courses above this level will remain specific to each code.

As was the case for 2020 we had planned to run two Level 2 courses but these require full days face-to-face including being indoor so it was not possible to facilitate these. We are aware of the huge demand there is for this course and we are aiming to run these as early as we are authorised in 2022. The Inter-County Player Level 1



Assimilation aimed at current or past county players also fell afoul of the restrictions and was postponed until January but it was great to see the interest in this and I would urge all counties to encourage their players to avail of this unique opportunity to gain their coaching credentials through this course. It enables county players to be fast tracked to Level 1 due to their playing experience at club, school and county level, and this is specifically approved for LGFA by Sport Ireland.

Due to the hugely positive feedback from our webinars series during 2020, we rolled out a further winter and spring coach education series with topics such as Being Inclusive, Coaching Within the Rules and a Coach the Keeper feature amongst others. All webinars were designed with a duration of a 75 minutes maximum to ensure maximum engagement and attention for the chosen topics. 2,046 people attended the live webinars focused on coaching and the evaluations stressed the importance of the content being as described in the topic;

*“knowing that the topic outlined would be what was discussed was the main attraction. The topics were well thought through to help us all in our roles.”*

The significance of the provision of webinars across all strands was also noted;

*“The offering of webinars since we were forced off the pitches through COVID-19 has been exceptional. There is something for everyone and I would encourage LGFA to continue with these webinar series in the future. Thank you!”*

Feedback like this and more was a huge lesson for us and one we will continue to build on for the new year with further winter and spring webinar series.

We were delighted to be able to support our International units with their selected webinars too at times and dates suitable to their needs and time zones. You will see further details in relation to these in the International section of the CEO report and we look forward to connecting further over the coming year.

As we strive to return to normality our popular workshops including Key2Coaching, Coach the Keeper, Ready Steady Coach and Coach the Teenage Player will be available for counties and clubs to avail of, while during 2021 we converted the Club Mentor Rules workshop to a self-led online module available on the GAA eLearning platform. Knowledge of the playing rules is an area of coach education that all clubs and coaches must continue to work on, especially the differences from the male game, as we continue to hear controversial comments being thrown at match officials in relation to decisions yet it is the coaches with the wrong interpretation in many instances. Regular calls of ‘it was only a shoulder’, ‘that was a pickup’ or ‘black card’ can be heard on many pitches and all coaches should be encouraged to complete this short course in their own time and at their own pace. Mentors can also test their knowledge of the rules with a short rules assessment devised on the eLearning site. The coach must improve their own knowledge of the game to be able to pass this on to their players.

The Coach the Teenage Player workshops and webinars always prove extremely popular as clubs focus on retention rates of players at this age. We will continue to offer this session in the new year but we were delighted to partner with Sport Ireland to deliver their new Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport workshop in October with another scheduled for January 2022. The workshop was developed to enable coaches to create a positive experience





of sport and physical activity for girls in their formative years and provide an environment where girls and young women can develop holistically. Research conducted to devise this workshop identified five anchors of what were important to teenage girls.

They were firstly a 'support network' with friends being at the centre of this, secondly was 'independence and opportunity' allowing them the space to try new things and make decisions. The third anchor was being 'socially connected' as girls follow influencers they can relate to and aspire to be like and engage with meaningful trends such as body positivity, mental health, authenticity and being 'different'. But this is sometimes at odds with the perfection social media demands and time spent online is exacerbated by a lack of social spaces and activities in the 'real' world so it is essential for coaches to create these spaces to socially connect. Fourth of the anchors was 'moments of pride' in turn fuelling confidence and self-worth. Progression, achievement and a sense of direction in life are important for teen girls to build self-esteem and self-worth. The final anchor was 'keeping on top of it all' looking at the area of managing teenage pressures. Adolescence is a time of great change and upheaval, and girls often feel misunderstood by parents/adults, who struggle to fully appreciate the pressures they face so coaches must take this into account. It is extremely important that coaches keep these pillars in mind if assigned to teams involving the teenage age group.

Last year we arranged a county mentor series in place of in person sessions and due to the reaction received it was decided to continue this format for 2021. There were four sessions organised namely 'Let's get the season started', 'Creating a positive coaching environment', 'Coaching by the Rules' and an 'In-season check'. The final session did not take place as the restrictions meant county activity returning for different age grades at different times but the full series will be rolled out for the coming year. It is important that all mentors of county teams within your county from under 14 to adult are encouraged to attend as these discussions are designed specifically for them.

As mentioned above the launch of the new 'Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games' course with the GAA and Camogie Association will take place in January and this follows the launch of the new Gaelic Games Player Pathway. The next step in this collaboration will be a mirrored coach education pathway which will be a new framework for all three associations. Work is ongoing in relation to this but it will be positive for all coaches with new ways of gaining and keeping coaching accreditations through evidence of active coaching. The 'galaxy' of learning opportunities will include the formal coach education courses but also elements such as webinars, conferences, workshops, coach observations and active coaching. Further details on this will be announced in the latter part of 2022.

Building on the concept of coach observations we introduced training specific for coach observers to the Gaelic4Teens programme this year. We had previously provided this opportunity to all counties to upskill selected personnel from within their counties to offer advice and support to coaches at their actual

session in the club or county. Coaches must complete their formal education but there is no way of knowing they will activate these lessons when they go to actually coach so hence the importance of this role as a coach observer. Coaches who benefitted from the experience of having an observer at their sessions really enjoyed this and it offered them greater confidence in what they were doing. By including this in the Gaelic4Teens initiative the clubs involved were given the chance to equip coach observers for their own clubs which was a very progressive step for coach development within all these clubs. This will be built on further in the upcoming year with the training being made available for all counties for their Player Development Programmes also.

The level of activity in coach education simply would not be possible without the coach developers we have in place and they worked on every free date they had to clear both the online and practical sessions. They are the best marketing tool we have because feedback from every course they deliver is exceptional leading to more people wanting to attend further courses. I would like to thank the coach developers for their commitment, time and dedication to the role under the guidance of William Harmon, whose remit includes coach education, and we look forward to both online and the further return of face-to-face sessions. Katie O'Donoghue has also played a key role in organising all the logistics both with the organising body and the coach developers which has not been an easy task with the blended courses.

We were unable to facilitate our annual in-service again in 2021 but we did hold a number of shorter evening sessions to connect and engage with our coach developers and allow them to provide quality feedback to ensure the education programme continued to meet the needs of attendees. They always have an appetite to learn more and this passion for learning is passed on to participants on their courses. The aim for every coach developer is to ensure that each individual on the course is educated and leaves striving to be a better coach even altering one small thing in their practice. In the words of John Wooden *"It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen."*

Coach education will continue to remain a priority for development in 2022 and there are exciting times ahead with the new Gaelic Games Coaching Pathway so we ask all counties, clubs and coaches to continue to engage with us as all education will be officially accredited through this framework. To emphasise my previous point, we have some brilliant coaches involved in our game but it is important that everyone remains hungry to learn, listen and share experiences to ensure all players can reach their potential.

### Match Officials Education

Was there anyone busier than match officials when on pitch activity recommenced? There were so many games to be played across all counties and many referees were officiating in more than one code so their dedication to ensuring matches could take place never quavered. There would have been no activity of these officials did not make themselves available and it is important that we recognise this.

Abuse of officials really came to the limelight in 2021 with newspaper headlines from other sports and this placed a greater emphasis on respecting referees and recognising the environments they must work in at times. It is essential that counties support their match officials and plan for their development annually. This is the least they can expect for what can at times be a thankless role. We are passionate about respecting our officials and this is an area we will further develop in the months ahead.

The consistency of refereeing has been questioned and this is one of the main reasons it is imperative for all counties to organise an annual referee refresher course and ensure that all their referees attend. By rule 'All club adult games within counties must be officiated by a referee who has completed an LGFA referee education course and they must attend the annual referee refresher course to maintain qualifications', so counties must provide this course for their referees and there was no excuse as we also included a number of refresher courses on our winter and spring match officials education webinar series. The predominant areas for discussion in these refresher courses are the rule differences between codes as many referees officiate multiple games and it is important that they have a full understanding of the LGFA playing rules. Participants of the annual rules refresher course must complete an online rules assessment and present the results of this to their county board prior to being assigned to games. Going forward this annual rules refresher will be available online and face-to face, should restrictions allow and we will also include as part of our webinar series to assist counties with smaller numbers or as a catch up for referees who missed the course in their own county.

The other courses available on our Grab Your Whistle Referee Pathway are Go Games Youth Club Referee, Adult Club Referee and then for those more ambitious they can progress to Provincial and National Levels.



This pathway allows referees to plot their own journey for progression and there is clarity for everyone on how to advance. In 2021 we completed 51 Go Games referee courses and the demand for this increases every year. The decision to transform this course into an online module last year was proven correct with easier access now being provided to interested participants from the comfort of their homes. There were 32 further courses facilitated as part of the revamped Transition Year/ AS Level Programme which could be delivered remotely directly into the classroom by our Provincial Development Officers. A self-led version of this course is under construction over the coming year which will allow participants to complete the course at their own time on the GAA eLearning platform and this will be a joint initiative with the GAA and Camogie Association.

We observed a huge number of females qualifying on this course and young referees so it is imperative that we support them when they do show the interest and motivation to pick up the whistle and take control of games. We commenced the County Aftercare Programme but the pandemic slowed the progress in introducing this into counties so it will certainly be a priority for 2022. Counties will have to sign up to the programme if they want to run courses for new referees ensuring that participants will receive the encouragement and support they require to take what they learnt from the course and actually take their first step as a referee and start officiating within the county. The Referee Support Coordinator, selected by the county, will focus solely on the development of new officials and ensure there is an environment for them to be nurtured and flourished. They will not be involved in appointing referees but will work with the person(s) involved to make sure that the referees are appointed to suitable games, have guidance from a buddy who is an experienced referee and also then progress when they are ready for the next step. There are too many attendees completing courses but then either they never pick up a whistle or step away not long after they qualify so this aftercare programme is a crucial element to increase retention of these match officials. I urge counties to devote time to this programme and select an enthusiastic referee support coordinator as the number of games are increasing annually and all counties will require more match officials in the future to sustain the level of activity.

New officials enter the pathway too through the Grab Your Whistle Youth Club course and we ran 10 courses in 2021. This course is designed to educate new referees to officiate at competitive club games from under 12 to under 14 level. We have an online version of this course available where participants log into interactive sessions with our referee tutors and this will remain available for counties alongside the face-to-face version when restrictions allow. We piloted one of the new Adult Club courses and look forward to rolling these out further over the next few months. This course has been altered from a two-day in person course so one day in person with five self-led modules being completed by participants online with a rules assessment. This has the potential to be a game changer for encouraging more officials to progress to adult level as it is now more accessible and less time consuming on the participant. As with all courses the follow up support from the county is vital and so much time is spent on fixtures, coaches

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and promotion to name a few but can counties honestly say they dedicate even a portion of this time to some of the most important people in ensuring the cogs keep turning, their match officials.

As with coach education we organised and delivered a winter and spring series of match official education with over 1,000 attendees live on the sessions covering topics such as Linesperson and Umpire Training, Creating a Team of Officials and The Reset Button. We had guest speakers for several of these sessions including many of our National Referees sharing their experiences and I would like to thank everyone involved for their input and openness to assist other match officials. Participants enjoyed the variety of facilitators and sharing of knowledge by experienced people in the roles.

"I learned a lot from the personal experience of the guest speaker and what worked or did not work for them."

We will once again provide opportunities for match officials to attend webinars through a further winter and spring series and all sessions can be watch back on a playlist on the LGFA YouTube channel.

All provinces organised their annual seminars prior to inter-county activity commencing and although we were unable to bring the referees together to conduct the theory and practical sessions, we did alter this for officials to attend the seminar online and they then recorded a video of them completing the fitness assessment which had to show every stage from measuring it out through to them running and reaching all lines before the beep. The Yo-Yo tests were then analysed and referees were awarded the appropriate fitness result. There are standards that officials must achieve to remain on panels and this ensures fairness for everyone as it is up to the referees themselves to ensure they maintain the required levels. Some provinces have also opted to organise a further pre-season seminar in August for officials solely involved

with post primary activity and this has been a further step taken to provide support to this group of officials and ensure consistency of messaging to all.

During our planning meetings the Provincial Accelerate programme was discussed and it was evident that there was a need for the programme again in 2021, but there may not be big numbers in each province. With this in mind it was agreed to deliver the education centrally online for the participants but the support and practical experience would be provided within their own province and this blended approach received much appraise. The accelerate programme is in place for ambitious referees wanting to progress to the next level and officiate at provincial games. If referees are successful on all aspects of this programme they will then progress to their provincial panel, which is the next step on the ladder. 12 referees completed the programme – 5 from Leinster, 3 from Munster and 4 from Ulster.

The National Panel had a similar experience to their provincial counterparts as we were unable to conduct the sessions in person but we did facilitate their pre-league and pre-championship seminars plus additional sessions for more regular engagement mid competitions and prior to the All-Ireland Final stages. These supplementary online meetings enabled more frequent communication and discussions around application of the rules and areas requiring greater focus. All referees still had to pass the levels required to remain on the National Panel and as we did for the provinces, the referees submitted footage of their fitness assessments. We converted the winter training hubs to online sessions with both national and provincial referees logging in to participate together and this helped them to keep fit and connected in preparation for the upcoming season. I would like to express my gratitude to all our referees for not just engaging on these sessions but for their commitment and dedication throughout yet another disruptive year and adhering to all guidelines.



Seven new referees progressed through the National Accelerate programme at the start of 2021 to join the National Panel of referees with another five commencing their journey in August aspiring to join the panel for 2022. Officials on this programme must complete seven online modules, complete self-reflections, show evidence of practical experience between modules and then will be assigned to their first games in the Lidl National Football League for assessment. It is very much in the referee's own hands to ensure they progress as they must pass the required elements at each stage of the programme. The Provincial and National Accelerate courses continue to play a very important role in creating a conveyor belt of referees to both panels which is so important as some officials may retire or not pass the necessary assessments. It is essential that we set standards for our referees but also ensure we have the support they require in place.

One of the main systems used to help our National Referees is performance analysis with PerformaSports. This new platform has replaced Hudl and it still completes a full performance analysis tagging as aspects specific to the referee with the camera angles solely focusing on the match official. The difference with PerformaSports is that it also involves having a microphone on the referee allowing us to conduct behavioural analysis and providing full detail to the match official. The company record several matches throughout the Lidl National Football League and TG4 All-Ireland Championship directly but then the system allows us to upload matches we have ourselves from streaming or TG4 so all referees can be provided with individual or group feedback. Our Referee Assessors continued with their important role of providing written assessments and they could return to attending games for the TG4 All-Ireland Championship but conducted these by watching the live games on television or through streaming for the Lidl National Football League games. Referees are then encouraged to contact their assessor for a follow up conversation and this enables them to identify areas of improvement and of course positive aspects of their performance. The National Assessor Group consists of; Martin Gavin (Connacht), Finbarr O'Driscoll (Leinster), Eamonn O'Connor (Munster) and Paul Swift (Ulster) who work closely with Clare Dowdall to analyse the assessments, provide feedback to assessors and to ensure that the assessment forms meet the needs of the referees receiving them. There were 45 assessments completed by 13 assessors this year and we are extremely grateful to them and our National Assessment Group for the time they put into completing all aspects of the assessments and ensuring they provide meaningful feedback to the recipients. Our provinces also use this assessment process as do some counties but this is an area we will be building on in 2021/2022 with training opportunities being advertised for counties to select assessors within their own counties to attend the education sessions. We will have forms specifically for them to use at their club games and this will not alone support referees within their county but ensure consistency amongst assessors across the country.

The importance of a team of officials has never been more evident and at national level the referees have their own team of umpires whilst the linespersons are appointed but they work very closely to assist the referee. We included training webinars for both umpires

and linespersons as part of our winter series and each province organises annual training for both officials. Upon completion attendees will be accredited for two years and in 2022 we will be organising an advanced session within provinces and then keeping the webinars in place for new officials wanting to get involved in the roles. Acting as linesperson in particular can be so beneficial to new eager officials as they get to work with a national referee and I urge counties to utilise these participants to act as the linesperson in their home Lidl National Football League games as it is an optimal learning environment for them.

The next phase of our Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy was completed in November with 22 vehement officials taking part. This is a Women in Sport initiative funded through Sport Ireland and was devised to develop aspiring referees aged 18 – 35 years within ladies gaelic football. It was delivered over 12 months by experts in the field including some of our own referees and the content was transformed to be delivered through online modules with the participants only meeting for the final session in The Bonnington Hotel for their graduation. In an independent evaluation 100% of attendees cited that the academy had improved their confidence as a referee either a lot or significantly and they highlighted the importance of their assigned mentor in providing them with encouragement and support. All county boards are informed if a referee is participating from their county and one worrying finding from the evaluation was that 41% of graduates stated that the support they received from their county board was either 'very poor' or 'neither poor nor good'. Improvements must be made to the level of support provided to match officials, and especially this group who are showing an interest to progress and get more involved as a referee. There was a 21% increase in the number of females on the 2021 programme compared to the 2020 iteration and this is something counties have been requesting so it is now essential for all counties to firstly encourage female referees to apply and then most importantly to ensure they are assisted on their role. The next Grab Your Whistle Academy will commence in January 2022 as one of the findings of the independent evaluation was the preference to have a blended approach so to include some face-to-face sessions and this would not have been possible to commence again in the latter part of November.

There has been an increased emphasis placed on the development of match officials over the past number of years and the game should look the same regardless of where it is being played, under the same playing rules. A review of all the above education offerings has been completed and we have a digital referee handbook and bi-monthly newsletter published to continue to improve consistency of officials involved in our sport. There are episodes of the LGFA Show too dedicated to referee development. As stressed in previous reports there are people who want to officiate but they need to be supported, respected, and appreciated at all levels of our association. The easiest thing to do is complain about the referee but can you honestly say you have done anything as a county to help that official to improve? Now is the time to prioritise this area and take the lead to create a nurturing environment for all aspiring referees. Do not wait until you don't have enough officials to complete your games programme and reach crisis point.



### Development Initiatives

2021 was an exciting year for the Gaelic4Girls programme as Glenveagh Homes came on board as the inaugural sponsor of the initiative. Jennifer Higgins from Roscommon joined Armagh's Aimee Mackin as ambassadors and their skills videos kept all participants entertained for the duration of the programme. There were 27 clubs from 19 counties selected and these clubs had been successful in their applications in 2020 but unfortunately the roll out had to be cancelled due to the covid restrictions. There were a few clubs that still opted not to take their place just with restrictions and difficulties around these but as part of the Glenveagh Homes sponsorship clubs in areas they were building developments in were given the opportunity to participate. We were also delighted to welcome clubs from Britain back into the Gaelic4Girls programme with 4 clubs completing the initiative.

There were changes to the structure with face-to-face sessions being replaced by online webinars but this resulted in an increased number of coaches from each club engaging with the education being provided. Recommendations from Dr Orlagh Farmer's PhD were implemented this year and it was imperative that we activated these when coming from such credible research. Some of these included the addition of a session for parents to engage with,

creating digital coaching resources for each session, a dedicated portal for coordinators and coaches, and the inclusion of a sustainability webinar at the conclusion of the programme for the clubs involved. Feedback from these amendments was immensely positive and aided one of the key aims of this programme to make clubs more self-sufficient and have the ability to continue with their own recruitment for future years.

Gaelic4Girls continues to be an invaluable recruitment tool for many clubs and the safe environment for girls to start their journey into our game has been fruitful with retention rates extremely high for these new players going on to join as members. Vinny Whelan persists with promoting inclusive coaching philosophies through this initiative and by engaging with coordinators, coaches and now parents we are seeing increased retention rates of players as a result. We will add further to Gaelic4Girls in 2022 and look forward to strengthening our partnership with Glenveagh Homes.



Similar to Gaelic4Girls it was a landmark year for our Gaelic4Mothers&Others programme with a new sponsor, SportsDirect, coming on board. They commenced the sponsorship



with their #MyReasonWhy campaign and what an impact it had with participants across the country sharing their reasons for involvement in the initiative. Alison Curtis from Today FM was added as an ambassador and she joined her local club St Vincent's in Dublin to experience the impact of participation. There are nearly 300 clubs involved in Gaelic4Mothers&Others and it is proving to be of paramount importance in communities as a social outlet for women to get involved and get some exercise at the same time. It is imperative that we protect this recreational element of the programme with no competitions, no scores kept in games and the initiative being inclusive to everyone within the target audience. We have taken the step to remove clubs trying to operate outside of this ethos and we will continue to do so as there are competitive teams in all clubs that these players can play with if they want to play at that level, this is for fun.

It was disappointing that we couldn't hold our National Blitz Day yet again due to the pandemic and teams had been really looking forward to this but bringing over 120 teams together would not be a safe environment and that had to be priority. We are certainly hopeful that this will return along with Provincial blitzes in 2022. When restrictions allowed, we did permit small blitzes with a maximum of five teams at a host venue and this was welcomed by the teams to further increase social opportunities.

Funding secured from dormant accounts allowed us to build on the success of the North Inner City Dublin version 'Gaelic4Ma's' which was due to be a six-week programme for women in the Ballybough and Sheriff Street areas but this activity continues. Gaelic4Ma's was expanded to sites in Finglas, Artane and Crumlin/ Drimnagh with the local clubs heavily involved to encourage sustainability into the future. In 2020 we received dormant account funding for a Gaelic4Mothers&Others inclusion project in partnership with Leitrim Sports Partnership and the focus for this was on volunteer education for the females involved rather than establishment of new sites. It was decided to take the lessons

learnt from this initiative into the Gaelic4Ma's and we offered volunteer training including Ready Steady Coach, Safeguarding, CARA inclusion training, basic first aid and Jigsaw's One Good Adult to name a few. Participants in the Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative are a cohort of potentially very enthusiastic, effective and motivated volunteers if we can support and educate them to play a key role in their clubs. Many of the females involved have never been involved in gaelic games and this programme is their first introduction so the volunteer training being provided can build their confidence and clubs are always looking to welcome new volunteers. For the first time in 2022 we will link with sponsors SportsDirect to organise a monthly webinar series with a mix of volunteer education and self-development topics so it is an initiative we are looking forward to. We conducted an independent evaluation of the Gaelic4Ma's programme and some of the findings included 91% of participants feeling welcomed in their local community, 99% of participants wanted to participate in this type of activity again, 100% of participants reported enjoying the programme and 96% reported they would recommend our sport to friends, family and children. The top three favourite aspects of Gaelic4Ma's were being physically active, learning new skills and having some 'me' time. The following quote epitomised the importance of initiatives like this, "Absolutely brilliant, great fun, great for mental health, brilliant idea and actually learning the sport you watched your kids playing for years. The excitement on your grown children's faces when you told them I'm joining LGFA – priceless." If clubs can harness this positive energy from the women involved and integrate them into their club structures it will be hugely positive not only for the clubs but for the women themselves from a mental, physical and social perspective. "An overall amazing initiative to start for the ladies within our community, the whole programme carries many components such as being active for health reasons, social purposes, friendships, a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose and a sense of achievement, I personally love it so thank you."







In July ZuCar were announced as the new Performance Partner of the LGFA and with that they would be the new sponsor of Gaelic4Teens. This was another mammoth demonstration of confidence for our development initiatives and a partnership that would grow this programme to even greater levels. Akin to Gaelic4Girls we were unable to roll out Gaelic4Teens in 2020 under covid restrictions so the clubs selected were offered their place for 2021. We had 30 clubs from 16 counties participating, see table 5 on page 80, and they were keen to get immersed in the programme from session 1. The sessions were delivered by our ambassadors alongside William Harmon - Cliodhna O'Connor (Dublin), Sharon Courtney (Monaghan), Orlagh Farmer (Cork), Jackie Kinch (Wicklow), Sinéad Delahunty (Tipperary), Bronagh McGrane (Louth), Fiona McHale (Mayo), Máire O Shaughnessy (Meath), Laura Fleming (Roscommon), Emily Martin (Down) and Cassandra Buckley (Kerry). They are experts in their selected fields and evaluations annually home in on the role the ambassadors play in the success of the initiative by their sharing of experiences and knowledge. I want to thank them for their time and genuine interest in this initiative due to their passion to retain players. As we were unable to organise a National Gaelic4Teens Day we decided to organise one of the ambassadors or a county player to visit each of the clubs to conduct a coaching session and they were joined by one of our coach developers to ensure the coaches focused on the 'why' of coaching from what they were seeing rather than the drills or games they were seeing. These visits were extremely constructive and it was seen as a progressive next step for coaches to see the theory they had learnt in action so it is certainly an element we will be bringing forward to the coming year.

Gaelic4Teens remains a fundamental part of our suite of coach education and was designed by feedback from teenagers on the environment required in a club to enrich their experiences and in turn increase retention levels. It is important that we continuously review this content with teenagers ensuring the messages we are delivering are apt and applicable to our game. Teenagers are not children, but they are also not adults, so we need to coach them as they need to be coached to maintain their interest and stimulate them which is core to Gaelic4Teens.

For the coming year we will be adding two new ambassadors, publishing new videos for the duration of the programme, converting the resources to digital versions and of course we hope to have the return of our National Gaelic4Teens Day. It is an exciting time for the initiative and we look forward to developing it further with the assistance of ZuCar.



Club2Gether was delivered online to the 18 clubs selected from 16 counties and this development initiative assists clubs to strengthen their structures off the pitch which is crucial to have solid foundations to enable them to sustain increased participation numbers. Club2Gether focuses on developing areas such as Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, Governance and Officer Training, Games Development and Sponsorship and Fundraising, while a module on planning for the future is available to ensure more indelible and robust structures are in place.

Niall Mulrine coordinated the programme and was a constant link for the personnel involved. The online modules were interactive and allowed time for the clubs to share ideas and opinions. All clubs were provided a log in to a private portal on the GAA eLearning platform specifically for clubs involved in Club2Gether and they could avail of additional resources and interact through a forum only visible to themselves. The external facilitators utilised added expertise on topics and the attendees welcomed the opportunity to ask further questions to assist their own clubs.

It is important for clubs to continuously look to the future when they are participating and analyse what they need to change now to meet their desired goals and targets. It is stressed that without a plan a club and its members cannot know where it wants to go so even having a basic plan in place and making their members aware of this can accelerate progress. On Day One participants are asked to describe their club as it is now in three words followed up by a task to get them to envision their club starting again and if they could grow the ideal club what words would be associated with it. The Club2Gether programmes strives to give the required tools to clubs to grow that ideal club and getting buy in from members to go on that journey together.

As membership numbers continue to escalate, clubs must act early to ensure their foundations are strong and this is why Club2Gether is so important. In the words of Gordan B Hinckley *"You can't build a great building on a weak foundation. You must have a solid foundation if you're going to have a strong superstructure."* so clubs must focus on getting everything correct away from the playing pitch to help them to future proof and progress.



The commencement of our second Learn to Lead programme was delayed due to the restrictions in place in relation to meeting indoors but we were delighted to start with Day 1 in June despite having to keep this online. The participants did get to come together for Day 2 in October

and it is hoped this will also be possible for the remaining two core days. 24 participants were selected with six for each strand of; Coaching, Officiating, Administration and PR/Media. They are listed in Table 8, page 81. The feedback from the first Learn to Lead programme was exceptional with many of the females involved advancing in either their sporting or personal lives since they graduated. A full evaluation was completed on that first programme and there were lessons to learn and alterations to be made for the current groups of participants.

It was recommended to keep the four core days and then the six evening sessions specific to their selected strand which take place between the core days. The calibre of facilitators was praised and we have been fortunate to continue our relationship with Niamh McElwain and Pedro Angulo for the delivery of the core days and we quite simply couldn't have better, they are exceptional. The same has applied for our guest facilitators we have for strand evenings so the attendees really are listening to and learning from the best. One element that has changed from feedback is the mentoring process. In year 1 each participant was assigned a mentor and worked with them for the duration of the programme which worked well but there were comments that although they enjoyed getting guidance from their own mentor, they would love the opportunity to liaise with some of the other mentors also. With this in mind going forward we will have four mentors per strand, two graduates from the programme and two external mentors with expertise in the field, allowing our Learn to Lead participants to tailor the support and guidance they require to the mentor they liaise with.

This is certainly a programme we really enjoy working on and the females partaking are so engaging, open and passionate about their roles. It is intriguing to follow their journeys and to help them even in small way to build their confidence to put themselves forward as leaders. Learn to Lead will culminate in June and I have no doubt we will be hearing a lot more about the women involved.

The natural progression for this initiative was to commence something similar but different at provincial level which would allow the females involved to potentially proceed to the National Learn to Lead Programme. Leading Provincial Females, funded through Women in Sport, was launched in July and was designed for females aged 18+ interested in developing personally and also leading teams potentially through their role in LGFA or the GAA. There have been four programmes running consecutively – one in Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster with some sessions specific in the province and others bringing females together from across the provinces. This is a joint initiative between the LGFA and GAA

with the women involved in many various roles in their clubs or counties from Administration, Coaching, Officiating through to PR. All participants have to attend two days, one at start and one at end of programme, which will examine their leadership skills. They must also attend a mid-point evening session again focusing on their leadership skills. Finally, participants must complete at least two modules from themes across the four strands of Coaching, Officiating, Administration and PR/Media between each of those dates, minimum four in total. Participants may attend more than four modules in total if they wish but it is a minimum of two between each date. Leading Provincial Females will come to its completion in March 2022 in all four provinces with 25 participants eligible in each province. This pilot has unquestionably been a huge success and the attendees were able to get a flavour of education from across all strands, unlike Learn to Lead where they must select a specific strand, so this should bode well for the future and whet the appetite for these women to want more and apply for Learn to Lead in the future. We will be delivering another phase of this programme in 2022.



### **BUA Programme**

We were delighted to announce details of our new 'BUA' Leadership and Life Skills programme in May and this was possible through dormant account funding. 'BUA' is a self-development initiative aimed at supporting young people in the LGFA to develop leadership skills and qualities to benefit their local communities. Aimed at females aged 16-19 years of age, 'BUA' is conducted through expert-led workshops and self-reflection, before participants put their enhanced leadership skills into practice through a club action project during December 2021 to February 2022 period. The 32 selected participants have been engaging in learning and covering topics essential for young people, including resilience, dealing with change, building trust and respect, conflict resolution, problem solving, and project planning and delegation. In addition, LGFA-specific topics including introductory modules to coaching, officiating and administration are also being covered. 'BUA' began in June 2021 and will finish in February 2022, with a face-to-face graduation should restrictions allow, and the participants will have attended five leadership training sessions remotely and selected two LGFA-specific modules between each leadership session that participants could choose from, depending on their area of interest. It was brilliant to welcome Dublin's Lyndsey

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Davey on board as ambassador and having been involved in our sport from such a young age she was an ideal candidate as a role model for this group.

Prior to launching the initiative, we knew it was imperative that we engaged with this target audience to ensure the branding, marketing, content, duration and delivery would meet their needs. Niall Mulrine and I conducted the focus group and it was a breath of fresh air to have the discussion with a group of enthusiastic and fervent young women. We learnt so much from that session and they looked at all elements from the logo through to topics that should be included. Recently published research stressed the importance of listening to young people's voices and not having adults speaking for them or presuming they know what they want hence the importance of these focus groups. We will conduct a full evaluation with this pilot group and bring any learnings forward to the programme next year. There have been a few standout moments highlighted already from participants including the opportunities they had for discussion with this year's Players' Player of the Year Vikki Wall and the inspirational Mary Hulgaine from Kildare to name a few.

Commenting on the launch of the programme, Ladies Gaelic Football Association President, Mícheál Naughton, said: *"As a vibrant and thriving association, we are acutely aware of the needs of our young members, and this brilliant new initiative will provide participants with the opportunity to hone pre-existing skills, while also developing new ones. The 'BUA' programme will provide participants with tools for life, and I would hope to see many of the participants fulfilling leading roles within our association in the years to come."* We certainly hope to see many of these young people involved for many years to come and that the tools provided to them through the initiative will assist and prepare them for life in general. We have brilliant young people involved across the association and now is the time to listen to them.



### Player Development Programme

The new Player Development Programme was due to commence in 2020 but was deferred to 2021 and then had to be deferred again to 2022. Previous development squads or academies will now be replaced by this inclusive

programme and counties cannot use them anymore as must roll out the Player Development Programme. These sessions will provide an opportunity for players to develop individually, with different players, learn new skills, and develop the fundamental skills in a positive and safe environment within their counties. The Player Development Programme will take place at Under 13, 15 and 17 and there can be no development at ages below this apart from club activity. There can only be competitive county teams at Under 14, 16 and 18 and this new structure will not only enhance the environment for the players involved but also the coaches through a series of education sessions throughout the duration of the initiative. Learning opportunities will be provided and counties will be encouraged to get as many coaches involved from across multiple clubs which will enhance coach education at club level also. To avoid confusion – titles 'LGFA Development Academy' or 'LGFA Academy Programme' are now defunct and should not be utilised by counties and we delivered an information session in November in relation to this. We will have further seminars in early 2022 to support counties and fingers crossed we will finally get to commence the new initiative.

### Club School Link Programme

Through a collaboration with Cavan Local Sports Partnership, we piloted elements of the new LGFA Club School Link programme which is a combined approach at local level ensuring sporting opportunities for young people. Many clubs are already





linking very closely with their local schools and this initiative will recognise that work. It is up to each club and school to agree what works best for them and how they can develop further opportunities to benefit the community. As part of this new programme clubs will be able to submit evidence of their collaborative links to be awarded bronze, silver or gold certification with minimum standards outlined for each grade in an easy-to-follow guide on our website. We have not officially launched the LGFA Club School Link programme as we were aware that clubs were under pressure to get normal activity completed during the covid stricken season but the aim is to release full details early in 2022. As part of the support provided by Cavan LSP the clubs involved were enabled to take this a step further and pay a coach to go into the local schools for a ten-week period and establish relationships with the schools, something they can now build on. There is huge potential for clubs to get a greater reach in schools through the guidance provided in the Club School Links programme and we know there will be a lot of interest in this to recognise the innovation of our clubs.

#### *Transition Year / AS Level Programme*

The modifications completed to the LGFA TY/AS Level programme in 2020 while access to schools was limited opened the door for our Provincial Development Officers to engage with more schools than ever before during the past 18 months. The alterations were welcomed by teachers as they were able to have the facilitator on a big screen in the classroom delivering the interactive session to their students. Many of the schools that completed the modules in 2020 requested to be included again in 2021 which is certainly a positive indication of the quality of content being provided. The school could select a coaching or refereeing module, or both,

and the Provincial Development Officer then alerted local clubs that the students had completed to encourage them to provide practical experience to them when they were already showing enthusiasm to get involved.

The regular LGFA TY/AS Level programme involved two full days for the school. On Day 1 the participants will complete an introduction to coaching module, Go Games referee module and the final session on event management. The students will utilise their skills developed to host an event in the school on Day 2. Working in groups they will organise the event in all areas such as promotion, coaching and refereeing. The event day can be organised in conjunction with the local primary schools in their catchment areas or for 1<sup>st</sup> year female students in the school. Going forward schools will have the option to book both in person and remote versions of this programme.

#### *LGFA Research Pod*

The LGFA Research Pod was established in November 2020 and the idea came following discussions with a number of students conducting research in Third Level Colleges and Universities across the country. We had met a variety of researchers and they presented their findings and it soon became apparent the importance of ensuring this information was shared widely plus giving recognition to those involved in dedicating a huge amount of time to their final reports and publications. The LGFA Research Pod is available as a playlist on the LGFA YouTube channel and each presenter recorded a short 10-minute presentation which is freely available for the public to watch. This is an innovative project and it ensures our members get access to some of the most up to date research in relation to our game and sport in general. The subjects, and more importantly the findings, are



critical for the future development of our sport and I would urge all our members to watch these and put into action the recommendations that are presented. I would like to thank all researchers for their submissions to date and we look forward to continuing this initiative.

## Volunteer Development

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."* Canadian curler Sherry Anderson shared these thoughts and how true that statement is. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our association and it is vital that we ensure the necessary education and support is available to them. As our current strategic plan nears the end of term we can reflect on the prioritisation we put on volunteer development since we conducted the volunteer impact survey in 2019 with Volunteer Ireland. An annual calendar of volunteer training was devised to assist members at club, province and national level and the lockdowns presented us with opportunities to get greater engagement than we ever had before. Feedback from attendees was to keep this education offering online to prevent unnecessary travel, particular as a volunteer, and suggested topics were provided to us to meet their exigencies. As we embark on a new roadmap we will be launching a new pathway specific for volunteers with dedicated support at all levels.

## County and Provincial Leadership Series

The demand on County and Provincial Officers is ever-increasing and it can sometimes be forgotten that they are volunteers and dedicating their time for the betterment of all clubs and members within their jurisdiction. Evaluations completed on our first County and Provincial Leadership winter and spring webinar series in 2020 were immensely positive and it was cited that the tools provided assisted them to carry out their roles more efficiently. Some of the topics were Conflict Resolution, Your Social Media Toolkit, Essential Guide to Streaming Games, Fixture Planning and Guidelines, Teamwork and Building Networks plus specific sessions for each individual role. We also had a webinar named 'Who looks after me? Minding Yourself as Volunteers' with renowned psychologist Shane Martin focused on building resilience and 'bouncibility' which can harness your inner strengths and coping mechanisms. This has become so important for officers at this level and it is an area we will be working on further in the new year specifically with County Chairpersons and Secretaries plus Provincial Presidents, Secretaries and Administrators alongside our Management Committee. We will continue with our County and Provincial Leadership winter and spring webinar series also looking at many more themes including Governance: Building Together, Preparing for AGM and Reaching Your County Goals.

A four-part interactive webinar series was organised throughout the year for County Development Officers and their committees and between these sessions the Provincial Development Officers met with personnel from their own province. These sessions were focused on creating full awareness of development offerings in LGFA and how counties and clubs could make the best use of what is available. The meetings were designed with plenty of breakout rooms to include opportunities for networking and

sharing ideas and thoughts. The first session guided each county to decide on three priorities for the year and the steps and support they would require ensuring they could achieve these. The priorities were then revisited from session to session making sure the County Development Officers and their workgroups committed to their completion. We established a forum on the GAA eLearning platform accessible only to these officers to allow them to communicate with each other and connect with resources to assist them.

At last year's Congress I stressed the importance of counties having an active Development Officer in position and ideally a Development workgroup but there are still too many counties with this position vacant and yet they want to develop. The decision of Congress to enable County Executives to select the correct person for the role rather than being elected should have been a positive move but that has not been in the case in several counties. There still remains the issues of either nobody being put into position or people taking the role for the wrong reasons with more of a focus on becoming a County Manager at one of the grades rather than the development of the game for the betterment of the whole county and the clubs therein. Somebody with ambition, drive, an open mind and the ability to see the big picture could make a huge difference to your county. We have some suggestions before you this weekend for changes to development structures at county board level and we ask you to view these with an open mind and we honestly feel it will make it easier for you to identify someone for each area which is their area of interest. It will break up the workload yet ensure priority is given to all aspects of development in your county but remember selecting the right personnel will still be the key to success.

The provision of education and support has certainly changed over the past two years and we will continue to devise, develop and facilitate sessions to meet the needs of all officers. It is important that all elected officers utilise these opportunities that can be accessed from the comfort of their own homes as requested, we have had excellent engagement with the majority but there remain a few counties not logging on at all and we can all improve and develop together through these sessions.

## Club Leadership Series

In 2020 the LGFA launched joint club officer education with the GAA and Camogie Association taking place under the new Club Leadership Development Programme. The content was tailored to be applicable to new and existing club officers of all three associations and focused primarily on the main roles on a club executive such as Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, and Registrar. This collaborative approach made the education more accessible at local level when in person training was available but when restrictions were in place we delivered these sessions as part of our winter and spring series alongside other topics such as Making Sub-Committees Work for You, Guidelines of the LGFA Injury Fund, GDPR in Practice, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, and Accessing Funding Locally. The majority of sessions were recorded and like other webinars are available on the LGFA YouTube channel under the Club Leadership Series playlist.

Over 1,200 club officers attended the webinars live demonstrating an extensive growth in participation levels at these seminars. This online education is being valued by volunteers and as club officers are busy people it was important that the learning opportunities are easily accessible. "Online webinars allow people to watch from home and work around their schedule. This really assists with the busy role of volunteers." Like the other strands we will provide a winter and spring offering of the Club Leadership series again.

#### **Volunteer Support Programme**

The Volunteer Support Programme was launched in 2019 to provide a more in-depth targeted support and contact with county boards and clubs over a 3-year cycle. Each county would have a designated staff member assigned to them to provide guidance and assist to devise a three-year strategic roadmap. There would be 11 counties in each cycle listed in table 8 on page 81 and we will be entering year 3 in 2022.

Despite nearly all meetings and discussions taking place online with counties in 2021 it was still a productive year and for the counties that bought into the process the output was fruitful. To devise the strategic roadmaps it was essential to engage with the clubs within and members within that county and prior to COVID-19 we would conduct club forums to assist with the planning process but we developed surveys for counties to use to gather invaluable information to assist to collate these roadmaps. There were some excellent people involved on the steering groups bringing the feedback together and producing documents to create a vision for the future. However, it is stressed to counties that there is no point having a plan on paper sitting on a shelf and gathering dust so it must be kept on the agenda with updates provided to clubs to encourage their involvement.

Members of development staff have worked tirelessly with their assigned counties meeting with county executives and steering groups plus liaising with clubs but as we enter the final phase of this programme it would be remiss of me not to air the frustrations involved for some of the staff. Some counties jumped at the chance for assistance and bought into every step of the process taking pride in producing their roadmaps to help them plan for the next three years but others quite simply did not engage and most frustrating was these are some of the same counties regularly in contact looking for help. This opportunity does not come around every year for this assigned support and I would urge the year 3 counties to please grasp the chance and work closely with your designated support person. There are counties that have now wasted their cycle either by not even completing their roadmap or more infuriatingly the time and effort was put in to publish this but the executive didn't bother to launch it or make their clubs aware of it. We have now engaged with our year 3 counties and look forward to working with you in 2022.

#### **Player Education**

We devised Player Education webinar series during winter and spring linking with some of our partners such as FitrWoman for 'Myths of the Menstrual Cycle', Optimum Nutrition for 'Fuelling

the Body' and Jigsaw for '5-a-Day for Positive Mental Health. We also had some of our current and past players involved as guest facilitators and the topics were tailored to suit the needs of players at all levels. A selection of the other topics included Peer to Peer Player Support, Work-Life-Play: The Balance for Players, and My Role as a Club Captain. The demand to watch back on these sessions were high and I would urge coaches to make their players aware of the availability of these on the LGFA YouTube channel. We will roll out a fresh series in the winter and spring with topics such as Mental Toolkit for Success, Dealing with Injury and the Return, Concussion Awareness and Career Guidance with our performance partners ZuCar.

An exciting new initiative that was advertised in September 2021 was a new 'Accelerate Your Journey' webinar series for minor county players with ZuCar to be delivered in November and December. These live sessions were hosted by former Armagh captain Caoimhe Morgan and over the three-week period she would be joined by Emma Duggan from Meath and Galway's Laura Aherne for 'Emotional and Physical Preparation as a County Player', then Dublin's Lyndsey Davey and Laurie Ryan from Clare for 'Communication and Creating a Support Network' with the series completed on the topic of 'Nutrition and Anti-Doping' as Caoimhe was joined by Tiarna Grimes from Armagh and Kildare's Mary Hulgaine. I cannot thank these guests enough for their openness and willingness to share their experiences as a county player. The discussions were inspiring and so relatable for the age grade involved where they could be preparing for the start of their journey as an adult county player or for others it could be a return to club activity only hungry to earn their place over the coming years on the adult team. These sessions were not recorded as we wanted to keep them live and interactive to allow time for the attendees to ask questions.

It is a busy time research wise for LGFA as several universities are conducting sport specific studies and this will benefit both players and coaches over the coming years. Our study with DCU focussing on concussion will be completed in 2022 and not alone will we have a greater knowledge on the prevalence of concussion but we will have a targeted education programme published to support players. During 2021 we worked with DCU to complete analysis of the LGFA Injury Fund and this was extremely informative and will now lead us to commence a PhD study in the new year focusing on injury prevalence and a new injury prevention strategy. This is necessary to decrease the rate of injuries and help players and coaches prolong their involvement in our sport.

Research continues with the Technological University in Dublin as they are investigating the physical demands of our game and this will be essential knowledge for players as they prepare to participate in ladies gaelic football and know how these demands alter depending on the level they are playing at. This will be invaluable for coaches too and will allow them to design applicable sessions to meet these demands. There are further ongoing studies with several other Third Level Institutions including the Technological University of the Shannon and all these findings specific to our sport will be crucial for player development.





The LGFA 'Laoch' Programme was delivered for a second year and it aims to develop and upskill aspiring LGFA adult county players to increase their visibility and profile but also provides continuous professional development in relation to media and their position as a role model. In the first year this was designed as a one-day PR and Media masterclass with Women on Air followed by a leadership session online for county captains but the initial lockdown ceased on-field activity so we added some additional remote topics. As we could not organise indoor events at the beginning of 2021, we modified the programme to be delivered completely online over five sessions and feedback was very positive from the players attending. The topics were 'My Leadership Style' with Michelle Ryan, former Waterford player and captain, 'TV Interview Tips' with Gráinne McElwain, TV presenter, 'Print Media Preparation' with Declan Rooney, journalist Media West, 'Shared Leadership Experiences' with Niamh Fahey, Liverpool FC Captain and Ireland International, 'Team Building and Team Cohesion' with Nadine Doherty, former Donegal player and Westmeath mentor and finally 'Communication and Dealing with Conflict' delivered by Fionnuala McAtamney, former Down player and Armagh manager. The content shared was so valuable to assist the county players attending as they prepared for the resumption of activity. It is planned to work with Women on Air again in 2022 for the PR and Media masterclass but this Laoch Programme is important to provide life skills and support our county players.

Two counties availed of the offer during the initial lockdown in 2021 to conduct a fun quiz evening with their adult county team focused on the playing rules and this allowed them to be educated but

have a laugh at the same time with bragging rights for the winning team. Both players and mentors got involved and it acted as ideal preparation for their return to intercounty activity.

There were two episodes of The LGFA Show dedicated to player education as Jackie Cahill was joined by Clare Dowdall and former Tyrone player Dr Lynette McShane and Meath's Sarah Wall to discuss peer support and resilience in the first of these. We have so many current and former players that offer so much expertise to many of our initiatives and we really appreciate their involvement.

### Partnerships

#### *Lidl and Youth Sport Trust UK*

The Lidl #SeriousSupport Schools Programme was piloted in late 2018, with Lidl and Youth Sport Trust UK, and it has been impossible to complete a full roll out since due to restrictions in schools. It was planned to finish the visits to selected schools in 2021 with the addition of a new winner in each county. There was also a school selected in Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone for the mirrored LGFA Support Programme. To facilitate the number of schools involved the position of athlete mentor for this initiative was advertised with extensive interest from current and former county players. Youth Sport Trust UK shortlisted the applicants and the following athlete mentors were added to the existing list - Aoife McDonnell (Donegal), Amy Roddy (Mayo), Ann Marie Doran (Wicklow), Laurie Ryan (Clare), Méabh De Búrca (New York/Galway), Orlagh Farmer (Cork), Samantha Lambert (Tipperary), Siobhan Sheerin (Tyrone), Therese Scott (Monaghan) and Tiana Kyle (Meath). All schools involved will receive inspirational



assembly talks, #SeriousSupport workshops from their mentors and will then undertake a ladies gaelic football project of their own throughout the year, applying the concepts they've learnt through the workshops.

This initiative aims to reduce the drop-off rate in sport participation amongst girls aged 11-14 years and stems from research conducted by Lidl into how sport impacted the lives of women both on and off the pitch. The impressive campaign shocked people with statistics such as by the age of 13, 1 in 2 girls drop out of sport or the fact that girls are 3 times more likely to give up sport than boys. The athlete mentors will share their own stories, which haven't been a straight road for any of them and will aim to inspire increased participation levels from the girls involved.

#### *Lidl and Jigsaw Ireland*

Mental Health was a topic discussed across all clubs and society in general throughout 2021 as people struggled with further lockdowns and the decrease in social interaction. We were delighted to partner with Lidl and Jigsaw Ireland for the One Good Club™ initiative and it would be impossible to compliment the clubs involved enough for their innovation, dedication of time and commitment to the success of this programme.

One Good Club™ is a five-step youth mental health awareness programme for local clubs and it aims to increase awareness and knowledge of youth mental health across the LGFA community. In place of a one-day training event in Croke Park there were two online workshops delivered in conjunction with Jigsaw Ireland. The clubs then had access to a specially designed online portal

containing all the necessary resources and the ideas shared through the workshops. They had to upload evidence of completion of each stage to the portal and upon conclusion they were awarded with a Lidl One Good Club™ plaque for display in the club and a set of jerseys. The five-step programme was developed using the '5 a Day for your Mental Health', an evidence-informed framework, made up of simple actions aimed at boosting your mental health and wellbeing. The steps include 'Connect', 'Be Active', 'Take Notice', 'Give' and 'Keep Learning'. Clubs will organise activities with each theme designated a two-week block for activation.

The level and variety of activities organised was exquisite and I have no doubt that the communities benefited immensely from the involvement of their local club in the initiative. The four Lidl One Good Club™ Ambassadors are Dublin's Carla Rowe, Galway's Nicola Ward, Waterford's Caoimhe McGrath and Donegal's Emer Gallagher and they interacted with the clubs throughout and attended the online workshops. In a demonstration of recognition and appreciation it was decided to produce a Facebook Live show hosted by Marty Morrissey to give a flavour of the amazing work completed by the clubs and to announce the winners of the three awards namely 'Strongest Community Involvement', 'Most Innovative Initiative' and 'Best Overall Engagement'. On the night, Marty chatted to the ambassadors, representatives from the LGFA, Lidl Ireland and Jigsaw, and participating club members who outlined the life-changing impact of the programme. Mike Mansfield, Jigsaw Director of Communications & Fundraising, said: "The key to Jigsaw's approach to supporting our young people's mental health is to be present in settings where they work, live, learn and play – and Lidl's One Good Club™ programme has achieved this

in spades. In bringing communities together, under the One Good Club banner, we helped increase mental health literacy and build the strengths, competencies and resources of our young people, and those around them, to create supportive environments. This is key to Jigsaw's approach."

The magic of the Lidl One Good Club™ will be remembered fondly as we followed their journeys and we look forward to liaising with the next successful clubs in 2022.

## *Northern Ireland Youth Forum*

The LGFA are not mental health experts and hence our link with Jigsaw Ireland above and in this case Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) is so important. We can offer activities to promote positive mental health but we do not have the expertise to answer specific queries thereafter so when we first met with the NIYF to discuss a mirrored initiative similar to Lidl One Good Club™ for the six counties in Northern Ireland we left enthused and looking forward to a fruitful partnership.

The LGFA TALK Project is a six-week club-based initiative aimed at increasing the awareness of positive mental health in young members aged 13-18 years, and removing the stigma associated with the subject area. The project was started in March 2020 and was delayed due to the impact and restriction of COVID-19 but the same clubs were offered their place for 2021. The clubs had to adapt to some online learning and events in their club to meet their targets but the expertise and experience of NIYF was shared with the clubs through LIFEMAPS, a mental health model that harnesses valuable techniques in how to cope with the ups and downs of life. The clubs were finally able to roll out some face-to-face activities in April 2021 and complete the programme to transform the club into a hub for positive youth mental health in the community and they were then invited to the Ulster Senior Championship Final to be presented with their certificates. We visited Creggan Kickhams in Antrim and recorded a video to chat about the impact of the programme.

I want to thank all the clubs for taking part in a very successful LGFA TALK project and the clubs were awarded with the status of an 'LGFA Positive TALK Club' when we presented them with certificates at the Ulster Senior Final.

## *Local Sports Partnerships*

The LGFA have established partnerships with several Local Sports Partnerships (LSP's) over the past number of years and 2021 was no different. They play a crucial role in promoting physical activity and supporting clubs in their catchment. They deliver education courses, provide guidance, and offer small grants when available.

This year, through dormant account funding, we completed the Coaching Community of Practice project with Limerick Sports Partnership and the new Gaelic4Ma's and Gaelic4Girls collaboration with Dublin City Council in new regions across the city. We have linked previously with Cavan LSP and were pleased to work with them again to pilot a modified version of the Club School Links initiative. All of these projects are independently evaluated, and it is

important that they are meeting our expectations and that of the associated LSP.

Working with LSP's is always very productive and enjoyable and in the coming year we will have new and exciting projects with the local sports partnerships in Donegal, Cavan, Galway, and Cork. There will be further details announced in relation to these but the clubs in these counties will be the beneficiaries.

## *Technological University Dublin and Dublin City Council*

It was unfortunate that our Gaelic4Girls module in TUD was not able to continue in 2021 as many of the lectures took place remotely and students would be unable to coach on the Gaelic4Girls programme while constraints remained in place with the pandemic. It is envisioned that this will return in the coming year and students can gain five credits for the completion of the module while they learn the theory of coaching and officiating but most importantly gain practical experience by delivering Gaelic4Girls in Dublin City Council venues working alongside their sports development officers. When students graduate it can be difficult to enter the workplace and real-life work experience like this can be the difference on their CV.

## *FitrWoman*

In 2021 we entered our final year of partnership with Irish company Orreco, through FitrWoman, and this collaboration has been very important for LGFA generating discussion around the menstrual cycle and trying to remove the taboo around the subject. Research has shown that an inability of athletes and coaches to talk about the impact of menstrual cycles can lead to unnecessary drop off from sport. We were, and continue to be, advocates of the FitrWoman application to help our female players not only to track their periods and symptoms but also to use as a source of essential information in relation to this subject. Some counties and clubs use the FitrCoach application to connect to their players as they find it difficult to communicate in person at first and this allows them to start the conversations.

FitrWoman delivered a webinar as part of our winter Player Education Series titled 'Myths of the Menstrual Cycle' to dispel some of the fiction around not being able to participate in sport at different times of the month but also offering guidance and advice on how to deal with symptoms or feeling uncomfortable. Feedback from many players of all ages has been that having to wear white shorts can be a factor in them deciding to move away from sport and some clubs and counties have taken this on board and changed the colour of this attire. It is certainly something for units to explore with their members as something as simple that small change could lead to greater retention rates, and in some cases recruitment of new players.

Our journey with an official partnership with FitrWoman may now be ended but it is crucial that we remember what research has outlined in the fact that one in two women stop exercising due to their menstrual cycle so we must generate discussion around this taboo subject and encourage our players to talk to their coaches and each other.



### Development with the GAA and Camogie Association

One of the most significant launches to date for the Gaelic Games Family took place in March with the new Gaelic Games Player Pathway. For the first time, all three associations with responsibility for the promotion of Gaelic Football, Hurling, Ladies Football and Camogie will have an aligned pathway and vision for player development. All players are at the heart of this new Pathway – with club involvement central to its success – and there will be a key focus on creating an effective player development environment.

The Gaelic Games Player Pathway aims to fulfil the mission of the three associations to address elitism in underage development, make quality coaching within clubs a lynchpin and to provide an opportunity for lifelong participation in our games for every boy and girl, regardless of their ability. The Pathway has three main phases: Foundation, Talent and Elite/High Performance, with these phases further subdivided into eight sub-phases. All three associations are committed to providing players with the right supports at the right time, which will enable them to individually empower themselves to engage with the many challenges they will face along their Player Pathway Journey.

Meath footballer Vikki Wall (Dunboyne) was joined by Kilkenny hurling legend Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks) and Kilkenny camogie player Davina Tobin (Emeralds) to launch the pathway and this announcement reinforced the commitment and joint approach to games development from all three associations, and builds on previous collaborations such as Go Games, Féile, Volunteer Training, Safeguarding, Be Ready to Play and the Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games Course which will be launched in the new year. The Pathway outlines a holistic approach to player and individual development, with the

overriding aim of providing all players with positive experiences, thereby increasing the retention rate of lifelong participants. The LGFA, GAA and Camogie Association are united in the wish to create a better understanding of the Player Pathway for all involved in nurturing a love of Gaelic Games – the player, the parent/guardian, the coach, the club, the teacher.

Further guidance will be provided on the pathway for all clubs and members, and we updated our LGFA Club Player Competency Chart in line with this pathway. The next phase of this body of work will be a new collaborative Gaelic Games Coaching Pathway as mentioned under Coach Education in this report. The new Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games will form part of this framework and although there will be joint areas in this structure there will remain sections specific to female athletes with the Camogie Association and further additional specialised LGFA areas. This is a mammoth body of work and we will ensure the programme is meeting the needs of our female athletes and coaches of our players.

Staying on the subject of coaching, the three associations launched 'Be Ready to Play' in February, a coaching and sport science programme in association with UPMC, official healthcare partner of the GAA and GPA, that was delivered via webinars, website programmes, instructional videos, and live online sessions. The programme was a holistic coaching and performance plan that was of great benefit to all club coaches and players, male, female, adult, and youth alike. It helped them return to training post covid in a way that hopefully increased enjoyment, performance, and participation, while simultaneously reducing the risk of injury. The programme was initially tailored to help people be active in lockdown, then progressed towards a development phase and a



prepare to play phase before culminating in a prepare to perform phase which helped players be at their peak for important matches.

What made the 'Be Ready to Play' programme such a great opportunity for those who participate, is that they benefited from the advice and direction of some of the most renowned leaders in the field of coaching and performance, and these resources remain available on the GAA eLearning website. Areas covered included games-based coaching, athletic development, psychology and wellbeing, nutrition, performance analysis, skill acquisition and biomechanics, physiotherapy, and injury prevention. This multi-disciplinary programme was delivered through fortnightly athletic development programmes, monthly coach education webinars and monthly sport science support webinars.

Progress continues to be made as we collaborate on multiple projects and initiatives with the GAA and Camogie Association and we have LGFA representatives on development workgroups. One of the areas under review is sports science and the workgroup consists of experts in the various fields and they will be producing best practice guidelines for male and female athletes at all levels and ages. Another workgroup is reviewing Go Games and this games programme will be relaunched in early 2022 with new branding and educational resources. We have very clear rules in our Official Guide in relation to Go Games and counties must adhere to these. Games in Under 11 and younger must be organised on the Go Games model, non-competitive with results not recorded, and where all participants get to play during the game. At Under 12 level, competitions may be organised on a league format, with no championships, on the basis that participating teams should be a maximum of 13-A-Side. These rules cannot be any clearer and are in place to develop all our young players equally. Any club or county operating outside of these guidelines will be dealt with under CODA rules.

As highlighted previously we have been working together closely in relation to the Club Leadership Programme and we are currently exploring common areas across a County Leadership Programme. The benefit of working together on projects like these mean that access to education is easier for volunteers at grass roots and can be targeted at specific needs. Other initiatives we link together on are the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme, GAA 5 Star Centre and Healthy Clubs. Although we have a TY/AS level course we still promote schools to get involved with Future Leaders and the students cover topics such as event management, coaching, refereeing, sports journalism, performance analysis, nutrition, and wellbeing. There are some excellent young volunteers coming through these programmes and clubs are encouraged to enquire if their local schools are involved as they are enthusiastic and actively seeking opportunities to try out their new skills. The education workgroup consisting of several teaching staff and representatives from all associations continue to build resources to assist teachers for Leaving Certificate Physical Education and Junior Cycle Well Being. It is important that gaelic games are seen as an easy option to select with materials in place to meet the teacher and student needs.

Numbers involved in the Kellogg's Cúl Camps increase annually and the most significant shift is the growth of female participants in recent years. It will not be long before there is an equal split in attendees and these camps remain a critical recruitment tool for boys and girls into clubs. 2021 was a difficult year yet again for the camps with strict protocols required and the Kellogg's Cúl Camps were finally given the go ahead just in time for the summer months. The GAA Cúl Camps show also aired for a second season on TG4 for six weeks with Dublin's Sinéad Aherne featuring. Every year GAA games managers find it difficult to get coaches for the camps and in particular female coaches so we would encourage our counties and clubs to ensure awareness of the roles are created and link with your GAA counterparts. We are aware of some of our own units wanting to organise camps and these will be dependent on restrictions at the time. If a county is running a summer camp of their own for girls it is essential to organise a Cúl Camp first as per guidelines laid out in relation to camps and ensure to liaise with a member of development staff prior to advertising any camps to make sure the appropriate insurance and qualified personnel are in place as guidelines around camps in general have become very stringent as responsible for so many children.

It was a quiet year for conferences with events not permitted for large numbers so neither the GAA Coaching Conference nor the GAA Youth Conference went ahead. Should it prove difficult to organise these in 2022 there will be virtual events discussed as these avenues for engagement and environments for learning are of marked importance. As our Annual Congress was conducted online, we didn't have the GAA Youth Committee in attendance to present but this element will be revisited for the next occasion.

It would be remiss of me to include our work with the GAA and not thank David Sweeney yet again for his guidance, support and expertise in relation to the GAA eLearning platform. As GAA eLearning manager, David has enabled us to convert so much of our education to be available through this portal and no task is too big or too small. We were very fortunate to be able to utilise this platform since the start of the pandemic and prior to that to engage with our members. There is so much more we can do with this site and we will continue to show innovation and dynamism in relation to our offerings.

It is obvious from the details above that although we have our own development plans to complete, we always keep collaborative opportunities in mind across a myriad of areas. 2022 will be another milestone year with further announcements on additional projects so more exciting times ahead.

### Grants

The LGFA are ambitious in our development plans and financial support through Sport Ireland and Government Grant schemes assist us to achieve our goals. During my report it is mentioned that certain items were funded by Women in Sport or Dormant Account funding and this has proved critical to us in the past number of years. In 2021 we were delighted to be successful in applications for Sports Capital funding for equipment to assist our National Referees including communication systems, sideline flags

and subs boards. This all leads to greater communication amongst the team of officials. Through Women in Sport funding we rolled out another Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy, Learn to Lead, four Provincial Female Leaders programmes and we will have a new visibility campaign running into 2022. In relation to Dormant Account funding, we completed some of the outstanding projects from 2020 while we recently were awarded an allocation for new initiatives in early 2022 including Gaelic4Mothers&Others volunteer programmes in Cork and Galway, Gaelic4Teens in Donegal, a Volunteer Management Toolkit, and another year of the BUA programme. Through Special Projects we will have a new, exciting project to encourage and assist parents which will be launched in the new year. As you can see the support from this funding provided allows us to develop our sport in specific areas in partnership with local sports partnerships and with national campaigns. We are grateful to Sport Ireland for recognising the contribution this can make and believing in our initiatives.

### In Conclusion

At the start of this report I mentioned barriers and limitations and with COVID-19 unfortunately still rampant in our communities for much of the year it would have been very easy to just sit back and wait for it all to blow over, whenever that will be! However I hope the detail provided in this report will showcase the breadth of work completed throughout 2021. There were many lessons learnt in the previous year that could be brought forward and how we develop as a sport will have changed indefinitely; many would say certainly for the better. As an association we have engaged with more volunteers and members than ever before, and this must remain a priority. Do not get me wrong, entering the virtual space has been extremely positive but we look forward to seeing people in person again so maintaining the balance between both will be crucial.

As a society we cherish social interaction, and this is no different in sport. We witnessed this through our many development initiatives and there is a real hunger to get back to blitzes and events. Our clubs and volunteers filled a void in that social connection for many and although I feel I am repeating myself to some extent, they should be so proud of the role they played, and continue to play, during this pandemic. Every week I read new inspirational stories and through our programmes meet people that motivate us all to want to strive to develop ladies football and be the very best we can be at all levels. There is an onus on us to be innovative and ensure the initiatives, advice, guidance, and education we are providing is appropriate to the needs of the recipients. Our members have embraced our thoughts and ideas and I urge you to continue to interact with us and make development your priority as we prepare for further growth and success.

We packed up our desks in March 2020, like so many others, expecting to return in a few weeks but this of course has not been the case. Although we did get a phased return towards the end of 2021 this was once again put on ice as covid numbers began to rise. It was very difficult to see how we could complete our development plan, but the staff have worked tirelessly to come up with new ways of achieving targets without any deterioration in the standard of what was being delivered. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank all the facilitators, speakers, and contributors to all our education and initiatives as their fresh voices and expertise give added value to everything we do. We have carved so many relationships with great people, many of whom are current or former members of our association, and we will continue to do so ensuring our members are learning from the best.

In the tables that follow you will see the many clubs and people that applied to be involved and were successful for our initiatives and I thank them and their members for giving their all to ensure the success of their engagement. Your feedback will continue to be of the utmost importance as our offerings must be fruitful in developing you or your unit of involvement.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the dedicated development staff we have in LGFA and I am extremely grateful to them. It has been a challenging and tumultuous two years with nearly every element of development requiring modifications and alterations to make them work under the restrictions that were in place. They never quavered and production levels were elevated to ensure we offered support to everyone requiring it. Our meetings were as energetic and constructive as ever despite being online and they were a source of support for each other, other staff, and myself at all times. I also want to thank all our staff in the LGFA as they assisted in development at different stages during the year and everyone was involved in facilitating the webinars. I do look forward to being back in the office in the midst of everyone. However, and hopefully that will be in the not-too-distant future. To wrap up, it is hard to believe that 2021 was so similar to 2020 in many ways with some of the same barriers and limitations but we just perceived these as new challenges and cherished the opportunities to overcome them. In a year when many have continued to lose jobs, family members and friends I have cherished the support of my comrades, my fellow managers Paula Prunty and Jackie Cahill and of course our CEO Helen O'Rourke. I look forward to embarking on a new journey with our new strategic plan from 2023 and we will strive to continue to lead the way for sport. It is imperative that we continue to develop together taking one small step at a time. *"To get through the hardest journey we need take only one step at a time, but we must keep on stepping."*

Lyn Savage  
**National Development Manager**



# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

**Table 1**

Coch Education Programme	2021	2020
Club Mentor Rules Workshop	Now Online	3
Coach the Keeper Workshop	3-part webinar series	1
Coach the Teenage Player	3 webinars	2
FUNdamentals Course	103	25
Key2Coaching Workshop	0	1
Level 1 Course	14	11
Level 2 Course	0	0
Ready Steady Coach Workshop	3 webinars	2
TY Ready Steady Coach	32	
TEACH Workshop	5	0

**Table 2**

Referee Education Programme	2021	2020
GYW Go Games Course	51	16
GYW Youth Course	10	6
GYW Adult Course	1	1
GYW Annual Refresher	24/ 3 webinars	27
Linesperson Training – Online	2	3
Umpire Training – Online	2	1
Umpire and Linesperson	4	4
National Accelerate Programme	1 course/ 5 participants	1 course/ 7 participants
Provincial Accelerate Programme	1 course – 4 provinces together/ 12 participants	4 courses / 17 participants
TY GYW Go Games	32	6

**Table 3**

Participation Initiatives	2021	2020
Gaelic4Girls	27 clubs/ 19 counties	30 clubs/ 21 counties
Gaelic4Teens	30 clubs/ 16 counties	30 clubs/ 18 counties
Gaelic4Mothers&Others	286 clubs	283 clubs

**Table 4**

## Gaelic4Girls Clubs 2021

**Connacht:** Loughrea (Galway), Claremorris, Kilmeena, Mayo Gaels, Shrule (Mayo)

**Leinster:** St Mary's (Dublin), Athgarvan, Kilcock (Kildare), St Nicholas (Louth), Drumbarragh, Summerhill (Meath), Tullamore (Offaly), Clonard (Wexford)

**Munster:** Crusheen (Clare), Dr Crokes (Kerry), Askeaton-Ballysteen, Croom (Limerick)

**Ulster:** Naomh Seamus (Antrim), Shane O'Neills (Armagh), Naomh Mhuire (Donegal), Belcoo (Fermanagh)

**Britain:** Coatsbridge Davitts (Scotland), Holloway Gaels (London), Roger Casements, Sean McDermotts (both Warwickshire)

**Table 5**

## Gaelic4Teens Clubs 2021

**Munster:** Nemo Rangers, St. Colums (Cork), Daingean Uí Chúis, Kerins O Rahilly's (Kerry), Adare (Limerick), Ballyporeen (Tipperary)

**Leinster:** Kilmacud Crokes, St. Kevin's/Killians, St. Margaret's, Shankill (Dublin), Clane, Na Fianna, Sallins (Kildare), St. Conleths (Laois), Glen Emmets (Louth), Dunshaughlin, Summerhill (Meath), An Tóchar, Kilcoole (Wicklow)

**Ulster:** Tir na nÓg (Armagh), Naomh Naille (Donegal), Corduff, Monaghan Harps, Sean McDermotts (Monaghan), Aodh Ruadh, Fintona (Tyrone)

**Connacht:** St. James (Galway), Kiltimagh, MacHale Rovers, Neale (Mayo)

**Table 6**

## Club2Gether Clubs 2020/ 2021

**Connacht:** Corofin, Naomh Mhuire (Galway), St. Farnan's (Sligo)

**Munster:** Courcsey Rovers, Douglas (Cork), Kerins O'Rahillys (Kerry), St. Senans (Limerick), Dungarvan (Waterford)

**Leinster:** Stars of Erin (Dublin), Killoe (Longford), Tyrrellspass (Westmeath), Kilanerin (Wexford), Rathnew (Wicklow)

**Ulster:** Colin Gaels (Antrim), Doire Colmcille (Derry), East Belfast (Down), Donaghmoyne (Monaghan), Dromore (Tyrone)

**Table 7**

## Volunteer Support Programme

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Fermanagh	Antrim	Tyrone
Derry	Down	Cavan
Monaghan	Armagh	Donegal
Longford	Carlow	Dublin
Kilkenny	Wicklow	Kildare
Leitrim	Westmeath	Meath
Laois	Offaly	Wexford
Limerick	Cork	Kerry
Clare	Tipperary	Waterford
Mayo	Sligo	Britain
Louth	Galway	Roscommon

Table 8

## Learn to Lead Participants 2021-22

Strand	Name	Club	County
Administration	Veronica Murphy	Corofin	Galway
Administration	Linda Walsh	Thomas Davis	Dublin
Administration	Mary Ita Casey	Athea	Limerick
Administration	Amy Butler	Galtee Rovers St. Pecaun's	Tipperary
Administration	Tara Dooley	Naomh Muire Íochtar Na Rosann	Donegal
Coaching	Bernie Durkan	Kilcock	Kildare
Coaching	Julie Fitzpatrick	Naomh Mairtin	Louth
Coaching	Lisa Flaherty	Shamrocks	Offaly
Coaching	Síle Moynihan	St. Ailbe's	Limerick
Coaching	Margaret McCorry	Wolfe Tones Derrymacash	Armagh
Coaching	Martina McCafferty	Steelstown Brian Og's	Derry
Officiating	Jacqui Mulligan	St. Farnan's	Sligo
Officiating	Pamela Hayden	Old Leighlin	Carlow
Officiating	Marion Hayden	Eire Og	Carlow
Officiating	Angela Gallagher	Lucan Sarsfields	Dublin
Officiating	Yvonne Duffy	Mullahoran	Cavan
Officiating	Ciara Gilroy	Tullylish	Down
PR/Media	Aoibhínn Gilmartin	Old Leighlin	Carlow
PR/Media	Emma Murphy	Wanderers GAA Club, Ballyboden	Dublin
PR/Media	Sorcha Furlong	St Brigid's	Dublin
PR/Media	Caoimhe Morgan	Lissummon	Armagh
PR/Media	Siobhán McCluskey	Emyvale	Monaghan





FIXTURES





# NATIONAL FIXTURES REPORT

2021 was another year that will be etched in people's minds for many years to come. The Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020 and impacted significantly on our fixtures, while further disruption followed in 2021. We did, nevertheless, manage to get our Lidl National Leagues and TG4 All-Ireland Championships played, while underage activity took place at Provincial levels.

The football that we did witness on our playing fields in 2021 was of the highest quality. I think I can speak for most of us when I single out Meath's 2021 TG4 All-Ireland Senior Championship win as the highlight of the season. It capped an incredible season for the Royals, who landed the Brendan Martin Cup within nine months of lifting the Intermediate title. Meath also claimed the Lidl NFL Division 2 Title in 2021, to earn Division 1 football in 2022. The signs were there early in the TG4 Championship that Meath could be competitive, as they lost narrowly to Cork in their opening group game, and the rest is history, as the team improved incrementally with every game, culminating in that famous final win on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The 2021 season concluded recently with the currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Club Finals. During my time with the LGFA, this is only my second season which spilled over into the following calendar year. We will hope to get everything back on track in 2022, concluding with our 2022 currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Finals before Christmas.

Again, I'd like to thank everyone who put themselves forward to help make our games safe to attend. There are too many to thank individually, you know who you are, and your efforts do not go underappreciated. Without your commitment, help and dedication, it would not have been possible to run our games in a smooth and safe manner.

Finally, to anyone who has lost a loved one during these strange and unprecedented times, I extend my condolences and deepest sympathies.

Let's all hope that the 2022 season ahead can bring with it bright, beaming smiles, and lots of entertaining fixtures as we enjoy our games together without restrictions.

Le meas,

Karen Togher  
**National Fixtures Administrator**



LGFA ROLL OF HONOUR 2021

Lidl Ladies National Football League	Winner	Runner Up
Division 1	Dublin	Cork
Division 2	Meath	Kerry
Division 3	Laois	Kildare
Division 4	Louth	Leitrim

TG4 All Ireland Championship	Winner	Runner Up
Senior	Meath	Dublin
Intermediate	Westmeath	Wexford
Junior	Wicklow	Antrim

currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Championship	Winner	Runner Up
Senior	Kilkerrin Clonberne, Galway	Mourneabbey, Cork
Intermediate	St. Sylvester's, Dublin	Castlebar Mitchells, Mayo
Junior	St. Judes, Dublin	Mullinahone, Tipperary





# FIXTURES

## Lidl Ladies National Football League 2021

Division 1A					
Donegal	Galway	Mayo		Westmeath	
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
22nd May 2021					
<b>Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1A - Round 1</b>					
Elverys MacHale Park, Mayo	Mayo (H)	2-15	Galway	2-14	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
23rd May 2021					
<b>Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1A - Round 1</b>					
Sean MacCumhail's, Ballybofey	Donegal (H)	2-13	Westmeath	1-07	John Devlin, Galway
29th May 2021					
<b>Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1A - Round 2</b>					
Sean MacCumhail's, Ballybofey	Donegal (H)	1-11	Mayo	0-11	Brendan Rice, Down
30th May 2021					
<b>Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1A - Round 2</b>					
Pearse Stadium, Salthill	Galway (H)	6-13	Westmeath	2-07	Mel Kenny, Mayo





# FIXTURES

6th June 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1A - Round 3

St. Loman's, Mullingar	Westmeath (H)	0-06	Mayo	4-18	Gus Chapman, Sligo
Tuam Stadium, Galway	Galway (H)	2-11	Donegal	4-21	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo

## Division 1B

Cork		Dublin		Tipperary		Waterford	
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee

21st May 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 1

Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork	Cork (H)	3-15	Tipperary	2-06	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
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23rd May 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 1

Parnell Park, Donnycarney	Dublin (H)	6-15	Waterford	2-11	Kevin Phelan, Laois
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29th May 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 2

Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork	Cork (H)	4-11	Dublin	3-15	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
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30th May 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 2

Clonmel Sports Ground, Tipperary	Tipperary (H)	2-12	Waterford	5-13	Barry Redmond, Wexford
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5th June 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 3

Semple Stadium, Thurles	Tipperary (H)	0-04	Dublin	2-17	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
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6th June 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1B - Round 3

Fraher Field, Dungarvan	Waterford (H)	2-08	Cork	2-11	Austin O'Connell, Galway
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Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
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12th June 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1 - Semi-Finals

Tuam Stadium, Galway	Donegal	3-13	Cork	5-10	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	Mayo	0-10	Dublin	4-15	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry

Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
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26th June 2021

## Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1 - Final

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Cork	1-13	Dublin	2-15	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
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**Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1 Final 2021 Player of the Match:** Siobhán McGrath, Dublin

Division 2A					
Clare	Kerry	Meath	Wexford		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Division 2A - Round 1					
Páirc Tailteann, Navan	Meath (H)	1-10	Kerry	3-10	Declan Carolan, Armagh
Cusack Park, Ennis	Clare (H)	0-12	Wexford	1-08	Shane Curley, Galway

30th May 2021					
Division 2A - Round 2					
Chadwicks Wexford Park	Wexford (H)	0-05	Meath	7-17	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Austin Stack Park, Tralee	Kerry (H)	4-13	Clare	3-11	Austin O'Connell, Galway

6th June 2021					
Division 2A - Round 3					
Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney	Kerry (H)	6-14	Wexford	2-07	John Devlin, Galway
Páirc Tailteann, Navan	Meath (H)	4-18	Clare	0-05	Kevin Phelan, Laois

Division 2B					
Armagh	Cavan	Monaghan	Tyrone		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Division 2B - Round 1					
St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	Monaghan (H)	2-10	Cavan	3-11	Brendan Rice, Down
Healy Park, Omagh	Tyrone (H)	3-10	Armagh	3-11	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo

30th May 2021					
Division 2B - Round 2					
Healy Park, Omagh	Tyrone (H)	2-10	Cavan	4-11	Declan Carolan, Armagh
Athletic Grounds, Armagh	Armagh (H)	1-13	Monaghan	2-11	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow

6th June 2021					
Division 2B - Round 3					
St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	Monaghan (H)	5-15	Tyrone	1-11	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Cavan (H)	2-12	Armagh	1-14	Mel Kenny, Mayo

Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
12th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 - Semi-Finals					
Mountbellew/Moylough, Galway	Kerry	1-18	Monaghan	2-14	Shane Curley, Galway
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Meath	0-13	Cavan	0-08	Brendan Rice, Down

Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
26th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 - Final					
Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Kerry	1-09	Meath	2-16	Barry Redmond, Wexford
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 Final 2021 Player of the Match: Emma Troy, Meath					

FIXTURES

Division 3A					
Down	Fermanagh	Roscommon		Sligo	
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Division 3A - Round 1					
Teconnaught, Downpatrick	Down (H)	0-11	Sligo	3-04	Paul Burke, Louth
Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon	Roscommon (H)	3-10	Fermanagh	1-12	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
30th May 2021					
Division 3A - Round 2					
Kiltoom, Roscommon	Roscommon (H)	5-15	Down	3-12	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Kinawley, Enniskillen	Fermanagh (H)	0-07	Sligo	2-12	Gavin Finnegan, Down
6th June 2021					
Division 3A - Round 3					
Kinawley, Enniskillen	Fermanagh (H)	2-12	Down	1-17	David Hurson, Monaghan
Markievicz Park, Sligo	Sligo (H)	0-13	Roscommon	0-11	Shane Curley, Galway





Division 3B					
Kildare	Laois	Longford		Wicklow	
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Division 3B - Round 1					
MW Hire O'Moore Park	Laois (H)	2-16	Kildare	2-13	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Glennon Brothers Pearse Park	Longford (H)	1-07	Wicklow	0-08	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin

30th May 2021					
Division 3B - Round 2					
Glennon Brothers Pearse Park	Longford (H)	1-09	Laois	3-14	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
Aughrim, Wicklow	Wicklow (H)	2-15	Kildare	1-09	Paul Burke, Louth

5th June 2021					
Division 3B - Round 3					
Aughrim, Wicklow	Wicklow (H)	2-09	Laois	1-11	Patrick Smith, Waterford
6th June 2021					
Division 3B - Round 3					
St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge	Kildare (H)	0-10	Longford	0-09	Kelley Cunningham, Offaly

Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
13th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 3 - Semi-Finals					
Kiltoom, Roscommon	Sligo	1-08	Kildare	2-14	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
Tang, Westmeath	Roscommon	5-09	Laois	4-15	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow

Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
27th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 3 - Final					
Baltinglass, Wicklow	Kildare	3-06	Laois	2-10	Shane Curley, Galway
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 3 Final 2021 Player of the Match: Amy Potts, Laois					

# FIXTURES

Division 4A					
Antrim	Derry	Leitrim	Louth		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4A - Round 1					
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin Park	Leitrim (H)	3-14	Louth	3-06	Kelley Cunningham, Offaly
Celtic Park Stadium	Derry (H)	3-04	Antrim	5-10	Philip Conway, Armagh
30th May 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4A - Round 2					
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin Park	Leitrim (H)	1-18	Derry	0-07	David Hurson, Monaghan
Clan na Gael Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk	Louth (H)	4-14	Antrim	0-08	Eddie Cuthbert, Down
6th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4A - Round 3					
Clan na Gael Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk	Louth (H)	3-16	Derry	1-08	Michael Tarpey, Laois
Davitts Park, Beechmount, Belfast	Antrim (H)	1-11	Leitrim	5-09	Philip Conway, Armagh
Division 4B					
Carlow	Limerick	Offaly			
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
23rd May 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4B - Round 1					
IT Carlow, Carlow	Carlow (H)	1-16	Offaly	3-16	Michael Tarpey, Laois
30th May 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4B - Round 2					
Bord Na Mona O'Connor Park, Tullamore	Offaly (H)	3-12	Limerick	2-10	Patrick Smith, Waterford
6th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4B - Round 3					
Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	Limerick (H)	2-07	Carlow	0-08	Justin Murphy, Cork
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
13th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4 - Semi-Finals					
Milltown, Galway	Leitrim	4-12	Limerick	2-07	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Clane, Kildare	Louth	3-10	Offaly	2-04	Barry Redmond, Wexford
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
27th June 2021					
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4 - Final					
St. Tiernach's Park, Clones, Monaghan	Leitrim	1-14	Louth	4-09	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin
Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4 Final 2021 Player of the Match: Niamh Rice, Louth					

## TG4 All Ireland Ladies Football Championship's 2021

TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship 2021					
Group 1	Armagh	Cavan	Mayo	Monaghan	
Group 2	Cork	Meath	Tipperary		
Group 3	Dublin	Tyrone	Waterford		
Group 4	Donegal	Galway	Kerry		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
10th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 1 - Round 1					
Athletic Grounds, Armagh	Armagh	4-17	Monaghan	1-12	Maggie Farrelly, Cavan
Markievicz Park, Sligo	Cavan	0-15	Mayo	1-18	Gus Chapman, Sligo
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 2 - Round 1					
St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Offaly	Cork	1-09	Meath	0-10	John Devlin, Galway
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 3 - Round 1					
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Dublin	2-18	Tyrone	1-11	Declan Carolan, Down
9th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 4 - Round 1					
Cusack Park, Ennis	Galway	2-11	Kerry	2-10	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
17th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 1 - Round 2					
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin, Leitrim	Monaghan	0-12 (AET)	Mayo	0-13 (AET)	Shane Curley, Galway
St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	Armagh	3-18	Cavan	3-10	Brendan Rice, Down
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 2 - Round 2					
Sean Treacy Park, Tipperary	Tipperary (H)	1-10	Cork	6-14	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 3 - Round 2					
Baltinglass, Wicklow	Dublin	6-12	Waterford	1-10	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 4 - Round 2					
Markievicz Park, Sligo	Donegal	1-11	Galway	3-10	Gus Chapman, Sligo
24th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 1 - Round 3					
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Cavan (H)	0-14	Monaghan	1-13	Gavin Finnegan, Down
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin, Leitrim	Armagh	3-14	Mayo	0-12	Maggie Farrelly, Cavan
23rd July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 2 - Round 3					
MW Hire O'Moore Park, Portlaoise	Tipperary	0-07	Meath	1-18	Barry Redmond, Wexford
24th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Group 3 - Round 3					
St. Loman's, Mullingar	Tyrone	0-12	Waterford	3-17	John Devlin, Galway



## FIXTURES

### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship – Group 4 - Round 3

Tuam Stadium, Galway	Donegal	2-13	Kerry	2-09	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
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1st August 2021

### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Quarter Final 1

St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	Armagh	1-14	Meath	3-15	Brendan Rice, Down
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### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Quarter Final 2

Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork	Cork (H)	0-14	Waterford	0-08	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
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2nd August 2021

### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Quarter Final 3

Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, Carrick-on-Shannon	Dublin	2-12	Donegal	2-07	Shane Curley, Galway
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### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Quarter Final 4

Elvery MacHale Park, Mayo	Mayo	1-15	Galway	1-11	Maggie Farrelley, Cavan
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14th August 2021

### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Finals

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Dublin	1-17	Mayo	2-09	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
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15th August 2021

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Cork	2-10	Meath	2-12	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
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14th August 2021

### TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship - Final

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Dublin	0-12	Meath	1-11	Brendan Rice, Down
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**TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match:** Vikki Wall, Meath



TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship 2021					
Group 1	Longford	Sligo	Westmeath	Wexford	
Group 2	Clare	Fermanagh	Leitrim		
Group 3	Kildare	Laois	Roscommon		
Group 4	Down	Louth	Offaly		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
11th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 1 - Round 1					
Cusack Park, Mullingar	Westmeath (H)	2-11 (AET)	Longford	3-11 (AET)	Gavin Finnegan, Down
Shannonbridge, Offaly	Wexford	4-13	Sligo	1-10	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin
10th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 2 - Round 1					
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin, Leitrim	Leitrim (H)	1-12	Fermanagh	1-11	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
11th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 3 - Round 1					
Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Galway	Roscommon	1-07	Kildare	1-11	Shane Curley, Galway
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 4 - Round 1					
Lannleire, Dunleer, Louth	Down	3-14	Offaly	2-14	Paul Burke, Louth
18th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 1 - Round 2					
Clane, Kildare	Longford	0-06	Wexford	0-07	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Mullahoran, Cavan	Westmeath	2-12	Sligo	2-10	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 2 - Round 2					
Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Galway	Clare	2-09	Leitrim	4-07	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 3 - Round 2					
MW O'Moore Park, Laois	Laois (H)	4-11	Kildare	2-15	Barry Redmond, Wexford
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 4 - Round 2					
Páirc Esler, Newry	Down (H)	1-06	Louth	0-07	Maggie Farrelly, Cavan
25th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 1 - Round 3					
Boyle, Roscommon	Longford	1-11	Sligo	4-10	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
Baltinglass, Wicklow	Westmeath	2-16	Wexford	1-06	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 2 - Round 3					
Glennon Brothers Pearse Park, Longford	Clare	5-08	Fermanagh	3-06	Paul Burke, Louth
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Group 3 - Round 3					
Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath	Roscommon	1-07	Laois	3-08	Brendan Rice, Down

## FIXTURES

### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship – Group 3 - Round 3

Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath	Roscommon	1-07	Laois	3-08	Brendan Rice, Down
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### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship – Group 4 - Round 3

Clane, Kildare	Louth	4-11	Offaly	3-06	Kevin Phelan, Laois
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### 7th August 2021

#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Quarter Final 4

Donaghmore/ Ashbourne, Meath	Down	2-06	Wexford	1-11	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
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### 8th August 2021

#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Quarter Final 1

Tuam Stadium, Galway	Clare	2-11	Westmeath	3-11	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
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#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Quarter Final 2

Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Galway	Kildare	1-11	Leitrim	1-07	John Devlin, Galway
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#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Quarter Final 3

Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath	Laois	3-09	Louth	2-06	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
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### 15th August 2021

#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Semi Finals

Parnell Park, Dublin	Kildare	1-09	Westmeath	3-06	Brendan Rice, Down
Nowlan Park, Kilkenny	Laois	2-09	Wexford	2-11	John Devlin, Galway

### 5th September 2021

#### TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship - Final

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Westmeath	4-19	Wexford	0-06	Shane Curley, Galway
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**TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match:** Sarah Dillon, Westmeath





TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship 2021					
Antrim	Carlow	Derry	Limerick	Wicklow	
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
10th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 1					
Corrigan Park, Belfast	Antrim (H)	0-07	Derry	1-07	Eddie Cuthbert, Down
John Locke, Callan, Kilkenny	Limerick	1-06	Wicklow	1-13	Michael Tarpey, Laois
18th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 2					
Lannleire, Dunleer, Louth	Antrim	5-20	Carlow	2-13	David Hurson, Monaghan
Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath	Derry	0-12	Limerick	2-07	Kelley Cunningham, Offaly
24th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 3					
Tang, Westmeath	Antrim	5-10	Limerick	2-07	Michael Tarpey, Laois
25th July 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 3					
Netwatch Cullen Park, Carlow	Carlow	3-07	Wicklow	3-15	Patrick Smith, Waterford
8th August 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 4					
Mullahoran, Cavan	Antrim	1-12	Wicklow	1-17	David Hurson, Monaghan
Lannleire, Dunleer, Louth	Carlow	0-09	Derry	1-05	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
15th August 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Round 5					
St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Offaly	Carlow	4-11	Limerick	1-09	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Mullahoran, Cavan	Derry	1-11	Wicklow	2-14	Mel Kenny, Mayo
21st August 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Semi Finals					
Tang, Westmeath	Limerick	0-04	Wicklow	1-12	Patrick Smith, Waterford
22nd August 2021					
Lannleire, Dunleer, Louth	Antrim	3-22	Carlow	3-18	David Hurson, Monaghan
5th September 2021					
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship - Final					
Páirc an Chrócaigh, Dublin	Antrim	1-09	Wicklow	2-17	Barry Redmond, Wexford
TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match: Clodagh Fox, Wicklow					

## TG4 All Ireland Championships Relegations 2021

TG4 All Ireland Senior Relegation Qualifiers/Play-offs – Result on the Day					
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
14th August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Senior Relegation - Qualifier 1</b>					
Mallow, Cork	Kerry	2-16	Tipperary	0-07	Kevin Phelan, Laois
21st August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Senior Relegation - Qualifier 2</b>					
St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	Cavan	2-11	Tyrone	0-14	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
28th August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Senior Relegation Play-Off</b>					
Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath	Tipperary	7-10	Tyrone	3-16	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
<b>Relegated to TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship 2022: Tyrone</b>					
TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Relegation Qualifiers/Play-offs – Result on the Day					
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
15th August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Relegation - Qualifier 1</b>					
St. Brigid's, Kiltoom, Roscommon	Roscommon (H)	3-09	Longford	1-10	Gus Chapman, Sligo
22nd August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Relegation - Qualifier 2</b>					
Boyle, Roscommon	Fermanagh	4-07	Offaly	5-09	Shane Curley, Galway
28th August 2021					
<b>TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Relegation - Play-Off</b>					
Mullahoran, Cavan	Fermanagh	0-08	Longford	0-09	Kevin Phelan, Laois
<b>Relegated to TG4 All Ireland Junior Championship 2022: Fermanagh</b>					



## currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Championships 2021

currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship 2021						
St. Brendan's, Galway	St. Judes, Dublin	Mullinahone, Tipperary	Carrickmacross Emmets, Monaghan	Tír na nÓg, Yorkshire		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee	
9th January 2022						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Quarter Final - Result on the Day						
St. Margaret's, Dublin	St. Judes	9-18	Tír na nÓg	0-05	Paul Burke, Louth	
23rd January 2022						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Semi Finals - Result on the Day						
John Lockes Park, Callan, Kilkenny	Mullinahone	1-06	St. Brendan's	0-06	Eamonn Moran, Kerry	
St. Margarets, Dublin	St. Judes	3-09	Carrickmacross Emmets	0-11	Ciaran Groome, Offaly	
5th February 2022						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Final - Result on the Day						
Baltinglass GAA, Wicklow	St. Judes	3-09	Mullinahone	1-08	Barry Redmond, Wexford	
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match: Hannah Hegarty, St Judes						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Intermediate Championship 2021						
Castlebar Mitchells, Mayo	St. Sylvester's, Dublin	Castleisland Desmonds, Kerry	Kinawley Brian Borus, Fermanagh	Holloway Gaels, London		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee	
8th January 2022						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Quarter Final - Result on the Day						
St. Sylvester's, Dublin	St. Sylvester's	2-12	Holloway Gaels	0-05	Kevin Phelan, Laois	
22nd January 2022						
Current Account.ie All Ireland Intermediate Club Championship – Semi Finals - Result on the Day						
Castlebar Mitchells, Mayo	Castlebar Mitchells	3-07	Castleisland Desmonds	2-07	John Devlin, Galway	
23rd January 2022						
St. Sylvester's, Dublin	St. Sylvester's	4-11	Kinawley Brian Borus	2-05	Declan Carolan, Armagh	
6th February 2022						
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Intermediate Championship Final - Result on the Day						
Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Galway	St. Sylvester's	1-06	Castlebar Mitchells	0-07	Shane Curley, Galway	
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Intermediate Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match: Danielle Lawless, St. Sylvester's						



FIXTURES

currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Senior Championship 2021					
Kilkerrin Clonberne, Galway	Dunboyne, Meath	Mourneabbey, Cork	Donaghmoyne, Monaghan		
Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score	Referee
16th January 2022					
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Junior Championship Semi Finals - Result on the Day					
Mourneabbey Community Centre	Mourneabbey	6:17	Dunboyne	0:05	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
Kilkerrin-Clonberne, Clonberne	Kilkerrin Clonberne	2:08	Donaghmoyne	0:08	Gus Chapman, Sligo
29th January 2022					
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Senior Championship Final - Result on the Day					
St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Offaly	Kilkerrin Clonberne	1-11	Mourneabbey	1-07	Kevin Phelan, Laois
currentaccount.ie All Ireland Club Senior Championship Final 2021 Player of the Match: Olivia Divilly, Kilkerrin Clonberne					







## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS



## MOTIONS FOR CONGRESS 2022

### Definitions

#### Management

**Speaker:** Geraldine Carey

#### Add to Definitions

##### Appointed Officer

A person who is identified by the executive of the relevant unit and ratified at a full meeting. President nominee is exempt as per Rule 251

#### Quorum

**Speaker:** Geraldine Carey

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid

### General

#### Management

**Speaker:** Geraldine Carey

#### Insert New Rule after Rule 8

The Association shall adopt a Code of Conduct for Officers, Members, Players, Parents/Guardians, Mentors, Supporters, Match Officials, Teams and Units, defining appropriate behaviour and practices. The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code. This rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Code.

#### Management

**Speaker:** Marie Hickey

#### Amend Rule 13 to read

The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non-sectarian and non-political. It **will** co-operate with other **Gaelic Games** organisations with aims similar to its own as outlined in this Official Guide. **The Association also recognises the role of the Dual Player, who is a member of both the LGFA and Camogie Associations, and will endeavour to facilitate them as far as is practicable.**

Currently rule reads;

The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non-sectarian and non-political. It should co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own.

#### Management

**Speaker:** Con Moynihan

#### Amend Rule 26 to read

Should any member/s of the Executive Committee, resign, be deemed to have resigned, or his/her position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive, **who shall consist of no less**

**than three officers**, shall seek a replacement **through nominations from the relevant board, committee or Council within 7 days**. The appointment shall be approved by the full Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council.

Currently rule reads;

In the absence of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of Club or County Board or the President or Vice-President of Provincial Council to preside over a meeting, the members present shall choose someone in attendance to preside for that meeting or until such time as the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, President or Vice-President arrives at the meeting.

#### Management

**Speaker:** Con Moynihan

#### Add New Rule after Rule 31

The quorum for all meetings of Boards, Committees or Councils of the Association shall be one-quarter and not fewer than three of the members entitled to attend. This requirement shall not apply to a Club General Meeting.

### Voting Procedures

#### Management

**Speaker:** Hugh Devenney

#### Amend Rule 63 to read

**Members of the Management Committee** of Central Council shall be members of their respective Provincial Councils, County Boards and Club Committees with voting rights. Likewise, officers of Provincial Councils shall be members of their respective County Boards and Club Committees with voting rights.

Currently rule reads;

Officers of Central Council shall be members of their respective Provincial Councils, County Boards and Club Committees with voting rights. Likewise, officers of Provincial Councils shall be members of their respective County Boards and Club Committees with voting rights.

### Injury Fund

#### Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

#### Amend Rule 70 to read:

Exemptions from the **Fund** shall be:

- (a) Players participating in official Schools Competitions
- (b) Non playing members of the Association whose participation in the scheme shall be optional
- (c) International Units as sanctioned by Central Council



- (d) Players participating in Gaelic4Mothers&Others, however all participants must have their own personal injury cover to participate
- (e) Under 14 players under the control of the Provincial Council of Britain

## HEC

**Speaker:** Daniel Caldwell

### Add to Rule 70 at (f):

Exemptions from the scheme shall be:

- (a) Players participating in official School competitions
- (b) Non playing members of the Association whose participation in the scheme shall be optional
- (c) International Units as sanctioned by Central Council
- (d) Players participating in Gaelic4Mothers&Others, however all participants must have their own personal injury cover to participate
- (e) Under 14 players under the control of the Provincial Council of Britain
- (f) HEC registered players where proof of insurance cover from the college can be provided

Currently rule reads;

Exemptions from the scheme shall be:

- (a) Players participating in official School competitions
- (b) Non playing members of the Association whose participation in the scheme shall be optional
- (c) International Units as sanctioned by Central Council
- (d) Players participating in Gaelic4Mothers&Others, however all participants must have their own personal injury cover to participate
- (e) Under 14 players under the control of the Provincial Council of Britain

## Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

### Amend Rule 71 to read:

The subscription to the fund shall be determined by Central Council. Present rates are €25 for an adult and €10 for 11 to 18 year olds.

A player paying the €25 shall be entitled to be considered for a payment of wages or salary loss together with medical treatment only.

A player paying €10 shall be entitled to be considered for payment of medical expenses only.

There is no legal obligation on the Association to provide such a Fund. All players must ensure they follow the terms and conditions of the Fund in order to benefit. The Fund does not entitle any member a right to reimbursement without having followed the rules of the Injury Fund as stated in the Injury Fund Guide.

Currently rule reads;

The subscription to the fund shall be determined by Central Council. Present rates are €25 for an adult and €10 for 11 to 18 year olds.

A player paying the €25 shall be entitled to be considered for a payment of wages or salary loss together with medical treatment only.

A player paying €10 shall be entitled to be considered for payment of medical expenses only.

There is nothing in this rule that shall be construed so as to imply that a person paying the higher rate shall be entitled, as of right, to compensation or wages or salary.

## Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

### Amend Rule 77 to read:

Any player that returns to sport will be considered to have completed the treatment necessary to be fit to return to sport, and this will close their claim. Where a player is directed to return to sport as part of their rehabilitation and wishes their claim to remain open, she must submit a medical letter advising of this direction from their medical practitioner, following the same protocol as the prior approval requirements

Currently rule reads;

Injury claims will be monitored on a claim by claim basis. A player who plays while receiving treatment may have her claim refused.

## Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

### Amend Rule 78 to read:

All applications for payment of money from the Injury Fund, shall be signed by the County Secretary or other authorised officer, on an official **full Injury Claim Form** and shall be accompanied by **original receipts, medical certificates** where applicable, and any other documentation as required by Central Council.

Where the injury has occurred in a club game, the **full Injury Claim Form** must be signed by the Club Secretary or other authorised Club Officer.

Where the injury occurred in training, the **full Injury Claim Form** must be signed by the person in charge of the training session, preferably a qualified coach and the Club Secretary or other authorised Club Officer.

The County Secretary or other authorised officer should be notified of the Claim Notification Number and dates of payment.

The County Secretary or other authorised officer should be notified of the Claim Notification Number and dates of payment.

Currently rule reads;

All applications for payment of money from the Injury Fund, shall be signed by the County Secretary or other authorised officer, on an official application form and shall be accompanied by medical certificates, receipts, bills, referee's reports where applicable, and any other documentation as required by Central Council.

Where the injury has occurred in a club game, the claim form must be signed by the Club Secretary or other authorised Club Officer.

Where the injury occurred in training, the claim form must be signed by the person in charge of the training session, preferably a qualified coach and the Club Secretary or other authorised Club Officer.

## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

### Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

#### Amend Rule 81 to read:

Should an applicant fail to lodge a claim application in accordance with the rules or **give incorrect particulars on the preliminary claim form or injury claim form**, s/he shall not be considered for payment.

Currently rule reads;

Should an applicant fail to lodge a claim application in accordance with the rules, or give incorrect particulars on the application form, s/he shall not be considered for payment.

### Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

#### Amend Rule 82 to read:

Preliminary claim forms must be submitted within 8 weeks of the date of injury. All claims will remain open for a period of 1 year from the date of submission and will then be closed. In order to extend the duration of a claim from 1 year to 2 years, a written request must be submitted by following the prior approval procedure i.e. Request must be in writing together with a written report from a medical professional (doctor or physiotherapist) on business headed paper.

Currently rule reads;

Preliminary claim forms may be submitted in electronic or hard copy format. They must be submitted within 8 weeks of the date of injury, if treatment is likely to exceed €200. Where a preliminary claim form has been submitted, a report and update on the claim must be submitted by the injured party within one year from the date of the preliminary notice, to validate the claim.

### Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

#### Delete Rule 83

Currently rule reads;

All claims, of which preliminary notices have been received must be lodged and validated within 2 years of the original preliminary notice, except in exceptional circumstances.

### Management

**Speaker:** Peter Rice

#### Amend Rule 86 to read:

A member shall not seek payment from the Injury Fund for private treatment unless:

- Prior sanction is received from the National Injury Fund Co-ordinator by following the prior approval process as laid out in the Injury Fund Guide
- In an emergency situation – where treatment has occurred with 5 days of the injury date and a medical letter is provided confirming the requirement for the emergency treatment

Any request for private treatment must be supported by documentary evidence from a medical practitioner or physiotherapist, to show the reason why private treatment is necessary. This must be on business headed paper and, where the

letter is from a physiotherapist, must state their registration to the ISCP (Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists) or HCPC (UK Health & Care Professionals Council)

Prior approval is required for all treatments outside of:

- 90% of 6 physiotherapy sessions
- GP Visits
- Public Hospital Fees

Currently rule reads;

A member shall not seek payment from the Injury Fund for private treatment where the cost of treatment exceeds, or is likely to exceed €200, unless:

- Prior sanction is received from the Management Committee of Central Council.
- In an emergency situation.

Any request for private treatment must be supported by documentary evidence from a medical practitioner, to show the reason why private treatment is necessary.

Private treatment is defined as any treatment for which payment is made outside of the public health treatment system.

### Clubs

### Management

**Speaker:** Geraldine Giles

#### Add to Rule 116 at (h)

Club Coaching Officer (by appointment)

Currently rule reads;

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year on or before 1st December. The notice of the time and place of such a meeting shall be conveyed to members at least 5 days beforehand. The Annual General Meeting shall elect:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Children's Officer (by appointment)
- Delegates to County Board and County Convention
- Positions of Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, PRO, Development Officer, and Culture and Language Officer may also be elected.
- An Executive or Management Committee, which shall comprise the above officers and any other members that the club may decide.

These shall hold office until the conclusion of next Annual General Meeting. All Clubs shall notify the County Board of the date of their AGM at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

### Player Eligibility for Club, County and Province

### Munster

**Speaker:** Jerome Casey

#### Amend Rule 141 to read

Notwithstanding Rules 137 to 140 a player or players may apply

in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule or rules in exceptional circumstances and seek permission to play with another club. **The club and county of the member seeking the transfer shall be notified of the application sought, and its observations will be considered beforehand.** Such permission may be granted, where circumstances are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council.

Currently rule reads;

Notwithstanding Rules 137 to 140, a player or players may apply in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule or rules in exceptional circumstances and seek permission to play with another Club. Such permission may be granted where circumstances are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council.

## County Board

### Management

**Speaker:** Geraldine Giles

#### Amend Rule 177 at (j) to read

Chairperson of County Development Committee

### Cork

**Speaker:** Neilus Carroll

#### Amend Rule 177 to read:

The County Board should consist of:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Vice Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Assistant Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Assistant Treasurer
- (g) Registrar
- (h) PRO
- (i) Culture and Language Officer
- (j) Development Officer (Appointed)
- (k) Children's Officer (Appointed)
- (l) Officers of the Provincial and Central Councils from within the County
- (m) Delegates to Provincial and Central Councils
- (n) **An elected representative of each Divisional Board**
- (o) Members of sub-committees of Provincial and Central Councils who 58 have voting rights within their respective Councils and who are from within the County
- (p) Chairpersons of sub-committees of the County Board
- (q) Three delegates, who are registered members, from each affiliated Club, one of whom must be a current player Where a County Schools or Colleges Committee functions, it shall be entitled to two voting delegates on the County Board. The County Board shall hold office until the end of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of Provincial and Central Council

### Wexford

**Speaker:** Billy Stafford

#### Add to Rule 177 at (o) & Move the current listings (o) to (q) as (p) to (r):

Chairperson of the County Fixtures Committee

Currently rule reads;

The County Board should consist of:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Vice Chairperson
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Assistant Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Assistant Treasurer
- (g) Registrar
- (h) PRO
- (i) Culture and Language Officer
- (j) Development Officer (Appointed)
- (k) Children's Officer (Appointed)
- (l) Officers of the Provincial and Central Councils from within the County
- (m) Delegates to Provincial and Central Councils
- (n) Chairperson of each Divisional Board
- (o) Members of sub-committees of Provincial and Central Councils who have voting rights within their respective Councils and who are from within the County
- (p) Chairpersons of sub-committees of the County Board
- (q) Three delegates, who are registered members, from each affiliated Club, one of whom must be a current player  
Where a County Schools or Colleges Committee functions, it shall be entitled to two voting delegates on the County Board.  
The County Board shall hold office until the end of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of Provincial and Central Council.

### Wexford

**Speaker:** Billy Stafford

#### Amend Rule 178 at line 2 to read:

Rule 177 (a) to (o)

Currently rule reads;

The Executive of the County Board shall consist of the Officers of the County Board as set out in Rule 177 (a) to (n) and shall have authority to submit motions to the County Board.

### Management

**Speaker:** Mary Connolly

#### New rule after Rule 178

The Executive of the County Board must appoint a county development committee comprising of at least four people each with a responsibility for either Coach Education, Volunteer Development, Participation and Referee Education.

### Management

**Speaker:** Mary Connolly

#### Amend Rule 180 at (f)

- (f) Power to grade or re-grade players and teams at Club level.  
**County Boards must notify Provincial and Central Councils on**



## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

the official grading form by the 1<sup>st</sup> March, of Clubs that are being proposed to be downgraded for Championship purposes within their Counties, and the reasons why they should be downgraded. The grading of Clubs shall be subject to approval of Central Council.

Counties who operate a promotion and relegation championship structure within their counties must notify Provincial and Central Council on the official grading form of the club/s who are relegated for the following season, by the 31<sup>st</sup> January each year.

Currently rule reads;

- (f) Power to grade to re-grade players and teams at Club level. County Boards must notify Provincial and Central Councils on the official grading form by the 1<sup>st</sup> March, of Clubs that are being proposed to be downgraded for Championship purposes within their Counties, and the reasons why they should be downgraded. The grading of Clubs shall be subject to approval of Central Council.

### Cork

**Speaker:** Neilus Carroll

#### Amend Rule 182 (b) to read:

Each Divisional Board shall be represented by the Chairperson or **designee** on the County Board Executive

Currently rule reads;

- (b) Each Divisional Board shall be represented by the Chairperson on the County Board Executive

### Management

**Speaker:** Kathleen Kane

#### Amend Rule 184 to read:

The County Secretary must forward to Provincial and Central Councils, the name, address, telephone number and email address, of all officers serving on the County Board. This information must be forwarded to the Provincial and Central Council Secretaries by the dates of the Provincial Convention and Annual Congress respectively.

Currently rule reads;

The County Secretary must forward to Provincial and Central Councils, the name, address and telephone numbers, work and home where applicable, of all officers serving on the County Board. This information must be forwarded to the Provincial and Central Council Secretaries by the dates of Provincial Convention and Annual Congress respectively.

### Management

**Speaker:** Kathleen Kane

#### Add to Rule 190 after Paragraph 2

In exceptional circumstances, a third Junior Club may be permitted subject to approval by the National Grading Committee and Central Council.

### County Board

### Cork

**Speaker:** Neilus Carroll

#### Amend Rule 190 to read:

- (a) County Boards may allow players from three Junior clubs, or one Junior and one Intermediate club to amalgamate to form a Senior team, without losing their Junior or Intermediate status. County Boards may allow two Junior clubs to amalgamate to form an Intermediate team without losing their Junior status.

An amalgamated team which wins the County Senior Championship shall be permitted to represent the County Board in the Provincial and All Ireland Club Championship. Application to form an amalgamated team must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by County Board, whichever is the earliest.

- (b) County Boards who operate Divisional Boards as per rules 181 and 182 may allow Divisional teams made up of non-senior clubs within the Division to compete in their County Senior Championship without losing their Junior or Intermediate club status.

A Divisional team that wins the County Senior Championship shall not

be permitted to represent the County Board in the Provincial and All Ireland Club Championship.

In the event of a Divisional team winning the County Senior Championship the losing finalists will then represent the County Board in the Provincial and All Ireland club Championship

Currently rule reads;

County Boards may allow players from three Junior clubs, or, one Junior and one Intermediate club to amalgamate to form a Senior team, without losing their Junior or Intermediate status.

County Boards may allow two Junior clubs to amalgamate to form an Intermediate team without losing their Junior status.

An amalgamated team which wins the County Senior Championship shall be permitted to represent the County Board in the Provincial and All Ireland Club Championship.

Application to form an amalgamated team must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by County Board, whichever is the earliest.

## Provincial Championships

### Management

**Speaker:** Jerome Casey

#### Amend Rule 211 (q) to read

Members of Provincial and Central Council sub-committees who hold voting rights in their respective councils.

Currently rule reads;

(q) Members of sub-committees of Central Council who have voting rights at Central Council

### Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

#### Amend Rule 224 to read:

A “county whose” Club wins the Provincial Junior or Intermediate Championship must move up a grade for the following year’s Provincial “Club” Championship.

However, a club which wins the British Intermediate Club Championship may play in the British Intermediate Provincial and All Ireland championship the following year unless they won the All Ireland Intermediate championship whereby they are automatically deemed to be of Senior standard.

A Club that wins the Junior or Intermediate County Championship in Britain, must move up a grade within the County for the next year’s Championship.

Annual Congress

Currently rule reads;

A Club which wins the Provincial Junior or Intermediate Championship must move up a grade for the following year’s Provincial Championship.

However, a club which wins the British Intermediate Club Championship may play in the British Intermediate Provincial and All Ireland championship the following year unless they won the All Ireland.

Intermediate championship whereby they are automatically deemed to be of Senior standard.

A Club that wins the Junior or Intermediate County Championship in Britain, must move up a grade within the County for the next year’s Championship.

## Annual Congress

### Management

**Speaker:** Jerome Casey

#### Add to Rule 229

- (f) Members of Sub-committees of Central Council who have voting rights (All-Stars, Fixtures and Grading)
- (g) Two delegates from International affiliated units of the Association

Currently rule reads;

Those entitled to vote at Congress shall be:

- (a) Members of the Outgoing Council
- (b) Former Presidents of the Association

- (c) Three Delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current player
- (d) Two Delegates from the National Post Primary Schools Committee
- (e) Two Delegates from the National HEC

## Central Council

### Management

**Speaker:** Trina Murray

#### Amend 242 to read

Central Council shall consist of:

- (a) The President shall be elected for one term of four years by secret ballot and shall not serve two consecutive terms
- (b) President Elect for one year
- (c) Presidents of Provincial Councils who shall be representing their respective Provinces
- (d) Outgoing Provincial Presidents shall remain as a member of national management committee until completion of congress of that year at which time the new President takes up his/her role
- (e) Joint Treasurers
- (f) CEO (Non-voting)
- (g) Assistant Secretary
- (h) Cultural and Language Officer
- (i) Chairperson of National Development Committee (appointed)
- (j) Representative of the GAA
- (k) Two independent representatives as per Rule 244
- (l) Former Presidents of the Association who are active at County, Provincial or Central Council level for a maximum of 7 years from 2022\*
- (m) Three delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current player
- (n) Two delegates from the National HEC
- (o) Two delegates from International affiliated units of the Association
- (p) Members of sub-committees of Central Council who have voting rights (All-Stars, Grading and Fixtures)

Currently rule reads;

Central Council shall consist of:

- (a) The President shall be elected for one term of four years by secret ballot and shall not serve two consecutive terms
- (b) President Elect for one year
- (c) Former Presidents of the Association who are active at County, Provincial or Central Council level
- (d) Presidents of Provincial Councils who shall be representing their respective Provinces
- (e) Outgoing Provincial Presidents shall remain as a member of national management committee until the completion of congress of that year at which time the new President takes up her/his role
- (f) Joint Treasurers
- (g) CEO and Assistant Secretary
- (h) Cultural and Language Officer
- (i) Development Officer (Appointed)
- (j) Representative of the GAA

## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

- (k) Three delegates from each affiliated County, one of whom must be a current player
- (l) Two delegates from the National HEC
- (m) Two delegates from the National Post Primary Schools Council
- (n) Two delegates from International affiliated Units of the Association
- (o) Members of sub-committees of Central Council who have voting rights (All-Stars, Grading and Fixtures).

### Management

**Speaker:** Trina Murray

#### Amend 243 to read

The Management Committee of Central Council shall consist of Officers as outlined from (a) to (l)\* in Rule 242. The Management Committee shall meet every two months or more often if necessary. Currently rule reads;

The Management Committee of Central Council shall consist of Officers as outlined from (a) to (j) in Rule 242. The Management Committee shall meet every two months or more often if necessary.

### Management

**Speaker:** Hugh Devenney

#### Amend Rule 244 to read

The Management Committee shall

- (a) Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Central Council, shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association, including its general activities, matters of discipline, finances, and implementation of policies determined by Congress. All Sub-Committees of Central Council shall report to the Management Committee/Central Council.
- (b) Provide leadership to the Association, within a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enables risks to be assessed and managed
- (c) It shall have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Central Council
- (d) The Management Committee shall be entitled to submit motions to Annual Congress, providing all such motions are forwarded to County Boards prior to Congress.
- (e) Identification of two independent representatives
- (f) Term time for any position on the Management Committee, except for the role of President, will be no longer than 7 years

Currently rule reads;

The Management Committee of Central Council shall be entitled to submit motions to Annual Congress, providing all such motions are forwarded to County Boards prior to Congress.

#### Move Rule 248 to become Rule 245 and move rules accordingly

### Munster

**Speaker:** Jerome Casey

#### Amend Rule 251 to read:

Central Council or Congress shall appoint sub committees in addition to an appointee of the National President. The sub - committees shall elect a Chairperson and Secretary from within their respective Committees

- (a) A fixtures Committee which should include two nominees from each Province.
- (b) Any Committee as deemed necessary.
- (c) **Rules Advisory Committee: Its remit shall be to advise Clubs, Committees, Board's, Council on matters relating to the rules of the Association.**

Currently rule reads;

Central Council or Congress shall appoint sub-committees in addition to an appointee of the National President. The sub-committees shall elect a Chairperson and Secretary from within their respective Committees.

- (a) A Fixtures Committee which should include two nominees from each Province
- (b) Any Committee as deemed necessary

### Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

#### Amend Rule 264 to read:

An All Star team shall be chosen by **an All Star Committee comprising of** two nominated selectors from each of the four Provinces **as well as the National President's nominee to the committee** and the National President.

**Three players shall be nominated for the position of Goalkeeper, 9 players shall be nominated for the full back line, 9 for the half back line, 9 for the half forward line and 9 for the full forward line while six players shall be nominated for the midfield positions. One player shall then be selected for each playing position from the nominees as set out above.'**

The names of the 15 All Stars shall be announced at the Banquet.

Each County may submit their All-Star team for the guidance of the Selection Committee prior to the selection of the team.

**The All Star Committee as outlined above shall also select a team of the championship for each of the grades of Junior and Intermediate. These selected teams of the Championship to comprise of 15 players in their playing positions. A player selected on these teams is not disqualified from and is also eligible for selection as an All Star nominee. The awards for these teams to be presented at an appropriate event as designated by Central Council.**

Currently rule reads;

The All Star team shall be chosen by two nominated selectors from each of the four Provinces as well as the National President.

Three players shall be nominated for each position. All nominees shall be invited to attend an Annual Presentation Banquet. The names of the All Stars shall be announced at the Banquet.

Each County may submit their All-Star team for the guidance of the Selection Committee prior to the selection of the team.

Representative(s) as nominated by any sponsor may sit with the Committee in an advisory capacity as decided by Central Council.



## Transfers

### Europe

**Speaker:** Wenjing Zhuang

#### Amend Rule 267 to read:

All transfer applications must be made on a **website application and approved by Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council or sub-committees thereof depending of the categories of transfer.**

Where the relevant body is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the transfer may be refused. A player transferred to a Club, who, at any time within a period of 24 weeks from the date of transfer, is found to be no longer resident within the Club Catchment Area, may be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules, and the Club may also be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules.

Currently rule reads;

All transfer applications must be made on the official transfer form. It must be completed, properly signed and sent to the relevant secretary.

Evidence to prove an address may be requested by a Club, County Board, Provincial or Central Council or sub-committees thereof.

The townland and the Eircode/Postal Code must be included on all transfer forms for all CCAs.

Where the relevant body is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the transfer may be refused.

A player transferred to a Club, who, at any time within a period of 24 weeks from the date of transfer, is found to be no longer resident within the Club Catchment Area, may be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules, and the Club may also be liable to sanction under the CODA Rules.

## Competitions

### Management

**Speaker:** Martin Coleman

#### Amend Rule 295 to read:

**Games in Under 7 to Under 11 shall be organised on the Go Games Model in line with F3 development stage of the Gaelic Games Player Pathway.** Go Games are modified where results are not formally recorded, and where all participants get to play during the course of the game.

Teams at Under 7 shall be a maximum of 7-A-Side. Teams at Under 8 and 9 shall be a maximum of 9-A-Side. Teams of Under 10 and 11 shall be a maximum of 11-A-Side.

At Under 12 level, competitions may be organised on a league format, with no championships, on the basis that participating teams should be a maximum of 13-A-Side. **Only children whose 10th, 11th or 12th birthday is on or after January 1st can play at the U-12 age grade in that calendar year.** Games should be organised over four quarters, and provision shall be made for all

members of the team panel to participate in a minimum of one quarter.

A breach will be referred to CODA for sanction

Currently rule reads;

Games in Under 11 and younger shall be organised on the Go Games Model. Go Games are modified where results are not formally recorded, and where all participants get to play during the course of the game.

Teams at Under 6 and 7 shall be a maximum of 7-A-Side. Teams at Under 8 and 9 shall be a maximum of 9-A-Side. Teams of Under 10 and 11 shall be a maximum of 11-A-Side.

At Under 12 level, competitions may be organised on a league format, with no championships, on the basis that participating teams should be a maximum of 13-A-Side. Games should be organised over four quarters, and provision shall be made for all members of the team panel to participate in a minimum of one quarter.

A breach will be referred to CODA for sanction.

## Medals and Trophies

### Management

**Speaker:** Martin Coleman

#### Amend Rule 323 to read

There shall be one captain per team. Captain must be part of the pane 1 – 30. **Where captain is not listed on starting 1 – 15, the team must name a vice captain or a player who will take the on-field responsibilities of the captain, such as the toss.** It shall be the privilege of the captain of the winning team to accept the cup or trophy on behalf of her team. The safe custody of the cup or trophy shall be the responsibility of the successful club, County, School, College or Province. Any costs incurred in the replacement or repair of cups or trophies shall be borne by the Club, County, School, College or Province responsible. A cup or trophy shall not be filled with any type of alcoholic beverage.

Currently rule reads;

There shall be one captain per team. Captain must be part of the panel 1 – 30. It shall be the privilege of the captain of the winning team to accept the cup or trophy on behalf of her team. The safe custody of the cup or trophy shall be the responsibility of the successful Club, County, School, College or Province. Any costs incurred in the replacement or repair of cups or trophies shall be borne by the Club, County, School, College or Province responsible. A cup or trophy shall not be filled with any type of alcoholic beverage.

## Teams

### Management

**Speaker:** Con Moynihan

#### Amend Rule 325 to read

A team shall consist of 15 players and a panel of 30 players. Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 officials at Inter-County level and 7 officials at club level, one of whom must be a female liaison officer. Only the manager, maor foirne and medic are permitted on the side-line. The female County liaison officer shall not be involved in

## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

coaching or team selection. Team officials must be 18 years or older for County Teams and **adult Club Teams**.

Currently rule reads;

A team shall consist of 15 players and a panel of 30 players. Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 officials at Inter-County level and 7 officials at club level, one of whom must be a female liaison officer. Only the manager, maor foinne and medic are permitted on the side-line. The female County liaison officer shall not be involved in coaching or team selection. Team officials must be 18 years or older for County Teams.

### Blood Subs

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 345 to read:

A player who is bleeding, has blood on her body or playing attire as a result of an injury sustained during play, on the instructions of the referee, shall leave the field of play to receive medical attention.

**A player who sustains a suspected head injury, if instructed by the Referee, shall temporarily leave the Field of Play for further assessment before the player's fitness to return is determined.**

**In the case of a blood injury** she shall not return to the field of play until the bleeding has stopped, all blood cleaned off, and the blood stained attire cleaned or replaced. The injured area should be covered where possible.

**In the case of a suspected head injury, the player shall not return to the field of play until the bainisteoir confirms to the referee that the player may return in compliance with current LGFA Concussion Guidelines.**

Currently rule reads;

A player who is bleeding, has blood on her body or playing attire as a result of an injury sustained during play, shall on the instructions of the referee, leave the field of play to receive medical attention. She shall not return to the field of play until the bleeding has stopped, all blood cleaned off, and the blood stained attire cleaned or replaced. The injured area should be covered where possible.

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend 346 to read:

When the player who had the Blood Injury **or suspected head injury** is ready to resume playing she shall present herself to the referee or fourth official during a stoppage in play. The referee or fourth official should ensure that the bleeding has stopped, the attire is replaced or cleaned and that the Blood Substitute has left the field.

Where the injured player resumes with a different numbered jersey, the referee or fourth official should note the new number.

Currently rule reads;

When the player who had the Blood Injury is ready to resume playing she shall present herself to the referee or fourth official during a stoppage in play. The referee or fourth official should ensure that the bleeding has stopped, the attire is replaced or cleaned and that the Blood Substitute has left the field.

Where the injured player resumes with a different numbered jersey, the referee or fourth official should note the new number.

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 347 to read:

A player who suffers a Blood Injury, **or suspected head injury** may be replaced by a Blood Substitute or **suspected head injury substitute**, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a Blood Substitute **or suspected head injury substitute**. The Blood Substitute **or suspected head injury substitute** shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules.

If the Blood Injured player **or suspected head injury player** returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

Currently rule reads;

A player who suffers a Blood Injury, may be replaced by a Blood Substitute, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a Blood Sub. The Blood Substitute shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules.

If the Blood Injured player returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 348 to read:

Where the Blood Injured player **or suspected head injury player** returns to the field of play for any other player, apart from the player that directly replaced her, her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

Currently rule reads;

Where the Blood Injured player returns to the field of play for any other player, apart from the player that directly replaced her, her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 349 to read:

If a Blood Substitute **or suspected head injury substitute** is sent off for a first Yellow Card offence, the team management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who sustained the Blood Injury **or suspected head injury** back onto the field of play, before the 5/10 minute playing time ban has expired for the Blood Substitute **or suspected head injury substitute**. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitution. The team has to be down to 14 players.

Currently rules read;

If a Blood Substitute is sent off for a first Yellow Card offence, the team management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who sustained the Blood Injury back onto the field of play, before the 5/10 minute playing time ban has expired for the Blood Sub. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitution. The team has to be down to 14 players.

## Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

### Amend Rule 350 to read:

Where a Blood Substitute or suspected head injury substitute was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the team management wish to bring her on after the 5/10 minutes Playing Time ban has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute, if the player whom she has replaced who suffered the blood injury has already resumed playing.

Currently rule reads;

Where a Blood Substitute was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the team management wish to bring her on after the 5/10 minutes Playing Time ban has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute, if the player whom she has replaced who suffered the blood injury has already resumed playing.

## Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

### Amend Rule 351 to read:

Where a Blood Substitute or suspected head injury substitute is sent off for a Red or 2nd Yellow Card offence, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the Original Blood Injured Player or suspected head injury player back onto the field of play. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitute.

Currently rule reads;

Where a Blood Substitute is sent off for a Red or 2nd Yellow Card offence, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the Original Blood Injured Player back onto the field of play. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitute.

## Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

### Amend Rule 352 to read:

Where a team has used its full complement of Normal Substitutes in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a Blood Injury or suspected head injury, she may be replaced by a Blood Substitute or suspected head injury substitute.

Currently rule reads;

Where a team has used its full complement of Normal Substitutes in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a Blood Injury, she may be replaced by a Blood Substitute.

## Wicklow

**Speaker:** Stephen McNulty

### Amend 347 to read:

A player who suffers a Blood (Insert "or Head") Injury, may be replaced by a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Substitute, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Sub. The Blood Substitute (replace Blood with Temporary) shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules. If the Blood (Inset "or Head") Injured player returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

348. Where the Blood (Inset "or Head") Injured player returns to the field of play for any other player, apart from the player that directly replaced her, her team shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

349. If a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Substitute is sent off for a first Yellow Card offence, the team management must take off another player if they wish to bring the player who sustained the Blood (Inset "or Head") Injury back onto the field of play, before the 5/10 minute playing time ban has expired for the Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Sub. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitution. The team has to be down to 14 players.

350. Where a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Substitute was sent off for a Yellow Card offence, and the team management wish to bring her on after the 5/10 minutes Playing Time ban has expired, they shall be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute, if the player whom she has replaced who suffered the blood (Inset "or Head") injury has already resumed playing.

351. Where a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Substitute is sent off for a Red or 2nd Yellow Card offence, her team shall substitute another player, if they wish to bring the Original Blood (Inset "or Head") Injured Player back onto the field of play. This shall NOT count as a Normal Substitute.

352. Where a team has used its full complement of Normal Substitutes in either Normal or Extra Time, and a player suffers a Blood (Inset "or Head") Injury, she may be replaced by a Blood (replace Blood with Temporary) Substitute.

Currently rule reads;

A player who suffers a Blood Injury, may be replaced by a Blood Substitute, who shall notify the referee or fourth official in writing, that she is a Blood Sub. The Blood Substitute shall NOT count as a substitute allowed under Normal Substitution rules.

If the Blood Injured player returns to the field of play as a direct replacement for the player who replaced her, her team shall not be deemed to have used a Normal Substitute.

## Attire

### Management

**Speaker:** Marie Hickey

#### Add to Rule 354

For games played on artificial surfaces, players may wear protective leg wear, provided there is uniformity of colour within the team.

Currently rule reads;

The attire to be worn shall consist of jersey, shorts, socks and boots. Penalty for breach of this rule shall be €100.

For all games undergarments/compression shorts should not exceed the length of the shorts and be of the same colour as the outer garments. The goalkeeper may wear track-suit bottoms.



## Football

### Cork

**Speaker:** Neilus Carroll

#### Amend Rule 359 to read

A size 4 football shall be used in all grades of competition from Under 14 upwards. A smaller size 3 or Go Games Smart Touch football may be used for U12, Quick Touch for U10 and First Touch for U8. The Size 4 football shall not weigh less than 400g and not more than 420g and shall have a circumference of not less than 62.5cm and not more than 64.5cm. The ball should be pumped to 6.5psi

Currently rule reads;

A size 4 football shall be used in all grades of competition from Under 12 upwards. A smaller size 3 or Go Games football may be used in younger age groups.

The Size 4 football shall not weigh less than 400g and not more than 420g and shall have a circumference of not less than 62.5cm and not more than 64.5cm. The ball should be pumped to 6.5psi.

## Extra Time and Replays

### Management

**Speaker:** Pat Quill

#### Amend Rule 366 to read

In exceptional circumstances, the Organising Committee, Board or Council may instruct teams to play One Period of Extra Time followed by a point shoot-out from 25 metres. The kicks must be taken between the two posts and from where indicated by the referee. In the case of Under 14 competitions and below, the point shoot-out shall be from the 20 metre line.

Only players who are remaining on the field of play at the end of Extra Time are eligible to take the kicks. Each team shall take 5 kicks at point scoring. If the scores are still tied after each team has taken their 5 kicks, sudden death procedure shall follow, using different players, until such time as there is a winner.

The ball must go directly over the crossbar, off the crossbar and over, or, off the uprights and over the crossbar, to be counted as a point

A ball that hops in front of the goal and goes over the bar shall not be counted as a point.

Any player that crosses the 20/25m mark while kicking for a point shall have her score disallowed.

Currently rule reads;

In exceptional circumstances, the Organising Committee, Board or Council may instruct teams to play One Period of Extra Time followed by a point shoot-out from 30 metres. The kicks must be taken between the two posts and from where indicated by the referee. In the case of Under 14 competitions and below, the point shoot-out shall be from the 20 metre line.

Only players who are remaining on the field of play at the end of Extra Time are eligible to take the kicks. Each team shall take 5 kicks

at point scoring. If the scores are still tied after each team has taken their 5 kicks, sudden death procedure shall follow, using different players, until such time as there is a winner.

The ball must go directly over the crossbar, off the crossbar and over, or off the uprights and over the crossbar, to be counted as a point.

A ball that hops in front of the goal and goes over the bar shall not be counted as a point.

Any player that crosses the 20/30m mark while kicking for a point shall have her score disallowed.

The referee shall add the points scored by both teams in the shoot-out to the scores at the end of Extra Time in reporting the final score. Extra Time shall consist of 10 minutes each way.

## Commencement of Play

### Management

**Speaker:** Pat Quill

#### Amend Rule 378

Before commencing play, the referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for the choice of ends and ensure that no team has more than 15 players on the field. Where the captain is not listed in the starting 1 – 15, the vice-captain or nominated player will represent the team for the toss of the coin.

Currently rule reads;

Before commencing play, the referee shall toss a coin in the presence of both captains for the choice of ends, and ensure that no team has more than 15 players on the field.

## Playing Rules

### Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

#### Amend Rule 395 to read:

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

- (a) Knocking the ball from an opponent's hands by flicking it with the open hand(s)
- (b) Blocking the ball with the hands as an opponent has kicked it
- (c) Using minimal contact on an opponent's body from side-on, once they are making a reasonable effort to gain possession of the ball.

Minimal contact is described as contact made while making a reasonable attempt to gain possession of the ball. Contact must not be made in an aggressive or cynical manner

Currently rule reads;

The ball may be knocked from an opponents hands by flicking it with the open hand or hands.

## Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

### Amend Rule 403 to read:

There shall be no deliberate body contact.

Exceptions: when a player is tackling an opponent who is in possession of the ball or in the act of playing the ball by:

- (a) Knocking the ball from an opponent's hands by flicking it with the open hand(s)
- (b) Blocking the ball with the hands as an opponent has kicked it
- (c) Using minimal contact on an opponent's body from side-on, once they are making a reasonable effort to gain possession of the ball.

Minimal contact is described as contact made while making a reasonable attempt to gain possession of the ball. Contact must not be made in an aggressive or cynical manner

Currently rule reads;

There shall be no deliberate body contact.

## Fouls

## Clare

**Speaker:** Sean Lenihan

### Amend 418 to read:

The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player shown the Red Card and ordered off the field of play without caution. She shall be suspended for a minimum of **one match in the Age Group/ Competition** where the red card was issued and may be subject to further disciplinary action under the CODA rules.

- (a) Striking or making a striking action towards an opponent or colleague with hand, fist, arm, elbow, head, knee or an object
- (b) Kicking an opponent or colleague
- (c) Striking, threatening, using abusive language to, or interfering with a match official
- (d) Deliberate high tackle
- (e) Deliberate sliding tackle
- (f) Deliberate charge, including frontal charge, or jumping at an opponent, colleague or official
- (g) Spitting at an opponent, colleague or official
- (h) Deliberate pulling of an opponent or colleagues hair
- (i) Biting an opponent or colleague
- (j) Stamping on an opponent or colleague
- (k) Using racist, sectarian or homophobic language or gestures towards an opponent, colleague, mentor, match official or spectator
- (l) Inciting colleagues or opponents to cause or take part in any type of affray while on the pitch

Amend 6.3 and 6.4 (CODA Rules) accordingly.

## Kildare

**Speaker:** Mag O'Neill

### Amend Rule 418 to read

The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player shown a red card and ordered off the field of play without caution. She shall be

suspended for a minimum of 4 weeks **which must include 2 league or championship games, whichever is the greater will apply.** She may be subject to further disciplinary action under the CODA rules.

- (a) Striking or making a striking action towards an opponent or colleague with hand, fist, arm, elbow, head, knee or an object
- (b) Kicking an opponent or colleague
- (c) Striking, threatening, using abusive language to, or interfering with a match official
- (d) Deliberate high tackle
- (e) Deliberate sliding tackle
- (f) Deliberate charge, including frontal charge, or jumping at an opponent, colleague or official
- (g) Spitting at an opponent, colleague or official
- (h) Deliberate pulling of an opponent or colleagues hair
- (i) Biting an opponent or colleague
- (j) Stamping on an opponent or colleague
- (k) Using racist, sectarian or homophobic language or gestures towards an opponent, colleague, mentor, match official or spectator
- (l) Inciting colleagues or opponents to cause or take part in any type of affray while on the pitch

Currently rule reads;

The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player shown the Red Card and ordered off the field of play without caution. She shall be suspended for a minimum of 4 weeks and may be subject to further disciplinary action under the CODA rules.

- (a) Striking or making a striking action towards an opponent or colleague with hand, fist, arm, elbow, head, knee or an object
- (b) Kicking an opponent or colleague
- (c) Striking, threatening, using abusive language to, or interfering with a match official
- (d) Deliberate high tackle
- (e) Deliberate sliding tackle
- (f) Deliberate charge, including frontal charge, or jumping at an opponent, colleague or official
- (g) Spitting at an opponent, colleague or official
- (h) Deliberate pulling of an opponent or colleagues hair
- (i) Biting an opponent or colleague
- (j) Stamping on an opponent or colleague
- (k) Using racist, sectarian or homophobic language or gestures towards an opponent, colleague, mentor, match official or spectator
- (l) Inciting colleagues or opponents to cause or take part in any type of affray while on the pitch

6.3. In the event that a Referee's Report confirms a straight red card, the player is automatically subject to a minimum 4 weeks suspension as per Rule 418. If the incident merits a greater suspension, the CODA shall refer the Disciplinary Action to the Hearings Committee.

6.4 In the event that the player refuses to accept the minimum 4 weeks suspension, she may request a hearing by submitting the 'Request for Hearing' form to the relevant CODA Officer within 72 hours of the game.

## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

### Free Kicks

#### Management

**Speaker:** Eileen Jones

##### Amend Rule 420 to read:

If a foul occurs, the referee may allow play to continue, if s/he considers this to be to the advantage of the offended team for up to 5 seconds after the foul. Where no advantage accrues the referee may award a free from where the original foul occurred. Should another foul be committed on the offended team within the 5 seconds then the free is awarded from the most advantageous position.

Should the player in possession of the ball commit a Technical or Non-Technical foul while advantage is being allowed, she shall retain her free from where the original foul occurred.

Should the player in possession of the ball commit a foul that warrants a Yellow or Red Card, while advantage is being played, she shall lose the advantage. She shall be given a Yellow or Red card and play resumed with a throw in between a player from either side where the Yellow or Red card offence occurred.

Should the foul occur inside the 13-metre line apart from Penalty Kicks, the referee shall award the free from the 13 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

Disciplinary action, if warranted, may be applied to the offender, who, in any event should be advised by the referee at the next break in play, that a foul had been committed.

Currently rule reads;

If a foul occurs, the referee may allow play to continue, if s/he considers this to be to the advantage of the offended team for up to 5 seconds after the foul. Where no advantage accrues the referee may award a free from where the original foul occurred. Should another foul be committed on the offended team within the 5 seconds then the free is awarded from the most advantageous position.

Should the foul occur inside the 13 metre line apart from Penalty Kicks, the referee shall award the free from the 13 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

Disciplinary action, if warranted, may be applied to the offender, who, in any event should be advised by the referee at the next break in play, that a foul had been committed.

### Kick Out

#### Management

**Speaker:** Pat Quill

##### Amend Rule 444 to read

The ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground on or before the 13 metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a wide in all adult competitions. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked. The ball must cross the

20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

At under 18 level and below, for games on a full sized pitch, the kick out from goal after a wide ball shall be on or before the 20m line.

#### Ulster

**Speaker:** Gerry Doherty

##### Amend Rule 444 to read:

The ball may be kicked from hands or off the ground from the 20 metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a score or wide in all competitions. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

The ball must cross the 20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another players offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

#### Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

##### Amend Rule 444 to read:

The ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground from the 20 metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a wide or score in all competitions. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked. The ball must cross the 20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

Currently rule reads;

The ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground from the 13 metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a wide in all competitions. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

The ball must cross the 20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

#### Management

**Speaker:** Eileen Jones

##### Amend Rule 447 to read

The kick out shall be taken on or before the 20 metre line in front of the goalposts after a score. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.



## Ulster

**Speaker:** Gerry Doherty

### Delete Rule 447

## Wicklow

**Speaker:** Dominic Leech

### Delete Rule 447

Currently rule reads;

The kick out shall be taken from the 20 metre line in front of the goalposts after a score. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

## Management

### Add new Rule after 447

**Speaker:** Eileen Jones

Where in the referee's opinion, a kick out is being taken from the incorrect position, the kick out should be retaken from where indicated by the referee. Continued breach of this rule shall result in the kick out being disallowed and the ball being thrown in between a player from each side on the 20m line. All other players shall be 13 metres from the throw in.

## Management

**Speaker:** Geraldine Giles

### Amend Rule 448 to read

The player taking the kick out may play the ball more than once before any other player plays it, provided, she does not take it into her hands.

If the goalkeeper plays the ball over the side-line directly from a kickout, it shall be a side-line kick to the opposing team from where it crossed the line.

Currently rule reads;

The player taking the kick out may play the ball more than once before any other player plays it, provided, she does not take it into her hands.

## Referee

## Tipperary

**Speaker:** Michael Towe

### Amend Rule 464 (b) to read:

At the end of playing time a hooter should sound to signal the final passage of play as opposed to the end of the game. Once the ball is played out over the end line by the attacking team or over the side line by either team, this should result in the final whistle and the end of the game.

Currently rule reads;

At the end of 30 minutes playing time a hooter should sound

## CODA Rules

## Wexford

**Speaker:** Billy Stafford

### Amend Rule 1.8 to read:

That the relevant CEO, Provincial Secretary and/or County Secretary of association be notified if a member or team is fined, suspended or expelled. Notification shall be received in writing from the CODA, Hearings or Appeals Committee imposing the sanction imposed.

Currently rule reads;

The CEO of the Association shall be notified if a Member is suspended or expelled. Notification shall be received in writing from the Hearings or Appeals Committee imposing the sanction stating the sanction imposed.

## Motions Deferred from Congress 2021

## General

## Aims and Objectives

## Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

### Add a new Rule

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association encourages all of its Units to support Dual Players, being playing members of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association who are also playing members of the Camogie Association, in playing both Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football

## Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

### Add a new Rule

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association will encourage all of its Units to consider Dual Players' schedules when setting games schedules and arranging fixtures, where possible and practical. A Dual Player is a playing member of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association who is also a playing member of the Camogie Association.

## Galway

**Speaker:** Geraldine Heverin

### Amend Rule 13 to read:

- (a) The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non-sectarian and non-political.
- (b) The Association should co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own.
- (c) The Association unite with the GAA with the aim of becoming a partnership of equals.

Currently rule reads;

The Association shall be an Amateur Association and shall be non- sectarian and non-political. It should co-operate with other organisations with aims similar to its own.

## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

### Registrations

#### New York

**Speaker:** Michelle Dowd

##### Add to Rule 49 after (f):

Under 14 players under the jurisdiction of the New York County Board (fee of €1 to Central council and €1 to the county Board)

#### Louth

**Speaker:** Martina Nolan

**Amend Rule 52 by adding:** "The National Registrar shall inform all County Registrars of the last unique ID number issued in the registration year"

To read as follows

The Registration Year shall be from 1st August 2020 to 30th June (2021) of the following year. The National Registrar shall inform all County Registrars of the last unique ID number issued in the registration year.

Currently rule reads;

The registration year shall be from 1st April to 31st March of the following year. (Commencing for 2021 Registration Year).

Please note registration dates have been amended as per Central Council decision – please see <https://ladiesgaelic.ie/Igfa-hub/clubs/registration/>

#### Meath

**Speaker:** Frank Hevey

##### Amend Rule 79 to read:

In order to be considered for payment, all claims must be lodged with Central Council within 8 weeks from the date of the injury, unless otherwise approved by Central Council. **Payment of claim can be made directly to the player or the Club, as per the request on the claim application.** Where claims are received late by Central Council, and where the delay is due to the Club or County Secretary or other authorised officers, the Club or County Board may be held responsible for the payment of the claim."

Currently rule reads;

In order to be considered for payment, all claims must be lodged with Central Council within 8 weeks from the date of the injury, unless otherwise approved by Central Council.

Where claims are received late by Central Council, and where the delay is due to the Club or County Secretary or other authorised officers, the Club or County Board may be held responsible for the payment of the claim.

#### Leitrim

**Speaker:** PJ Ryan

##### Amend Rule 123 to read:

Where a club has two teams competing in the Championship games within the County it must name its best **18** players for the higher grade championship game (A Team). **Any player outside of this number can play higher grade and in the lower grade.**

Currently rule reads;

Where a Club has two teams competing in Championship games within the County, it must name its 15 best players for the higher grade team for Championship games (A team). Should any other player outside of this list play in the Higher Grade Championship, they cannot play the Championship in the Lower Grade.

### Player Eligibility for Club, County and Province

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 136 (c) to read:

In exceptional circumstances, where Clubs are not in a position to field Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 or Under 18 teams from their own resources, permission may be obtained from the County Board, for the players of not more than **three** Clubs in this position, to form an Independent Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, or Under 18 team.

The Independent team may not apply under Rule 136 (d) for permission for any player or players from another Club to play with the said Independent team.

Applications to form an Independent Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, or Under 18 team, must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by the County Board, whichever is the earliest. The application shall set out the circumstances and details for such a request in full and receive sanction of the County Board in charge.

Currently rule reads;

In exceptional circumstances, where Clubs are not in a position to field Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 or Under 18 teams from their own resources, permission may be obtained from the County Board, for the players of not more than two Clubs in this position, to form an amalgamated Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, or Under 18 team.

The amalgamated team may not apply under Rule 136 (d) for permission for any player or players from another Club to play with the said amalgamated team.

Applications to form an amalgamated Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 or Under 18 team, must be made on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the competition or a date set earlier by the County Board, whichever is earliest.

The application shall set out the circumstances and details for such a request in full, and receive sanction of the County Board in charge.

#### Dublin

**Speaker:** John Walsh

##### Amend Rule 141 to read:

Notwithstanding Rules 137 to 140, a player or players may apply in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule or rules in exceptional circumstances and seek permission to play with another Club. Such permission may be granted where circumstances are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council. **The Home club will be informed of the application made by the player at the start of the process maintaining confidentiality**

Currently rule reads;

Notwithstanding Rules 137 to 140, a player or players may apply in writing to the Management Committee of Central Council for permission to deviate from a specific rule or rules in exceptional circumstances and seek permission to play with another Club. Such permission may be granted where circumstances are deemed to warrant it, subject to approval by Central Council.

## Competitions

### Louth

**Speaker:** Martina Nolan

#### **Amend Rule 284 by altering paragraph 2 as follows:**

At club level, underage players can only play in their own age group and one grade above it with grades being deemed as Under 8, 10, 12 and two grades above with grades being deemed as Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 8 player can play Under 8 and 10. An Under 10 can play Under 10 and 12. An Under 12 can play Under 12 and 14. An Under 14 can play Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 16 can play Under 16, 18 and Adult and Under 18 can play Under 18 and Adult.

#### **To read as follows**

Underage players can only play in their own age group and one grade above it at Inter-County level.. (e.g. Under 14 Inter-County player can play at Under 14 and Under 16 but not Under 17 upwards. An Under 15 or 16 Inter-County player cannot play at Junior, Intermediate or Senior Level). Over 18 grade is deemed an adult grade.

At club level, underage players can only play in their own age group and one grade above it with grades being deemed as Under 8, 10, 12 and two grades above with grades being deemed as Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 8 player can play Under 8 and 10. An Under 10 can play Under 10 and 12. An Under 12 can play Under 12 and 14. An Under 14 can play Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 16 can play Under 16, 18 and Adult and Under 18 can play Under 18 and Adult.

Currently rule reads;

Underage players can only play in their own age group and one grade above it at Inter-County level. (e.g. Under 14 Inter-County player can play at Under 14 and Under 16 but not Under 17 upwards. An Under 15 or 16 Inter-County player cannot play at Junior, Intermediate or Senior Level).

Over 18 grade is deemed an adult grade.

At club level, underage players can only play in their own age group and two grades above it with grades deemed as Under 12, 14, 16 and 18. All grades under 10 can only play one grade above. An under 8 can play under 8 and 10. An under 10 can play under 10 and 12. An Under 12 can play Under 12, 14, 16. An Under 14 can play Under 14, 16 and 18. An Under 16 can play Under 16, 18 and Adult and Under 18 can play Under 18 and Adult.

## Medals and Trophies

### Meath

**Speaker:** Frank Hevey

#### **Amend Rule 319 to read:**

County Boards shall award at least 20 medals or trophies to League and Championship winners and pro-rata where teams of less than 15 players are involved. The respective County Boards shall decide whether or not to award medals or trophies to runners up.

Currently rule reads;

County Boards shall award at least 20 medals or trophies, to League and Championship winners and runners up, and pro-rata where teams of less than 15 players are involved.

## Fouls

### Louth

**Speaker:** Martina Nolan

#### **Amend Rule 416 adding at (k) and moving the remaining parts down accordingly**

**(k) Persistent fouling on an opposing player by multiple players, after four tickings by the referee, for fouls on the player**

#### **To read as follows**

The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team, and the offending player's name taken, and shown a Yellow Card. She should be sent off the field of play (Sin Bin), in grades from and including Under 14 upwards.

- (a) Deliberate pulling down or tripping by hand or foot
- (b) High tackle
- (c) Charging of an opponent
- (d) Threatening or using abusive language or gestures towards an opponent or colleague
- (e) Blocking or attempting to block an opponent with the boot as that player is about to kick the ball from her hands
- (f) A sliding tackle
- (g) Kicking the ball with intent as an opposing player is about to pick it up
- (h) Bringing the fist into contact with the body of an opponent for the purpose of dispossessing her of the ball
- (i) Dissenting or challenging the authority of a match official
- (j) Persistent fouling
- (k) Persistent fouling on an opposing player by multiple players, after four tickings by the referee, for fouls on the player.**
- (l) Feigning injury, or diving to gain a free kick or penalty or to get an opponent Cautioned or Sent Off

If she repeats any of these offences upon her resumption, she shall be shown a 2nd Yellow Card, followed by a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the duration of the game, which shall include Extra Time where played.

In any competition up to and including the Under 13 grade, the Sin Bin rule shall not apply. The player shall be shown the Yellow Card and if she commits another Cautionable Offence, she shall be shown a 2nd Yellow Card, followed by a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the duration of the game, and any Extra Time that may be played.



## MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Currently rule reads;

The following fouls shall be penalised by a free being awarded to the opposing team. Repetition of these fouls shall constitute a Yellow Card offence with penalties as outlined in Rule 417.

- (a) Pushing or holding an opponent
- (b) Bringing the hand into contact with the body of an opponent for the purpose of dispossessing her of the ball
- (c) Third player tackle including body checking an opponent
- (d) Impeding an opponent
- (e) Diving on the ball as another player is about to pick it up
- (f) A player in possession of the ball leading with her elbow
- (g) Frontal pushing of a player
- (h) Chopping down on the arms of an opponent
- (i) Provoking or intimidating players by verbal or physical actions
- (j) Preventing an opponent getting up from the ground
- (k) Pulling an opponent's jersey
- (l) Interfering with a free taker by jumping up and down, waving or clapping hands, or any other physical or verbal interference aimed at distracting the free taker.  
Should this occur when an attacking team is awarded a 13 metre free in front of their opponent's goal, a penalty shall be awarded. A player may hold her hands upright.
- (m) Deliberately delaying the kick out or a free-kick
- (n) Deliberately not moving back to allow a side-line or free kick to be taken
- (o) Kicking the ball away when a free is awarded against the player in possession of the ball
- (p) Not releasing the ball when a free is awarded against the team in possession of the ball
- (q) Use of foul or improper language
- (r) Charging of an opponent

### Kick Out

**Monaghan**

**Speaker:** Tommy Kieran

**Amend Rule 444 to read:**

The ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground from the **20 metre** line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a wide in all **senior** competitions **and to include Juvenile at 15-a-side only – in full side pitch competitions**. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

The ball must cross the 20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another player offends, a free shall be awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

Currently rule reads;

The ball may be kicked from the hands or off the ground from the 13 metre line, directly in front of the goalposts, for a kick out from goal after a wide in all competitions. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

The ball must cross the 20 metre line before being played by another player. Where another player offends, a free shall be

awarded to the opposing team on the 20 metre line opposite to where the foul occurred.

**Monaghan**

**Speaker:** Tommy Kieran

**Amend Rule 447 to read:**

The kick out shall be taken from the 20 metre line in front of the goalposts after a score. **In senior competitions and to include Juvenile at 15-a-side only – in full side pitch competitions**. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

Currently rule reads;

The kick out shall be taken from the 20 metre line in front of the goalposts after a score. All players except the kicker and the goal keeper shall be outside the 20 metre line, and at least 13 metres from the ball until it is kicked.

### CODA Rules

**Meath**

**Speaker:** Frank Hevey

**Add New Rule at Rule 9 to read: - amend other rule numbers accordingly**

#### 9. CENTRAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

9.1. A decision of Appeals committee may be challenged by referral to a newly established Central Review Committee (CRC) within 7 days from receipt of such decision subject to payment of a fee of €500

9.2. The Central Review Committee has the power to overturn a decision of the Appeals Committee, uphold the decision of the Appeals Committee, or request that a further Appeal hearing takes place if it is found that the rules/procedures applied in the Appeal were incorrect.

# NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS 2022

## Assistant Secretary:

Kathleen Kane, Sligo (Nominated by Cork, Galway, Roscommon and Sligo)

## Treasurers:

Geraldine Carey, Roscommon (Nominated by Cork, Galway, Roscommon and Sligo)

Mary Connolly, Tyrone (Nominated by Cork, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo and Tyrone)

## Culture & Language Officer:

Hugh Devenney, Donegal (Nominated by Cork, Donegal, Galway, Roscommon and Sligo)

# LGFA ANTI-DOPING

## Education/Awareness

Wallet Cards are distributed to all County Boards for distribution to all county teams.

Inter-County Anti-Doping Online Educational Workshops as per Government Grant Funding requirement were completed by Adult Senior Teams.

1570 players and team management completed training.

A player may not participate on a county adult team without completing this training.

Produced a Gaelic Games Video as part of the Player Health Screening Programme.

Provided two Educational Webinars for all Inter-County Players at Adult Level and Team Management in association with SI Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager, Paul O'Donovan with recording distributed and uploaded to LGFA Website.

Provided an Educational Webinar specifically for Minor Players in December

County Secretaries and Team Management are emailed Anti-Doping updates on a regular basis.

Further information and education available on Sport Ireland website & to report instances of doping;  
<https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/athlete-zone> and  
LGFA Website  
<https://ladiesgaelic.ie/resources/anti-doping-guidelines/>

Sport Ireland Analysis of LGFA Players Tested in 2021  
Total LGFA Players subjected to In-Competition Tests = 8

All 8 Players were confirmed as negative for the presence of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method.

# TEAM PHOTOS



**MEATH**

TG4 All Ireland Senior  
Championship Winner 2021



**WESTMEATH**

TG4 All Ireland Intermediate  
Championship Winner 2021



**WICKLOW**

TG4 All Ireland Junior  
Championship Winner 2021



## DUBLIN

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 1 Winner 2021



## MEATH

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 Winner 2021



## LAOIS

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 3 Winner 2021



## LOUTH

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 4 Winner 2021



## PHOTOGRAPHS

### KILKERRIN-CLONBERNE, GALWAY

currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Ladies Senior Club Football Championship Winner 2021



### ST. SYLVESTER'S, DUBLIN

currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Ladies Intermediate Club Football Championship Winner 2021



### ST. JUDES, DUBLIN

currentaccount.ie All-Ireland Ladies Junior Club Football Championship Winner 2021







## TEAM OF THE LIDL LADIES NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION 1



1

Goalkeeper  
**ABBY SHIELDS**  
*Dublin*



2

Right Corner Back  
**SHAUNA KELLY**  
*Cork*



3

Full Back  
**EVELYN MCGINLEY**  
*Donegal*



4

Left Corner Back  
**MARTHA BYRNE**  
*Dublin*



5

Right Half Back  
**ERIKA O'SHEA**  
*Cork*



6

Centre Half Back  
**OLWEN CAREY**  
*Dublin*



7

Left Half Back  
**MELISSA DUGGAN**  
*Cork*



8

Midfield  
**KATY HERRON**  
*Donegal*



9

Midfield  
**JENNIFER DUNNE**  
*Dublin*



10

Right Half Forward  
**HANNAH TYRRELL**  
*Dublin*



11

Centre Half Forward  
**CIARA O'SULLIVAN**  
*Cork*



12

Left Half Forward  
**ORLA FINN**  
*Cork*



13

Right Corner Forward  
**SADHBH O'LEARY**  
*Cork*



14

Full Forward  
**KAREN GUTHRIE**  
*Donegal*



15

Left Corner Forward  
**GERALDINE MCLAUGHLIN**  
*Donegal*






## TEAM OF THE LIDL LADIES NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION 2

 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">1</div> <p>Goalkeeper <b>MONICA MCGUIRK</b> <i>Meath</i></p>					
 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <p>Right Corner Back <b>EMMA TROY</b> <i>Meath</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <p>Full Back <b>AISLINN DESMOND</b> <i>Kerry</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">4</div> <p>Left Corner Back <b>AOIFE McANESPIE</b> <i>Monaghan</i></p>			
 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <p>Right Half Back <b>SINEAD GREENE</b> <i>Cavan</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <p>Centre Half Back <b>AOIBHÍN CLEARY</b> <i>Meath</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">7</div> <p>Left Half Back <b>CAIT LYNCH</b> <i>Kerry</i></p>			
 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">8</div> <p>Midfield <b>NIAMH CARMODY</b> <i>Kerry</i></p>			 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">9</div> <p>Midfield <b>MÁIRE O'SHAUGHNESSY</b> <i>Meath</i></p>		
 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">10</div> <p>Right Half Forward <b>VIKKI WALL</b> <i>Meath</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">11</div> <p>Centre Half Forward <b>ELLEN McCARRON</b> <i>Monaghan</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">12</div> <p>Left Half Forward <b>NIAMH O'SULLIVAN</b> <i>Meath</i></p>			
 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">13</div> <p>Right Corner Forward <b>STACEY GRIMES</b> <i>Meath</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">14</div> <p>Full Forward <b>EMMA DUGGAN</b> <i>Meath</i></p>	 <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">15</div> <p>Left Corner Forward <b>LOUISE NÍ MHUIRCHEARTAIGH</b> <i>Kildare</i></p>			





## TEAM OF THE LIDL LADIES NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION 3



1

Goalkeeper  
**EIMEAR BARRY**  
*Laois*



2

Right Corner Back  
**CLAIRE SULLIVAN**  
*Kildare*



3

Full Back  
**AMY POTTS**  
*Laois*



4

Left Corner Back  
**JACQUI MULLIGAN**  
*Sligo*



5

Right Half Back  
**LAUREN MURTAGH**  
*Kildare*



6

Centre Half Back  
**ELLEN HEALY**  
*Laois*



7

Left Half Back  
**LAURA NERNEY**  
*Laois*



8

Midfield  
**GRAINNE KENNEALLY**  
*Kildare*



9

Midfield  
**JANE MOORE**  
*Laois*



10

Right Half Forward  
**ERONE FITZPATRICK**  
*Laois*



11

Centre Half Forward  
**LARA CURRAN**  
*Kildare*



12

Left Half Forward  
**GRACE CLIFFORD**  
*Kildare*



13

Right Corner Forward  
**MO NERNEY**  
*Laois*



14

Full Forward  
**NEASA DOOLEY**  
*Kildare*



15

Left Corner Forward  
**MARIE KEALY**  
*Wicklow*






## TEAM OF THE LIDL LADIES NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION 4



**1**

Goalkeeper  
**UNA PEARSON**  
*Louth*



**2**

Right Corner Back  
**MARY ALICE MAGUIRE**  
*Leitrim*



**3**

Full Back  
**SINEAD TIGHE**  
*Leitrim*



**4**

Left Corner Back  
**NIAMH MCCARTHY**  
*Limerick*



**5**

Right Half Back  
**MICHELLE MCMAHON**  
*Louth*



**6**

Centre Half Back  
**SHANNEN McLAUGHLIN**  
*Louth*



**7**

Left Half Back  
**CEIRE NOLAN**  
*Louth*



**8**

Midfield  
**AINE BREEN**  
*Louth*



**9**

Midfield  
**AMY GAVIN MANGAN**  
*Offaly*



**10**

Right Half Forward  
**LAURA O'DOWD**  
*Leitrim*



**11**

Centre Half Forward  
**KATE FLOOD**  
*Louth*



**12**

Left Half Forward  
**NIAMH RICE**  
*Louth*



**13**

Right Corner Forward  
**LAUREN BOYLE**  
*Louth*



**14**

Full Forward  
**MICHELLE GUCKIAN**  
*Leitrim*



**15**

Left Corner Forward  
**GRAINNE EGAN**  
*Offaly*



**2021 TG4 Senior Player's Player of the Year**  
**Vikki Wall, Meath**



**2021 TG4 Intermediate Player's Player of the Year - Sarah Dillon, Westmeath**



**2021 TG4 Junior Player's Player of the Year -**  
**Clíodhna Ní Shé, Carlow**



PHOTOGRAPHS





**The Croke Park Player of the Month Awards**  
**September: Emma Duggan, Meath**



**GAA President's Award 2021: Catherine Murphy, Limerick**





## PHOTOGRAPHS

### LOCAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Derrick Lynch, Clare FM



### INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Eva Scanlon, Tir Chonaill Gaels, London



### LULU CARROLL OVERALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kathleen Colreavy, Dublin



### SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

Fidelma Quinn, Moate Community School, Westmeath



### PRO OF THE YEAR

Élena Byrne, Kilkenny



### VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

Mary Hernon, Galway



**COUNTY PROVINCIAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
Cormac McNally, Roscommon



**CLUB COMMITTEE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
Carolyn Mullane, Passage West, Cork



**YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**  
Chloe Callaghan, Termon, Donegal



**CLUB COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Bert Gilmartin, Old Leighlin, Carlow





## LGFA PARTNERS

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NOTES

