

US Gaelic Athletic Association



Minutes of 2016 USGAA Annual Convention

November 11-13, 2016
San Diego, California.

www.usgaa.org

Note: Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention

Friday November 11th, 8pm.

Youth Officers Report – presented by Liam Hegarty.
Report was adopted as presented.

Registrar's Report – presented by Lizzie O'Connor.
Report was adopted as presented.

PRO Report – presented by Daithí Ó'Caomh.
Report was adopted as presented.

Report by Committee to Review Playoffs and Divisions:
Presented by Brian McCarthy

After some discussion, it was agreed to defer further discussion of possible options, and allow the committee continue moving forward.

At 9:40pm the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, November 12th

Saturday, November 12th, 9am:

Meeting was convened at 9am by Gareth Fitzsimons

Opening addresses were made by Gareth Fitzsimons (*on behalf of USGAA*), Tracey Rivera (*on behalf of San Diego GAA*) and Jerry O'Sullivan (*Chairman, Munster Council*), who all welcomed the delegates and wished them a successful convention.

Standing Orders were adopted.

Minutes of 2015 NACB Convention (*Held in Austin, Texas*) were adopted.

Bereaved:

A moments silence was held for those that passed during the year:

Gerry McKnight

Dave Tynan

Seamus Carolan

Pat Keane

Joe McDonagh

Jack Boothman

Presentation of Reports:

Hurling Development Report – presented by Colm Egan.

Report was adopted as presented.

Treasurers Report – presented by Paddy McDevitt.

Report was adopted as presented.

Secretary's Report – presented by Paul Keane

Report was adopted as presented.

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Insurance Report – presented by Paul Keane
Report was adopted as presented.

Chairman’s Address – presented by Gareth Fitzsimons:
Report was adopted as presented.

USGAA Development Awards:

Club Development Awards were presented to the following clubs:

- Albany Rebels
- Baltimore
- Raleigh Cuchulainns
- St. Brigids
- Pittsburgh Celtics
- Atlanta Clan na Gael
- Columbia Red Branch

National Volunteer Achievement Awards were presented to:

- Brian White\Paul McGarry, Seattle Gaels
- Kevin McDonnell, LA Wild Geese
- Patrick Bourke, St. Patricks Donegal

New Club of the Year awards were presented to the following clubs:

- Dallas Fionn McCumhaill
- Tacoma Rangers
- Columbus Naghten

Website and TV Spot Awards:

- LA Wild Geese
- Raleigh Cuchulainns

Other Business:

1. Bertie Penny (*Western Division*) inquired about an incident alleged to have occurred at the USGAA Development Squad training camp.

After Liam Hegarty, Paul Mulcaire and Harry Costello spoke on the topic, Gareth Fitzsimons responded that USGAA would welcome specific information on any incidents that may have occurred.

2. Susan Beaurain (*Indianapolis*) requested follow-up on the material provided to Kieran Leddy (*Munster Council*) during the Development Training Weekend.

Paul Keane committed to requesting the material from Kieran.

3. Sean Tobin (*Padraig Pearses*) raised the topic of Sanction Insurance required by Croke Park.

Liam Moloney, Gareth Fitzsimons and Paul Keane addressed the matter.

2016 Business was deemed concluded at 11:35am

As the Convention was ahead of schedule, it was agreed to move "Review of Byelaws" forward on the agenda.

Review of USGAA Byelaws:

These were adopted as presented.

Break for Lunch at 12pm

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Convention resumed at 1pm

Registration of Delegates:

After registration of delegates and Roll Call, it was deemed that 195 votes were counted as present and entitled to vote.

Review of USGAA Regulations:

These were adopted as presented.

Motions:

- 1: Proposal to create Heartland Division submitted by Indianapolis GAA
Passed by Show of Hands
- 2: Proposal to create Heartland Division submitted by Milwaukee Hurling Club
Withdrawn
- 3: Proposal to create Heartland Division submitted by Naperville Hurling Club
Withdrawn
- 4: Proposal to create Heartland Division submitted by St. Louis
Withdrawn
- 5: Proposal that Senior Football have no less than 8 Resident Players:
Failed by Show of Hands
- 6: Proposal that Senior Football have no less than 6 Resident Players:
Combined with Motion 7
Passed by Show of Hands
- 7: Proposal that Senior Football have no less than 6 Resident Players:
Combined with Motion 6
Passed by Show of Hands

Note: *Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention*

8: Proposal to change wording of Senior Football Resident Players requirement from “no less than” to “no more than”

Passed by Show of Hands

9: Proposal to change wording of Intermediate Football Resident Players requirement from “no less than” to “no more than”

Passed by Show of Hands

10: Proposal to schedule Playoff draw between July 10th and July 15th

Failed by Show of Hands

11: Proposal to allow Hearing Committee to implement Sanction penalties for teams who fail to participate at Playoffs.

Failed by Show of Hands

12: Proposal to implement Minimum Fine of \$2,500 for teams who fail to participate at Playoffs.

Failed by Show of Hands

13: Proposal to allow Divisional Teams in Senior Football at Playoffs

Failed by Show of Hands

14: Proposal to include Sanction Commencement date of May 1st in OG

Failed by Show of Hands

15: Proposal to restrict Sanction players from registering prior to May 1st

Failed by Show of Hands

16: Proposal to prohibit granting of Sanctions after July 1st

Passed by Show of Hands

17: Proposal to prohibit registration of Sanction Players after July 1st

Passed by Show of Hands

18: Proposal to prohibit granting of Sanctions after July 1st

Combined with Motion 16

Passed by Show of Hands

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19: Proposal to prevent J1 Sanction County players from obtaining sanctions while their county is still in championship (*incl. Qualifiers*)
Passed by Show of Hands

20: Proposal to increase sanction limits to "12+8" and include J1 Sanction's in this quota:
Failed by Show of Hands

21: Proposal to clarify wording of Sanction Quotas for Senior Hurling to "12+8"
Passed by Show of Hands

22: Proposal to clarify wording of Sanction Quotas for Senior Hurling to "10+8"
Withdrawn

23: Proposal to formalize "Non-Player Form"
Passed by Show of Hands

24: Proposal to extend Registration Dates to facilitate "dormant players"
Failed by Show of Hands

25: Proposal to define role of Honorary President
Passed by Show of Hands

26: Proposal to allow unlimited substitutions in Ladies Intermediate and Junior Football
Move up the agenda prior to Motion 14
Passed by Show of Hands

27: Proposal to increase games to 15-a-side and include 2 Homegrown Players:
Failed by Show of Hands

28: Proposal to allow 8 members on USGAA Youth Committee:
Passed by Show of Hands

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Election of Convention Chair and Secretary:

Harry Costello was proposed and elected as Convention Chair;
Hugh Duggan was proposed and elected as Convention Secretary.

Count of Delegates deemed that there were 195 votes present and entitled to vote.

Election of Officers for 2016:

Chairperson: Gareth Fitzsimons was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: Bernie Connaughton was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Secretary: Paul Keane was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: Paddy McDevitt, Steve Shannon and John Young were nominated. Paddy McDevitt declined the nomination; Steve Shannon and John Young both accepted the nomination. John Young won the ballot and was duly elected as Treasurer.

Registrar: Lizzie O'Connor was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. She was duly elected as Registrar.

Youth Officer: Liam Hegarty was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Youth Officer.

PRO: Daithí Ó'Caomh was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as PRO.

Central Council: Malachy Higgins, Ger Dillon and Brian White were nominated. Brian White declined; Malachy Higgins and Ger Dillon accepted the nomination. Malachy Higgins won the ballot, and was duly elected as Central Council Delegate.

Honorary President: Hugh Duggan was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly selected as Honorary President.

Address of Ard-Stiúrthóir:

Ard-Stiúrthóir Páraic Duffy addressed convention, and covered a number of topics in his comments.

New Business:

The 2016 Board Officers took their position and the following items were addressed:

1. Daithí Ó'Caomh (*USGAA PRO*) unveiled the new USGAA Logo and Brand
2. Rob Tierney (*USGAA GDO*) presented a report on Games Development, and the plans to provide a Project-based approach for divisions without a specific GDA.
3. Liam Hegarty presented an outline of the 501(c)3 process
4. Hugh Duggan presented plans for 2017 Referee Development practices.
5. Robert Frost addressed Convention.
6. Coastal Virginia were selected as host for the 2017 USGAA Convention.
7. Bertie Penny outlined plans for the 2017 USGAA Finals in San Francisco, and mentioned that 500 rooms had been secured at the Downtown Marriott with a Room Rate of approximately \$230.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was accepted at 6:38pm.

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